

Growth rate of agriculture sector

2063. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the growth rate targets fixed by Government for agriculture sector during each Five Year Plan, till date;

(b) the actual growth rate of agriculture sector achieved during each Five Year Plan, till date;

(c) the growth rate of agriculture sector during each year of Tenth Five Year Plan;

(d) how this actual growth rate compares with the targets fixed;

(e) if targets have not been achieved, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the efforts Government are going to make in 2005-06 and 2006-07 for achieving the targets of growth?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) The growth rate of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) at 1993-94 prices in agriculture including allied sectors of forestry and logging, and fishing achieved during each Five Year Plan, vis-a-vis the targeted growth rate is given in the table below.

Actual Growth Rates & Targeted Growth Rates in Agriculture

Five Year Plans	Actual Average Annual Growth Rate (%)	Targeted Average Annual Growth Rate (%)
First Plan (1951—56)	2.9	Not Available
Second Plan (1956—61)	3.3	Not Available
Third Plan (1961—66)	-0.3	Not Available
Fourth Plan (1969—74)	2.8	Not Available
Fifth Plan (1974—79)	3.6	3.3
Sixth Plan (1980—85)	5.7	3.8
Seventh Plan (1985—90)	3.1	2.5
Eighth Plan (1992—97)	4.7	3.1

Ninth Plan (1997—02)	2.1	3.9
Tenth Plan (2002—05), up to 2004-05	1.2	4.0

Source: Central Statistical Organisation & Planning Commission.

(c) and (d) The growth rate of agriculture including allied sectors of forestry and logging, and fishing during each year of Tenth Five Year Plan in real terms (at 1993-94 prices) was (-7) per cent during 2002-03, the first year of Tenth Plan, 9.6 per cent during 2003-04, and 1.1 per cent during 2004-05. The average annual growth in agricultural GDP for the first three years of the Tenth Plan therefore works out to a modest rate of 1.2 per cent compared with the targeted annual average growth of 4 per cent.

(e) The year 2002-03, the first year of the Tenth Plan, witnessed a sharp decline in agricultural growth by (-) 7.0 per cent due to the severe drought that affected several States/regions in the country. The year 2003-04, the second year of the Tenth Plan, witnessed a very favourable rainfall, which pushed up agricultural growth to 9.6 per cent. This also reflected the very low base of agricultural GDP in 2002-03. The year 2004-05, the third year of the Tenth Plan, witnessed deficient rainfall from the Southwest monsoon, which adversely affected kharif crop production in many States. Though the deficiency in rainfall (-13%) in 2004 was far less serious than that in 2002 (-19%), it pulled down growth in agriculture to a modest rate of 1.1 per cent.

(f) The inability of agriculture sector to withstand weather related shocks mainly reflects the decline in public investment over successive Five Year Plans. This in turn reflects serious deficiency in irrigation facilities for agriculture. Union Budget for 2005-06 has, therefore, provided higher outlays for irrigation. The outlay on Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) has been raised to Rs. 4,800 crore from Rs. 2,800 crore in 2004-05. Similarly, a sum of Rs. 400 crore has been allocated for promoting micro-irrigation through drip and sprinkler irrigation in 2005-06. Other thrust areas include horticulture, agricultural credit and development of livestock and fisheries. The National Horticulture Mission, which was launched in May, 2005, aims at doubling production of horticulture crops by 2011-12. As regards agricultural credit, the disbursement in 2004-05 amounted to Rs. 1,15,242 crore, which represented an increase of 34% over the previous year. It is proposed to increase the credit flow to agriculture by 30% in 2005-06.