

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4905

ANSWERED ON:07.05.2012

SHORTAGE OF FARM LABOURERS

Mahato Shri Narahari;Panda Shri Baijayant;Reddy Shri Magunta Srinivasulu;Roy Shri Nripendra Nath

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the shortage of craftsman and farm labourers is being constantly felt in the country during the last three years;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons therefor;
- (c) the details of availability of labourers and landless agricultural workers/labourers vis-a-vis their requirement in the agriculture sector during the last three years and the current year, State-wise;
- (d) whether the implementation of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act has also diverted the craftsman and farm labourers to other sectors of jobs; and
- (e) if so, the measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to improve employability of the said labourers and the success achieved therein?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR & EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE)

(a) to (c): There is no such finding available in Ministry of Labour & Employment suggesting shortage of farm labour and craftsman in the country. A Statement showing the State-wise number of landless agricultural workers is annexed. Requirement of labour/agricultural labourers during the last three years is not available.

(d) & (e): There is no definite finding indicating shortage of craftsman and farm labourers attributing the same to Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA). MGNREGA aims at enhancing the livelihood security of people in rural areas by guaranteeing hundred days of wage-employment in a financial year to a rural household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work, if demanded, at any time of the year, as mandated by the Act. Average person days employment generated under MGNREGA during 2008-10 has ranged between 54 days to 47 days per annum. The demand and supply of labour for various sectors of the economy depend upon several factors like wage rates, economic prospects, absorption capacity, regional and climatic conditions, demographic profile of the work force.