

Efforts to increase growth rate in agricultural sector

2656. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Agriculture accounts for 29.4 per cent of the GDP and 64 per cent of the labour force; and

(b) if so, what efforts are being made by Government to increase the growth rate in this sector to promote the export of agriculture products?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO):

(a) According to the estimates of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) released by the Central Statistical Organisation, Agriculture and Allied Sectors consisting of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, Forestry and Fishing, account for 31% of the GDP in the year 1993-94 and 27.9% of the GDP in the year 1999-2000, measured at current prices. The percentage of labour force in the Agriculture and Allied Sector was 64% in the year 1993-94 as per the survey conducted by the National Sample Survey Organisation.

(b) To increase production and productivity of crops, the Government is implementing several central and centrally sponsored schemes. The regionally differentiated strategy based on different agro-climatic zones will be pursued to double the food production in the next ten years. Implementation of this strategy would increase not only the production of foodgrains but also oilseeds, sugar, fruits and vegetables, milk, eggs and fish ensuring thereby food security and augmentation of export potential of agricultural products.