

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO: 3370

ANSWERED ON:28.07.2009

ANNUAL GROWTH RATE OF AGRICULTURE

ANANT KUMAR HEGDE

- (a)the annual growth rate of agriculture during the year 2008-09;
- (b)whether the growth rate is lower than the target fixed;
- (c)if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (d)whether world wide economic recession is the major factor responsible for this shortfall;
- (e)if so, the reaction of the Government thereto; and
- (f)the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:-

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): Annual growth rate (at 1999-2000 prices) of Agriculture and allied sectors was 1.6% during the year 2008-09.

(b) & (c): The growth target of Agriculture is set at 4% for the Eleventh Plan (2007-12). During 2007-08 and 2008-09, Agriculture and allied sectors grew by 4.9% and 1.6% respectively. During 2007-08 Agriculture sector only grew by 5.0%.

(d) & (e): There is no evidence of effect of world wide economic recession on agriculture growth. Investment in the agriculture sector has increased over the years from 11.1% to Gross Domestic Product in 2004-05 to 13.3% in 2007-08.

(f): 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 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 rationalize 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 Plan (2011-12).