

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
AGRICULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:195  
ANSWERED ON:22.11.2011  
AVAILABILITY OF AGRICULTURAL LABOURERS  
Bajwa Shri Partap Singh;Meghe Shri Datta Raghobaji

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

- (a) whether there is a shortage of agricultural labourers in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether poverty alleviation schemes e.g. Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) have also affected the availability of agricultural labourers in different parts of the country, including Punjab and Haryana;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the reaction of the Government thereto?

**Answer**

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

(a)&(b): Indian Agriculture is characterised by underemployment and disguised unemployment. The Planning Commission has estimated that the projection for the Eleventh Plan assumes that the projected doubling of the rate of agricultural growth during the Eleventh Plan will be possible without any increase in agricultural employment. Whereas agriculture contributed 8.8 million job opportunities in the 11-year period from 1993-94 to 2004-05, it is projected to contribute no increase in the Eleventh Plan and a net decrease of 4 million agricultural workers over the Twelfth Plan period (2006-07 to 2016-17).

(c)&(d): Implementation of MGNREGA has reported to have partially affected the availability of labour for agricultural operations in some states including Punjab and Haryana.

(e): Guidelines were issued to all state Governments for convergence of MGNREGA with different schemes in agriculture in order to optimise synergies between MGNREGA and schemes of Ministry of Agriculture.