

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PLANNING
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:250
ANSWERED ON:11.08.2010
EMPLOYMENT IN AGRICULTURE SECTOR
Hansrajbhai Shri Radadiya Vitthalbhai

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the National Sample Survey reports reveal decline in the number and percentage of workers engaged in the agriculture sector;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether in view of the dismal performance of the agriculture sector, the Planning Commission has evolved any strategy to accelerate the growth in the agriculture sector commensurate with rise in employment opportunities in the sector; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.250 REGARDING EMPLOYMENT IN AGRICULTURE SECTOR BY SHRI VITHALBHAI HANSRAJBHAI RADADIYA DUE FOR ANSWER ON 11-08-2010.

(a) & (b): Employment estimates are generally obtained from the quinquennial rounds of the National Sample Surveys (NSS). The latest available quinquennial round is 61st round. It shows 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 the 55th round (1999-2000) to 66.5 per cent in 61st round (2004-05). For 'all' female workers, the decline in the corresponding rounds was less, that is, from 85.4 per to 83.3 per cent. The latest available NSS report of the 64th round (July 2007-08) which is an annual round does not show significant change since 2004-05.

(c) & (d): The Eleventh Five-Year Plan strategy for agriculture aims to improve access of farmers to technology; enhance 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 that focuses on solving specific local problems.

Achievement in respect of growth in the agriculture sector as against the 11th Five- Year Plan (2007-08 to 2011-12) projected annual average growth of 4% in the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of Agriculture and Allied Sectors are as follows:

Sl. No.	Year	Percentage change over the previous year
1	2004-05	0.0
2	2005-06	5.9
3	2006-07	3.8
4	2007-08	4.9
5	2008-09 (Quick estimate)	1.6
6	2009-10 (Revised estimate)	0.2

Source: Central Statistical Organisation, New Delhi.

As regards contribution of agriculture to employment opportunities in the country the 11th Five-Year Plan has projected "no increase in the Eleventh Plan and a net decrease of 4 million agricultural workers over the Twelfth Plan period (2006-07 to 2016-17)". The underemployment in agriculture means that with the same number of workers it is possible to generate more output. Rising wage

differentials between the agriculture and non-agriculture sectors are also likely to shift labour out of agriculture. However, 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 organic agriculture, dairy, poultry and fisheries.