

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. - 674
TO BE ANSWERED ON 05/12/2025

STRUCTURAL MEASURES TO ADDRESS SLOWDOWN IN AGRICULTURAL SECTOR

674. DR. SANDEEP KUMAR PATHAK:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the agricultural sector grew only 1.4 percent in 2023–24, while the growth rate during that period was 7.2 percent;
- (b) if so, the underlying reasons for the low growth in agricultural sector;
- (c) whether the Ministry has conducted a risk assessment to identify rain-fed distressed districts;
- (d) if so, the relevant details thereof; and
- (e) in view of the low agricultural sector growth in 2024–25, whether Government proposes to formulate a concrete policy to achieve higher growth rates in the ensuing years?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
(SHRI RAMNATH THAKUR)

(a) & (b): During 2023-24, as per the First Revised Estimates (FRE) of GVA at Basic Prices 2011-12, the GVA of agriculture sector is estimated at Rs. 23,67,287 Crore registering a growth of 2.7% and during 2024-25, the GVA of agriculture sector is estimated at Rs. 24,76,805 Crore registering a growth of 4.6% as per the provisional estimates of GVA at Basic Prices 2011-12. The total Foodgrain production in the country during 2023-24 was estimated at record 3322.98 LMT which was higher by 26.11 LMT than the production of foodgrains of 3296.87 LMT achieved during 2022-23. The total foodgrain production in the country during 2024-25 is estimated at a record 3577.32 LMT which is higher by 7.65% i.e. 254.34 LMT than the production of foodgrain of 3322.98 LMT achieved during 2023-24.

(c) & (d): The National Rainfed Area Authority (NRAA) constituted a task force in 2018 with members from different organizations such as ICAR-CRIDA (Central Research Institute for Dryland Areas, Hyderabad), ICAR-IASRI (Indian Agricultural Statistics Research Institute, New Delhi), Mahalanobis National Crop Forecasting Centre, (MNCFC, DA&FW, New Delhi), ISRO-National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC), Ministry of Water Resources and Central Ground Water Board. The task force considered to have Composite Index (CI) based on changed status of natural resources (Natural Resource Index-NRI) and socio-economic conditions (Integrated Livelihood Index - ILI) of the districts for the purpose of drought proofing in rainfed areas and prepared a composite score.

Main criteria for NRI are rainfall and drought frequencies, cultivated area under rainfed conditions, status of ground water, permanent pastures, cultivable waste lands, current fallows, slopes, barren and uncultivable waste lands. For ILI criteria considered were socio-economic studies, available infrastructure and status of health and sanitation services.

The task force considered 670 districts of the country for drought vulnerability based on composite index and prepared the score. Out of 670 districts 168 have been identified as high priority rainfed districts for various interventions in 2020.

(e): As per the Provisional Estimates (PE), Real GVA of the agriculture sector has grown up by 4.6% in 2024-25. The Government has been taking several initiatives to achieve higher growth rates in the agriculture sector by way of increasing area and productivity of crops.

During 2024-25, the National Food Security Mission (NFSM) has been renamed as National Food Security & Nutrition Mission (NFSNM) and the Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (DA&FW) is implementing NFSNM for increasing production of pulses, nutri cereals, rice, wheat and coarse cereals in the country. Under NFSNM, the incentives are provided to the farmers, through the States/UTs, on crop production and protection technologies, cropping system-based demonstrations, production & distribution of certified seeds of newly released varieties/hybrids, integrated nutrient and pest management techniques, capacity building of farmers through trainings during cropping season etc. Also, the Government has been implementing a National Food Security Mission- Oilseeds & Oil Palm (NFSM-OS&OP), from 2018-19 to augment the availability of vegetable oils through improved productivity and increase in acreage under cultivation.

The Government is implementing the Crop Diversification Programme (CDP) under the Rashtriya Krishi Vikas yoajna (RKVY) to demonstrate and promote better production technologies of alternate crops for the diversion of paddy cultivation and to restore soil fertility through the cultivation of legumes. Further, the Government of India also provides flexibility to the states for state specific needs/priorities under Pradhan Mantri-Rashtirya Krishi Vikas Yojana (PM-RKVY).

The Government has also been promoting organic farming by implementing two dedicated schemes, i.e., Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY) and Mission Organic Value Chain Development for North Eastern Region (MOVCDNER) since 2015 through cluster/ FPO formation. PKVY Scheme is being implemented in a cluster mode (with a minimum of 20 ha size).

Promotion of greater efficiency in the use of inputs and sustainable production methods through Per Drop More Crop (PDMC), a micro irrigation scheme and the actions under the National Mission on Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA), including the use of alternative and organic fertilisers are a few examples on other initiatives being undertaken to improve productivity and sustainability. In addition, digital initiatives such as the Digital Agriculture Mission and e-National Agriculture Market (e-NAM) have also been taken up to facilitate the adoption of smart agriculture technologies, with the latter allowing better price discovery.

National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture, a part of the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC), aims to evolve and implement strategies to make Indian agriculture more resilient to the changing climate. One of the most critical interventions in the face of changing climate is to ensure that farmland gets assured irrigation. In this context, Rainfed Area Development (RAD), implemented under the NMSA to enhance productivity and minimise risks associated with climatic variability.

The Sub Mission on Agricultural Mechanization (SMAM) provides assistance to the State Government for training and demonstration of agricultural machinery, setting up of Custom Hiring Centres (CHC) and assists farmers in procuring various farm machinery and equipment.

The Indian Council on Agricultural Research (ICAR), is the apex organisation in agriculture research in the country. It has worked in diverse areas of research covering crop and seed production, bio-fortified varieties of grains and oils, promotion of millets, animal production and health, agricultural mechanisation and post-harvest management, and fisheries. ICAR is focusing on the development of high-yielding climate resilient and nutritionally rich field-crop varieties along with the location specific production and protection technologies. Developed improved varieties, production and protection technologies are being disseminated among farmers for large-scale adoption through outreach activities viz., training/sensitization programmes during the crop season, on-farm trials & frontline demonstrations, diagnostic field visits and field friends programmes as well as through social media platforms.

Further, recognising the increasing relevance of the allied sector in agricultural growth and as a buoyant source of farm income, several government initiatives are being implemented to enhance productivity, ensure animal health, and facilitate infrastructure development. The interventions include a focus on improving animal health (Livestock Health and Disease Control Programme), nurturing entrepreneurship development and per-animal productivity (National Livestock Mission) and promoting FPOs and Self-Help Groups. The Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund (AHIDF) facilitates investments from individual entrepreneurs, private companies, FPOs, and Section 8 companies and Diary Cooperative (included by merging Dairy Processing and Infrastructure Development Fund in AHIDF) in key areas like dairy processing, meat processing, animal feed plants, and breed improvement technology. Also, the Government has implemented Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) with the objective to enhance seed and fish production and other extension services.
