

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:337
ANSWERED ON:22.12.2008
LABOUR INTENSIVE TECHNOLOGY IN AGRICULTURE
Renge Patil Shri Tukaram Ganpatrao

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether from the economic point of view it is more appropriate to utilise labour intensive technologies in the agricultural sector than machine-based technology;
- (b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) whether the farmers engaged in growing wheat have given preference to labour-intensive technology in certain States of the country;
- (d) if so, whether the Government has taken steps to provide central assistance to promote the use of labour-intensive technology; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR)

(a) to (e): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.337 DUE FOR REPLY ON 22ND DECEMBER, 2008.

(a) to (c): The use of appropriate technology in the agricultural sector is largely a function of availability of resources such as land, labour, capital and other inputs. A "Study relating to formulating long-term mechanization strategy for each Agro- Climatic Zone/State" by Indian Agricultural Statistics Research Institute (IASRI) has concluded that most of the holding sizes were small and did not justify individual ownership of costly machines. However, such farmers were taking advantage of improved agricultural machinery on custom hiring basis. Thus, the farmers, including wheat growers keeping in view the resources at their disposal, use a mix of labour and capital intensive technologies for various agricultural operations.

(d) & (e): Does not arise.