

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
AGRICULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4517

ANSWERED ON:30.08.2011

BPL FARMERS

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

- (a) whether the Government has conducted any survey regarding economic condition of the farmers/farm workers in the country;
- (b) if so, the number of farmers/farm workers living below poverty line in the country alongwith reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the plight of farmers is one of the responsible factor for declining agriculture production in the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) the steps taken by the Government for welfare of the farmers in the country; and
- (f) the details of wages being paid to the agriculture labourers/workers in the country, State-wise alongwith the criteria adopted for the payment?

**Answer**

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

(a): National Sample Survey Organisation, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MOSP) has conducted a study "A Situation Assessment Survey of Farmers: Indebtedness of Farmer Households (NSSO 59th round, Jan-Dec 2003).

(b): As per the NSSO Report out of the estimated 893.5 lakh farmer households, 434.2 lakh farmer households, constituting 48.6 percent are poor and indebted.

(c) & (d): Foodgrains production in the country has increased from 196.8 million tonnes in 2000-01 to 241.6 million tonnes in 2010-11. Oilseeds production has increased from 18.4 million tonnes in 2000-01 to 31.1 million tonnes in 2010- 11.

(e): Government announced the National Policy on Farmers (NPF), 2007 which provides for various initiatives by the Central and State Governments that would improve the economic viability of farming through substantially improving the net income of the farmers, especially the small and marginal farmers and the landless agricultural labourers. Government is also implementing social security and welfare schemes like National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP), Aam Aadmi Bima Yojana, Swavalamban scheme and Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana.

(f): Annual Average wages paid to agricultural labour/workers is enclosed at Annexure. Minimum wages have been fixed by state Governments from time to time based on the guidelines issued by Ministry of Labour, Government of India.