

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1813
ANSWERED ON:01.12.2009
GROWTH RATE IN AGRICULTURE
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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the target and actual growth rate realised in the agricultural sector during the last three years and the current year, year and State-wise;
- (b) whether the Government may face one of the biggest challenges over the next three quarters on food price inflation as the overall agricultural growth may show a small rise; and
- (c) if so, the measures taken to improve the growth rate of agriculture and manage foodgrains output?

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): A statement on State-wise Agricultural Growth rate for the years 2005-06 to 2008-09 for Agriculture Sector is given at Annexure-I and State-wise Average Annual Agricultural Growth Target for the Tenth Five Year Plan (2002-07) and Eleventh Plan (2007-12) is given at Annexure-II.

(b): The annual rate of inflation, based on monthly Wholesale Price Index (WPI) for food articles for the month of October, 2009 over October, 2008 stood at 13.32 %.

As per the data compiled by Central Statistical Organization, the growth rate of Gross Domestic Product for the first quarter (April-June) of 2009-10 at 1999-2000 prices for Agriculture and allied sector is estimated at 2.4%.

(c): A State Plan scheme of Additional Central Assistance for Agriculture Sector namely Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) has been launched during 2007-08 to achieve 4% agricultural growth during the 11th Five Year Plan. The strategy to achieve 4% agricultural growth would lay emphasis on the following:

Accelerating the production and productivity of major food crops on regionally differentiated basis with thrust on pulses and oilseed sector.

Development of rainfed and dry land areas through farming, livelihood systems and better watershed management.

Revamp of extension system to improve delivery mechanism at the grass root level.

Focus on farmers' welfare through risk mitigation, reduction of rural distress and better social security system.

Greater role for the Panchayat Raj Institutions.

Modernise markets.

Improve efficiency of investment and rationalise subsidy.

Further, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme `National Food Security Mission (NFSM)` has been launched in 312 identified districts of 17 States from Rabi season of 2007-08 with an aim to increase the additional production of 20 million tonnes of foodgrains, comprising of 10 million tonnes of rice, 8 million tonnes of wheat and 2 million tonnes of pulses by the end of Eleventh Five Year Plan (2011-12).