

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE  
RAJYA SABHA  
QUESTION NO 12.11.2010  
ANSWERED ON**

**STRENGTHENING OF DATA COLLECTION MECHANISM .**

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Shri Nand Kumar Sai

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :-

- (a) whether it is a fact that timely availability of reliable data has become very important to assess the impact of initiatives taken by Government to boost agriculture production and enhance farm income;
- (b) if so, whether Government has any scheme to strengthen the existing data collection mechanism in the country during the Eleventh Five Year Plan;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the details of the funds allocated and expenditure incurred for the said purpose so far?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE  
MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION

(SHRI K.V. THOMAS)

(a) to (c):Yes, Sir. In order to strengthen the data collection mechanism in the States and to improve the quality of Agricultural Statistics of principal agricultural and horticultural crops in the country, the Government has been implementing 'Improvement of Agricultural Statistics (IAS)' Scheme through State Agricultural Statistics Authorities (SASAs). The scheme has four components namely;

(i) Timely Reporting Scheme (TRS)

(ii) Improvement of Crop Statistics

(iii) Establishment of an Agency for Reporting of Agricultural Statistics (EARAS) and

(iv) Crop Estimation Survey on Fruits & Vegetables crops. During Eleventh Five Year Plan i.e. 2007-08 onwards, the Scheme has been converted from a Centrally Sponsored Scheme to a Central Sector Scheme and is being fully funded by the Government of India. To review the TRS, EARAS and ICS components of the above Scheme and to examine use of remote sensing applications for generating more reliable data on agricultural statistics, the Government has constituted a Committee under the Chairmanship of Prof. A. Vadyanathan, an Eminent Agriculture Economist in the country.

(d):Details of funds allocated and expenditure incurred under the 'Improvement of Agriculture Statistics' Scheme during Eleventh Five Year Plan are as under:

(Rs. in Crore)

Year Allocation Expenditure

2007-08 50.47 51.04

2008-09 54.01 60.12

2009-10 58.97 78.61

2010-11 71.95 31.14

Release upto 30th September, 2010.