

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:41
ANSWERED ON:23.02.2010
EMPLOYMENT IN AGRICULTURE SECTOR
Roy Shri Arjun;Sinh Dr. Sanjay

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the agriculture sector has immense potential for providing employment in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the details of schemes launched to increase employment opportunities in the agriculture sector;
- (d) whether the Government has set up various specialized training centers for the unemployed rural youth in each district of India; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

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): Eleventh Five Year Plan (2007-12) document, Planning Commission, Government of India stated clearly that the projected doubling of the rate of agricultural growth during the Eleventh Plan will be possible without any increase in agricultural employment. Agriculture contributed 8.8 million job opportunities in the 11-year period from 1993-94 to 2004-05, it is projected to contribute no increase in the Eleventh Plan and a net decrease of 4 million agricultural workers over the Twelfth Plan period.

In fact 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. Rising wage differentials between the agriculture and non-agriculture sectors are also very likely to shift labour out of agriculture, and the continued growth into the Twelfth Plan period would provide sufficient pull factor from non-agriculture to encourage such a shift. The main employment issue in the agriculture sector is the increase in farm labour income, and not the creation of a larger number of employed workers. Our growth strategy is oriented towards higher growth in non-services employment opportunities than in increasing agricultural employment.

(c): No specific schemes have been launched by Government to increase employment in agriculture sector though increased agricultural growth may directly and indirectly promote employment in agricultural and non-agricultural sectors.

(d) & (e): Government is setting up establishment of training centres for rural youth in each district of the country and has funded so far 167 Rural Self Employment Training Institutes (RSETI) during 2008-09 and 2009-10 through Ministry of Rural Development.