

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
PLANNING  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4300

ANSWERED ON:21.04.2010

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN AGRICULTURE SECTOR

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**Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:**

(a) whether the Planning Commission proposes to increase employment opportunities in the agriculture sector during the Eleventh Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the percentage of employment opportunities likely to increase during the Eleventh Five Year Plan over the Tenth Five Year Plan period in agriculture sector?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY)

(a) to (c): Increasing employment opportunities in the economy, including agricultural and allied sectors, is a central concern of the Planning Commission. Some of the sub-sectors of the Agriculture and Allied Sector having potential for generating employment opportunities during the Eleventh Five Year Plan are:

# Horticulture including floriculture, vegetable production and primary processing etc.

# Organic agriculture

# Seed and planting material production

# Dairy and poultry

# Fisheries

# Agri-clinic/Agri-business centres

# Micro irrigation

According to studies, the mandays of annual employment created per Rs. 1000 investment in some of these sub-sectors are as given in the table below:

Sub-Sector      Employment (Mandays/per year/per Rs. 1000 invested)

Plantation and Horticulture      3.02

Dairy, Poultry, Sheep, Goat

and Piggery      6.75

Fisheries      1.81

Others      7.32

Source:-National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) as cited on page 78 of the Report of the Inter-Ministry Task Group on Investment, Credit and Technical Support to promote Self-employment in Agriculture, Horticulture, Afforestation, Dairying and Agro-processing, by Planning Commission, January 2005.

However, no specific targets for employment creation in agriculture sector have been fixed. The Eleventh Five-Year Plan strategy for agriculture aims to improve access of farmers to technology; enhance the quantum and efficiency of public investments; encourage diversification towards higher value crops and livestock while at the same time protecting against food security concerns; and achieve inclusiveness through a more decentralised decision-making.

The National Sample Survey Reports show that in rural India, the proportion of 'all'(i.e. both principle and subsidiary status) male workers engaged in the agricultural activities declined from 71.4 per cent in 1999-2000 to 66.5 per cent in 2004-05. For 'all' female workers, the decline was less, that is, from 85.4 per cent in 1999-2000 to 83.3 per cent in 2004-05.

