

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:123

ANSWERED ON:23.02.2010

UNEMPLOYMENT IN AGRICULTURE

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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether unemployment is on the rise in the agriculture sector;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (c) whether the Government has drawn up any action plan for providing adequate employment opportunities in the agriculture sector;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the manner in which such action plan would be implemented; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government for disseminating agricultural education to the farmers in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS)

(a) & b): The agriculture sector has long been known to be characterized by under employment, which means that with the same number of workers it is possible to generate more output. Eleventh Plan (2007-12) Document actually projected a net decrease of 4 million agricultural workers over the Twelfth Plan period (2012- 2017). In view of the above projection unemployment is likely to increase in agriculture during 12th plan.

The number of main workers in agriculture declined by about 1.8 crore between 1991 and 2001 and there has been a large increase in marginal workers in agriculture during 1991-2001.

Information on Unemployment in Agriculture sector state-wise separately is not maintained.

(c)&(d): Various schemes implemented by the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation (DAC), Ministry of Agriculture are for raising the output and not necessarily employment oriented.

(e): The Government is implementing the following activities for educating the Farmers:

Farm Schools in the fields of outstanding Farmers are being promoted at Block/Gram Panchayat Level.

Farmer to Farmer extension support at village level through farmers groups.

Community Radio Stations (CRS) operated through Krishi Vigyan Kendras' (KVKs).

Information on Unemployment in Agriculture sector state-wise separately is not Radio to broadcast area specific agricultural programs.

Agri-clinic and Agri-business Centres are established to provide extension education services to farmers on payment through setting up economically viable self-employment ventures run by trained agri-preneurs.

Kisan Call centres with toll free telephone facility were set up to provide information to farming community in their local language.

Exhibitions (Krishi Expos) are organised at periodical intervals by Dept of Agriculture and Cooperation to provide exposure to farmers on various developments in agriculture.