

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3027

ANSWERED ON:16.03.2010

AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the achievement in the field of agricultural research is not commensurate with the amount of expenditure incurred thereon;
- (b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) the measures taken up by the Government to boost research work in agriculture in order to help the farmers adopt new agricultural technologies to reap maximum benefits; and
- (d) the success achieved by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS)

(a) & (b): No, Madam. Over the years the agriculture research has contributed significantly in increasing production and productivity in agriculture sector. As per a study conducted by National Centre for Agricultural Economics and Policy Research, the marginal internal rate of return on investment in agricultural research in India has ranged between 57 to 59 percent since the Green Revolution era.

(c) The Government allocated funds towards agricultural research to the tune of Rs.3377 crore in IX Plan, which were subsequently increased to Rs.5368 crore in Xth Plan. The ceiling indicated for the XIth Plan is Rs.12023 crores. Thus there is a continuous effort to boost research work in agriculture. In so far as adoption by farmers is concerned, at present there are 570 Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) established across the country, which have the mandate of assessment, refinement and demonstration of agricultural technologies. Apart from this, the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation and the Extension Departments of states also carry out the activities of extension for the benefit of farmers.

(d) The production and productivity of food grains, vegetables and fruits, livestock, poultry and fish have increased several folds over the years. While there was a global concern on food production levels in the recent past, India was the only country which was in a comfortable position as far as food grains were concerned having considerable buffer stock, as also evidenced by a record production of 233 million tones of food grains, 101 million tones of milk and 7.6 million tones of fish during the year 2008-09, besides a 7-8 fold increase in rapeseed, mustard and 8.5 fold in cotton since 1950-51.