GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:352
ANSWERED ON:28.07.2009
ASSISTANCE TO SMALL AND MARGINAL FARMERS
Chauhan Shri Sanjay Singh

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of rural people earning their livelihood through agriculture;

(b) the assistance provided by the Government to small and marginal farmers in the country;

(c) whether the number of small and marginal farmers has decreased during the last three years;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps being taken by the Union Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 352 DUE FOR REPLY ON 28-07-2009.

(a): As per Census of India 2001, out of a total number of 30.99 crore rural workers, 16.19 crore workers consisting of 10.14 crore cultivators and 6.05 crore agricultural labourers, which is 52.24 per cent of rural workers, earn their livelihood from agriculture.

(b) to (e): As per Agriculture Census 2000-01, there is an increase in number of small and marginal farmers from 9.28 crore in 1995-96 to 9.81 crore in 2000-01 showing an increase of 5.71 per cent. The details are given below:-

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Size Class (in ha.) Number of small and marginal Number of small and marginal
   farmers in   farmers in
   1995-96 (in crore)  2000-01 (in crore)


Small Farmers  2.16  `  2.27



Marginal Farmers 7.12    7.54



Total   9.28   9.81
(Small and Marginal)
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The Government provides financial incentives, grants, concessions to the farmers with special emphasis on holdings of small and marginal farmers through various Schemes such as National Food Security Mission, Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana, Macro Management, National Horticulture Mission and Technology Mission for Horticulture for the North Eastern States. Central Government also provides subsidies on seeds, micro irrigation systems, machinery, premium on crop insurance and fertilizer, etc.