

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF FINANCE
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 696
TO BE ANSWERED ON JULY 24, 2015 / SHRAVANA 2, 1937 (SAKA)

GROWTH IN AGRICULTURE SECTOR

†696. DR. VIRENDRA KUMAR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of growth rate in agriculture sector during the last three years and the current year;
- (b) whether the aforesaid sector has experienced slump in growth rate, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to give boost to agriculture sector by providing maximum tax benefit, if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the other steps taken by the Government to augment growth in agriculture sector?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE
(SHRI JAYANT SINHA)

(a) & (b): As per New Series of National Accounts released on 30.01.2015 and further latest estimates released on 29th May, 2015 by Central Statistics Office (CSO), the Gross Value Added (GVA) at basic prices and growth rate of agriculture & allied sectors at 2011-12 prices are tabulated below:

GVA at basic prices at 2011-12 prices (Rs. in Crore)			Growth Rate (%)
Year	Total Economy	Agriculture, forestry & fishing	Agriculture, forestry & fishing
2011-12	8195546	1505580	-
2012-13	8599224	1523470	1.2
2013-14	9169787	1579290	3.7
2014-15	9827089	1582851	0.2

In India, the agricultural production is highly dependent upon weather, rainfall situation etc. As, 52.4 % of area (2012-13) under cultivation is still rainfed, monsoon rainfall has significant role in production of crops and also on the output of other allied sectors to certain extent. Climate change has also emerged as an important factor causing serious impact on output of crop sector.

(c) & (d): The Government has taken various initiatives under different crop development schemes/programmes to increase output of agriculture and allied sector. In order to minimize the impact of delayed/deficient rainfall, long dry spells etc, the ICAR has prepared contingency plans for more than six hundred districts of the country. To minimize the adverse impact of climate change, the government has taken important initiative in the form of National Mission on Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA). Further, the Government has also taken several measures to improve growth in the agriculture sector that, inter-alia, include an ambitious Soil Health Card Scheme to improve soil fertility on a sustainable basis; In order to improve soil health, support to organic farming scheme – “Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana”; Pradhanmantri Gram Sinchai Yojana aimed at irrigating the field of every farmer and improving water use efficiency; allocation of Rs 5,300 crore to support micro-irrigation, watershed development and the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana.
