

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1291
ANSWERED ON:29.11.2011
EMPLOYMENT IN AGRICULTURE SECTOR
Shantha J.

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the rate of employment as well as employment opportunities in the agriculture sector have dwindled over a period of time;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) the steps taken to create additional employment opportunities in the agriculture sector;
- (d) whether the Government has assigned the responsibility of technology upgradation in the labour oriented agriculture sector to any research institute; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof alongwith the time by which such upgraded technology is likely to be implemented?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): As per Population Census 1991, the total number of cultivators and agricultural workers in the country engaged in agriculture was 210.68 million. The same has increased to 234.10 million in 2001 Census, registering an increase of 11.11% in ten years. According to the Eleventh Plan document brought out by the Planning Commission, against the Tenth Plan target of 9.47 million, employment created in the agriculture sector was 8.84 million. According to Key Indicators of Employment and Unemployment in India 2009-10 released by National Sample Survey Office (NSSO), in rural areas nearly 63 per cent of the male usual status (principal status + subsidiary status) workers were engaged in the agriculture sector while 79 per cent of the female were dependent on agriculture sector. The share of urban workforce in agriculture was nearly 6 per cent in respect of male and 14 per cent in respect of female workers.

(c): Several schemes launched in the agriculture sector aim at increasing production and productivity and in the process also create additional employment opportunities. Important programmes implemented in agriculture sector include Macro Management of Agriculture (MMA), National Food Security Mission (NFSM), Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), Gramin Bhandaran Yojana, Development of Agricultural Marketing Infrastructure, Micro Irrigation, Rural Credit, Integrated Scheme of Oilseed, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize (ISOPOM) and National Horticulture Mission (NHM).

These schemes apart from increasing agricultural production and productivity also create on-farm and non-farm employment which assists in improvement in the income realization of the farmers.

(d) & (e): Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) through its Institutes and All India Coordinated Research Projects (AICRPs) has developed a number of technologies and equipment which have enhanced labour productivity and reduced drudgery in different farm operations. Some of the important technologies are given below:

Selected technologies are reducing drudgery and enhancing output of human labour

Operation Technology

Sowing and Planting # Dibblers/ seed drills
 # Rice seeder/ transplanter
 # Multi-crop planter

Weeding/Interculture # Grubber weeder
 # Dryland weeder
 # Wheel hoes
 # Cono weeder

Harvesting and Threshing # Improved serrated sickle
Pedal operated rice thresher
Groundnut pod stripper
Tree climber

Cleaning/grading/ separation # Double screen cleaner
Pedal cum power operated grain cleaner
Pomegranate arils extractor

Shelling/Dehulling/ Peeling # Tubular maize sheller
Groundnut/castor decorticator
Garlic processing equipment
Sugarcane juice filtration system
Tender coconut punch and cutter

The technology upgradation in agriculture sector is a continuous process.