

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, COOPERATION AND FARMERS WELFARE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 342
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 1ST DECEMBER, 2015

RECOMMENDATION OF SWAMINATHAN COMMISSION

342. SHRI KRUPAL BALAJI TUMANE:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री be pleased to state:

- (a) the date on which Swaminathan Commission was set up to safeguard the interests of the farmers;
- (b) whether the Commission has submitted any report to the Government;
- (c) if so, the details of the recommendations of the Commission;
- (d) whether the Government has accepted the recommendations of the Swaminathan Commission, if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (SHRI MOHANBHAI KUNDARIA)

(a) to (e): The National Commission on Farmers (NCF) under the Chairmanship of Dr. M. S. Swaminathan was set up vide Resolution No. 8-2/2003-Policy (ES) dated 18.11.2004 by the then Department of Agriculture & Cooperation. The Commission submitted five reports to the Government. The major recommendations of the Commission contained in the five reports were included in the 'Draft National Policy for Farmers'; that they submitted on 4.10.2006.

Based on the 'Draft National Policy for Farmers', the Government approved the 'National Policy for Farmers, 2007' (NPF 2007). The NPF-2007 aims to improve economic viability of farming and increase net income of farmers. The Policy provisions in NPF-2007 include, inter-alia, (i) asset reforms in respect of land, water, livestock, fisheries and bio-resources; (ii) supply of good quality seeds and disease-free planting material, (iii) issue of soil health passbooks to the farmers and integrated pest management system; (iv) region and crop specific implements and machinery; (v) support services for women; (vi) timely, adequate and easy reach of institutional credit at reasonable interest rates and farmer-friendly insurance instruments; (vii) support services and inputs like application of frontier technologies; (viii) agricultural bio-security system; (ix) use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) and setting up of farm schools to revitalize agricultural extension; (x) coverage of farmers under a comprehensive national social security scheme; (xi) effective implementation of Minimum Support Price (MSP) across the

country and establishing community foodgrain banks; (xii) development of agricultural market infrastructure and terminal markets for agriculture; (xiii) curriculum reforms in agricultural universities; (xiv) special categories of farming like organic farming and contract farming; (xv) rural non-farm employment initiative for farm households; and (xvi) integrated approach for rural energy, etc.

The Ministry has adopted various schemes/programmes based on the NPF, 2007. However, this Policy did not incorporate some of the recommendations of NCF as given at Annexure.

RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY NCF BUT NOT INCORPORATED IN
THE NATIONAL POLICY

	Gist of Recommendations	Remarks
(a)	To permit farmers to protect crops by killing wild boars, nilgai and to curtail free grazing of cattle in rabi season	These are not policy issues and may be taken up separately with the Ministry of Environment and Forest for appropriate action by them to protect the crops
(b)	MSP should be at least 50% higher than weighted average cost of production	MSP is recommended by CACP on objective criteria considering variety of relevant factors. Hence, prescribing an increase of at least 50% on cost may distort the market. A mechanical linkage between MSP and cost of production may be counter-productive in some cases.
(c)	Formation of All India Agricultural Council	Mandate of ICAR can be expanded to discharge this function (This has been suggested in the policy).
(d)	To set up an Agricultural Risk Fund	DEA has expressed reservations and stated that subsidizing agriculture insurance premium is a better option.
(e)	A Food Guarantee Act shall be enacted	NREG Act & revamped PDS should take care of food security of BPL families.
(f)	To establish an Indian Trade Organisation to help Government to operate Livelihood Security Box for farmers and to link global policies with local action	Department of Commerce (DOC) has expressed reservation on this proposal and has stated that DOC alongwith DAC are recommending necessary steps to safeguard farmers' interests from time to time.
(g)	Every State should set up a State Farmer Commission	State Government will have to take necessary decision in this regard. Hence this may not be incorporated in National Policy for Farmers.
(h)	To include Agriculture under Concurrent List under Article 246 of the Constitution	Some of the State Governments have opposed this recommendation. It may not be incorporated in Policy as a Constitutional amendment is required for which separate action may be needed.
(i)	National Livestock Development Council to be established at the National level. Livestock Feed & Fodder Corporations to be set up at the State level.	Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying & Fisheries have decided not to establish National Livestock Development Council. Livestock Feed & Fodder Corporation can be considered separately.
(j)	National Agricultural Biosecurity Council, National Centre for Agriculture Biosecurity and National Agricultural Biosecurity Network would be put in place.	This is implementation issue and can be considered by Government subsequently. Hence, it is not incorporated in the Policy.
(k)	PDS would be made universal	In view of reservations expressed by Ministry of Finance and Department of Food and Public Distribution, this may not be incorporated in NPF.
(l)	Gram Panchayat Mahila Fund to assist women SHGs.	Existing schemes implemented by Ministry of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj can take care of women livelihood and capacity building issues.
(m)	MSP and Procurement operations should be treated as two separate initiatives	Department of Food and Public Distribution has reservation on this, since it will be difficult to implement.