

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
AGRICULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:2  
ANSWERED ON:22.11.2011  
SHRINKING AGRICULTURAL LAND  
Punia Shri P.L. ;Viswanathan Shri P.

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

- (a) whether as per a recent survey, agriculture has become a loss making venture for farmers;
- (b) if so, the main findings of the survey;
- (c) whether the reducing size of agricultural land holdings due to fragmentation has affected agricultural output and has also made the agricultural profession non- remunerative;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) the estimated number of persons who have given up agriculture during each of the last three years, State-wise; and
- (f) the follow-up action taken by the Government to make agriculture a profitable venture as it is the mainstay of majority of the people in the country?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR)

(a) to (f); A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (f) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 2 DUE FOR REPLY ON 22ND NOVEMBER, 2011.

(a) to (d): Terms of trade for agriculture, which had witnessed a sharp decline during late 1990s to 2004-05, has later shown improvement. With the terms of trade index at 101.9 in 2005-06, it has gone upto 102.6 in 2009-10. Profitability from agriculture production depends on a number of factors which includes, interalia, efficiency in use of inputs, weather conditions, availability of credit, yield levels etc. There are studies which indicate that recent evidence at the all India level suggests that per hectare value of output on the small farms is even today higher than that on the medium and large farms. However, because of the small area this income is not adequate and disadvantages of the small size are not compensated by higher per hectare output.

According to Agriculture Census data, the average holding size of the agricultural land in the country has declined from 1.33 hectares in 2000-01 to 1.23 hectares in 2005-06. However, there has been a steady increase in agricultural output over the years, though the total cultivable area is more or less unchanged at about 141 million hectares. The details of foodgrains and oilseeds production during the last three years are given in the table below:

(Million Tonnes)

Crop	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
------	---------	---------	---------

Cereals	219.9	203.4	223.5
---------	-------	-------	-------

Total	14.6	14.7	18.1
Pulses			

Total 234.5 218.1 241.6  
Foodgrains

Total 27.7 24.9 31.1  
Nine Oilseeds

(e): The estimated number of persons employed in agriculture per 1000 persons, as per last three NSSO surveys, for the years 2005-06, 2007-08 and 2009-10 All - India are 580, 573 and 532 respectively indicating a slight decline in persons employed in agriculture, which, inter alia, is on account of structural changes in the economy.

(f): In order to make agriculture a profitable venture, the Government of India has launched several schemes to increase investments in agriculture sector, for accelerating agricultural growth and to raise farm incomes, such as, the Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), National Food Security Mission (NFSM), Development and Strengthening of Infrastructure facilities for Production and Distribution of Quality Seed, National Horticulture Mission (NHM), Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize (ISOPOM), Gramin Bhandaran Yojana etc. In addition, Government has substantially improved the availability of farm credit; implemented a rehabilitation package for areas with higher agrarian stress; implemented a massive programme of debt waiver; introduced better crop insurance schemes; improving the income earning opportunities of farmers through Minimum Support Price (MSP) policy etc. for the benefit of income security of the farmers.