

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4444
ANSWERED ON:30.08.2011
CONTRACT FARMING
Tandon Annu

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is considering to introduce organised contract farming in agriculture;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government is taking steps to regulate and reform sharecropping (batai) system;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps being taken by the Government to tackle absentee landlordism?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI HARISH RAWAT)

(a) to (e): The Ministry of Agriculture has framed Model Agricultural Produce Marketing (Development and Regulation) Act, 2003 and Model Agricultural Produce Marketing (Development and Regulation) Rules, 2007 for adoption by States/ Union Territories. The Model Act, inter-alia, provides provisions for the registration of contract farming sponsors, recording of contract farming agreements with the Agricultural Produce Marketing Committee (APMC) or a prescribed authority under the Act and dispute settlement mechanism. It also provides for protection of title or rights of the farmers over the land under such contracts. These are intended to protect the interest of farmers. The State Governments of Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Chhatisgarh, Goa, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Nagaland, Orissa, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Mizoram, Tripura, Tamil Nadu, Punjab, Uttarakhand, Haryana and Union Territory of Chandigarh have made legal provisions for system of contract farming under their respective State Laws.

The Department of Land Resources, Ministry of Rural Development had constituted a Committee in 2008 on 'State Agrarian Relations and the Unfinished Task in Land Reforms'. The Committee has submitted its report and has made recommendations on various aspects of land reforms including recommendations regarding absentee landlords or non-resident land owners and tenancy and leasing.

The Report of the Committee is to be placed before the 'National Council for Land Reforms' constituted under the Chairmanship of the Prime Minister.