

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1864
ANSWERED ON:09.03.2010
FACILITIES TO AGRICULTURE
Singh Shri Ijyaraj ;Sinh Dr. Sanjay

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government provides subsidies and other facilities to agriculture sector analogous to the industry/ manufacturing sector in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to accord industry status to agriculture;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to assist the agriculture sector in achieving similar growth as has been registered in the industry/manufacturing sector?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): The Government provides subsidies/assistance to agriculture in the form of inputs subsidy under various Schemes such as Agricultural Credit, Seed, Micro Irrigation, Fertilizer, National Horticulture Mission etc. The provision of subsidy to farmers varies from Scheme to Scheme.

Crop specific subsidy/assistance is provided to paddy, wheat and pulses producing farmers under National Food Security Mission (NFSM) which has been in operation since 2007-08 in identified districts for raising production and productivity of wheat and paddy etc. The assistance under the Scheme is provided for specific components like seed minikit programme of rice and wheat, distribution of hybrid paddy seed, promotion of micronutrient in paddy and wheat, farm implements and purchase of diesel pump sets etc.

The Government also provides input subsidy to the farmers affected due to floods and drought with crop loss of 50% and above under the Calamity Relief Fund (CRF)/ the National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) as per norms.

Besides, this, for effective management of drought during 2009, the Government also announced:

1. Diesel Subsidy to the farmers for providing supplementary protective irrigation to the standing crops. 50% of the cost of subsidy given by the States will be borne by the Central Government subject to a ceiling of Rs.7.50/ litre; and
2. Enhanced upper ceiling of distribution subsidy on certified seed (for Rabi 2009-10 and Summer 2010) under National Food Security Mission (NFSM), Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm & Maize (ISOPOM) and Macro Management in Agriculture (MMA).

(c) to (e): No, Madam. However, the Government seeks to bestow on the agriculture sector as many benefits as possible similar to those obtaining in the manufacturing sector such as easy availability of credit and other inputs and infrastructure facilities for development of agriculture sector including marketing and post harvest management.

In order to make the agriculture sector more vibrant and dynamic with the objective to increase production and productivity, the Government has taken several initiatives, which include enhancing flow of institutional credit to the farmers and strengthening of cooperative credit structure, ensuring the timely availability of quality inputs, promoting farmer friendly & demand driven agriculture extension system, accelerating diversification of high value crops, launching of national horticulture mission, strengthening infrastructure and the supply chain, optimizing the efficient utilization of available water resources through drip & sprinkler techniques, enhancing the sustainability of dry-land/rainfed farming system, reforming agricultural markets, widespread use of post harvest technology and putting in place a broader spectrum of risk-management apparatus for farmers.