

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
AGRICULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1504  
ANSWERED ON:09.08.2011  
SHORTAGE OF FARM LABOURERS .  
Tagore Shri Manicka

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

- (a) whether there are reports that the sowing, transplantation and harvesting are being affected due to shortage of farm labour in many States;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons therefor;
- (c) the States affected by the shortage of farm labour; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

**Answer**

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

(a): The Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) have observed that farming operations in major agriculture producing states are faced with problem of availability of labour during peak crop season.

(b)&(c): All major agricultural producing states where rural employment generation programmes are implemented are facing this problem. Factors such as the implementation of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme

(MGNREGA), migration of labour to urban areas in search of better livelihood opportunities etc. are reasons for shortage of farm labour.

(d): Government is advising the states to fix the floor level minimum wages in all occupations which is likely to reduce distress migration and making more casual labour available in rural areas thus increasing supply of labour.