

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:181
ANSWERED ON:22.02.2011
WORKERS IN AGRICULTURE SECTOR
Haque Shri Sk. Saidul

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the number of workers in the agriculture sector have declined in the last few years;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the steps taken to create additional employment opportunities in the agriculture sector?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI ARUN YADAV)

(a) & (b): As per Population Census 1991, the total number of cultivators and agricultural workers in the country engaged in agriculture was 210.68 million. The same has increased to 234.10 million in 2001 Census, registering an increase of 11.11% in ten years. As per two most recent quinquennial rounds of National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO) on Employment and unemployment, employment on Usual Status basis in agriculture sector was estimated at 239.73 million persons in 1999-2000 (55th round) which has gone up to 258.59 million persons in 2004-05 (61st round), showing an increase of 7.86% in five years. As such dependence on agriculture has increased.

(c): Schemes in the agricultural sector aim at increasing production and productivity and in the process create additional employment in agriculture. Several development programmes such as Macro Management of Agriculture, Integrated Cereals Development Programme (ICDP) for Rice, Wheat and Coarse Cereals, Gramin Bhandaran Yojana, Development of Agricultural Marketing Infrastructure, Micro Irrigation, Rural Credit, Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize (ISOPOM) and National Horticulture Mission (NHM) are being implemented.

Recently, Government has launched two schemes viz.(i) National Food Security Mission (NFSM) to increase production of Rice, Wheat and Pulses and (ii) Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) to incentivize the States/UTs to invest more in the agriculture sector. Though these Schemes are envisaged to increase production they have the potential to create additional employment opportunities. These programmes, apart from creating on-farm and non-farm employment are also expected to improve the income realization by the farmers.