

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE
RAJYA SABHA
QUESTION NO 27.11.2009
ANSWERED ON
AGRARIAN CRISIS IN INDIA .

132

Shri Vijay Jawaharlal Darda

Will the Minister of COALCOALAGRICULTURE be pleased to state :-

(a) whether Government is aware of the views of globally famed Agriculture Scientist Professor M.S. Swaminathan expressed during April, 2009, while releasing the book `Agrarian Crisis in India`, relating to 100 million plus small farms, comparing Government's agrarian crisis solving approach as `blind men feeling an elephant`; and

(b) if so, whether Government will be concentrating on `differentiation between the problems of farming and those of the farmers`, to achieve more than 4 per cent annual growth in agriculture?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE

(SHRI SHARAD PAWAR)

(a) & (b):A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT IN RESPECT OF PARTS (a) AND (b) OF RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.132 FOR 27/11/2009 REGARDING AGRARIAN CRISIS IN INDIA.

(a): As per a news item appearing in the web edition of the Hindustan Times dated 7th April, 2009, Prof. M.S. Swaminathan has reportedly made such remarks while releasing the book titled `Agrarian crisis in India`.

(b): Agriculture is a State subject and all necessary initiatives continue to be taken by the State Governments. However, the Government of India has been supplementing the efforts of the State Governments in this regard and has always laid great emphasis on solving the problems of the farmers. In fact, the National Agricultural Policy, 2000 has been replaced with National Policy for Farmers (NPF), 2007 to give centrality to farmers and to ensure that human dimension must be the principal determinant of agricultural policies. It may be specifically mentioned here that the National Commission on Farmers (NCF), set up under the Chairmanship of Prof. M.S. Swaminathan, submitted a revised draft National Policy for Farmers along with its fifth and final Report in October, 2006 incorporating its main recommendations. The NPF, 2007 is based on the said revised draft NPF submitted by the NCF. The NPF, 2007 mentions about the need to focus more on the economic well-being of the farmers, rather than just on production. Accordingly, the first major goal of the NPF 2007 is to improve economic viability of farming by substantially increasing the net income of farmers and to ensure that agricultural progress is measured by advances made in this income.

A plan of action for operationalisation of NPF 2007 has been drawn and a monitoring mechanism put in place to oversee the progress of the implementation of the provisions contained in NPF. This along with an array of other initiatives by Government like substantial increase in the minimum support prices of important agricultural crops, Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana, National Food Security Mission, National Horticulture Mission, setting up of National Rainfed Area Authority, Micro Irrigation, Agriculture Technology Management Agency Scheme, National Agricultural Insurance Scheme, Comprehensive Credit Package, Debt Waiver Scheme, Revival of Cooperative Credit Institutions, Technology Mission on Oilseeds & Pulses, etc. will ensure that not only the 4 per cent annual growth in agriculture is achieved but it also results in substantial improvement in socio-economic well-being of the farmers.