

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:947

ANSWERED ON:15.11.2010

WOMEN WORKFORCE IN AGRICULTURE SECTOR

Shantha J.

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of women involved in agriculture sector such as sowing, hoeing, weeding, watering, harvesting etc.;
- (b) the strength of such women workforce during the last three years and the current year;
- (c) whether the Government defines such type of labour i.e. self-employment, daily wages, free wages etc.; and
- (d) the contribution of this workforce in national income?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI HARISH RAWAT)

(a) to (c): As per Census 2001, the number of agricultural workers in India was 10.67 crores. Out of this, 4.94 crore (about 46%) were women agriculture workers.

Recognizing the need for providing social security to unorganized workers, including agriculture labour, the Unorganised Workers' Social Security Act, 2008 has been enacted. The Act defines 'Unorganised Worker' as a home based worker, self-employed worker or a wage worker in the unorganized sector and includes a worker in the organized sector who is not covered by any of the Acts mentioned in Schedule-II of Act i.e. The Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923, The Industrial Disputes Act, 1947, The Employees' State Insurance Act, 1948, The Employees Provident Fund and Miscellaneous Provision Act, 1952, The Maternity Benefit Act, 1961 and The Payment of Gratuity Act, 1972.

As per Economic Survey, 2008-09, the agriculture sector accounts for 16.3% of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in 2007-08.