

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
AGRICULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4518

ANSWERED ON:30.08.2011

EMPLOYMENT IN AGRICULTURE SECTOR

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**Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the employment opportunities in the agriculture sector has declined in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons therefor;
- (c) the programmes/schemes being implemented by the Government for the welfare of the farming community in the country; and
- (d) the comprehensive measures taken by the Government to create employment opportunities in farm sector of the country?

**Answer**

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

(a) & (b): The Eleventh Five Year plan has stressed that the main employment issue in the agriculture sector is the increase in farm labour income and not the creation of a larger number of employed workers. Hence, the Plan document has added that it would be appropriate to work towards a strategy in which there is higher growth in non-services employment opportunities in rural areas which can provide additional income for the rural workforce by providing additional non-agricultural employment.

(c) & (d): Department of Agriculture and Cooperation has initiated major programmes to increase farm production and create additional employment and livelihood opportunities in rural areas. These include Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), National Food Security Mission (NFSM), National Horticultural Mission(NHM), Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize (ISOPOM), agriculture credit initiatives, Increase in Minimum Support Prices(MSP), setting up of Terminal Market Complex (TMC) to ensure better marketing facilities, Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) and Crop Insurance.

In addition to the above, major employment generation programmes like Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee (MGNREGA) programme, Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY), Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP), skill development initiatives under Prime Minister's National Council on Skill Development are also implemented to generate additional employment opportunities in rural areas.