

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
AGRICULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5495

ANSWERED ON:06.09.2011

MIGRATION OF FARMERS

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

- (a) whether there are reports of migration of farmers from rural areas to cities in the country including Bundelkhand region;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons therefor;
- (c) the reaction of the Government thereto; and
- (d) the remedial steps taken by the Government to curb such migration?

**Answer**

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

(a) & (b): Migration of people, including farmers from rural areas to urban areas is a natural phenomenon in the development process. This applies to Bundelkhand region also.

As per the latest NSS Survey Report No.533 on Migration (2007-08) migration is multidirectional happening from rural to urban and rural to rural and urban to rural areas for different socioeconomic reasons. As per this report nearly 57 per cent of urban migrant households migrated from rural areas whereas 29 per cent of rural migrant households migrated from urban areas during the survey period. Main reasons for migration are in search of better livelihood opportunities, for reasons of marriage in case of females, in search education and employment in general.

(c) & (d): Government has taken several measures for welfare of Farmers/ agricultural labourers to improve their living conditions to check distress migration. Legislations like Minimum Wages Act, 1948 Plantation Labour Act, 1951 address the issues of agriculture labour. In addition other legislations like, the Unorganized Workers' Social Security Act, 2008, The Inter-State Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1979, The Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986 are also implemented for the welfare of rural unorganised workers. Further the problems of farmers/ agricultural labourers have been sought to be tackled through multi-dimensional measures like improvement of infrastructural facilities, diversification to non-farm activities, skill improvement programmes, assistance to promote self-employment, optimizing the use of land resources and through a variety of rural development, employment generation and poverty alleviation programmes etc. Implementation of MGNREGA is an important initiative by the Government to provide employment to rural poor for minimum of 100 days in a year to check distress migration and promote opportunities for alternative employment by strengthening infrastructure and agriculture development.