

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:177

ANSWERED ON:13.03.2012

ASSISTANCE TO SMALL AND MARGINAL FARMERS

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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the percentage of rural people earning their livelihood through agriculture;
- (b) whether the number of small and marginal farmers has decreased during the last three years;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the assistance provided by the Government to small and marginal farmers in the country, State-wise; and
- (e) the other steps taken by the Government to encourage such farmers?

Answer

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

(a): According to National Sample Survey(NSS) Report on Employment and Unemployment Situation in India, 2009-10, there are 679 persons working in agriculture and allied sectors for every 1000 rural persons in the country.

(b) & (c): Agricultural census is conducted quinquennially in the country. According to the Agricultural Census, the number of farmers with small and marginal holding in 2005-06 has increased compared to their position in 2000-01. The details of the same are as under:

Size Class	Number of operational holdings
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2000-01	2005-06
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Marginal (below 1.00 ha.)	75407769	83694372
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Small (1.00-2.00 ha.)	22694772	23929627
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(d) & (e): The Government provides assistance to the farmers with special emphasis on holdings of small and marginal farmers through various Schemes such as National Food Security Mission, Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana, Macro Management, National Horticulture Mission and Technology Mission for Horticulture for the North Eastern States. Central Government also provides assistance on seeds, micro irrigation systems, machinery, premium on crop insurance, fertilizers, etc. However, State-wise data on assistance specifically to small and marginal farmers is not maintained.