

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
AGRICULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:459

ANSWERED ON:08.05.2012

AGRICULTURAL WORKERS

Dubey Shri Nishikant ;Pakirappa Shri S.

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

- (a) whether there is an acute shortage of agricultural workers in agriculturally rich States like Punjab, Haryana and Andhra Pradesh etc. during the harvest season;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Union Government proposes to give additional benefits to the agricultural workers of other States to migrate to these States;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to address the problem?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR)

(a) to (e): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 459 DUE FOR REPLY ON 8TH MAY, 2012.

(a) & (b): While Government of Andhra Pradesh has conveyed that there is no acute shortage of agricultural workers in the State during the harvest season, Government of Haryana has conveyed that shortage of agricultural workers is generally experienced during peak agricultural operations like paddy transplantation, wheat/paddy harvesting/threshing, cotton picking and sugarcane harvesting.

(c): No, Madam.

(d): Does not arise.

(e): With a view to increase productivity, improve quality of farm operations and reduce the drudgery associated with various agricultural operations, Government is promoting agricultural mechanization. Towards this end, assistance at the rate of 25 to 50% of cost of equipment/machinery with permissible ceiling limits is made available to farmers for purchase of agricultural equipments including hand tools, bullock-drawn/power-driven implements, planting, reaping, harvesting and threshing equipments, tractors, power-tillers and other specialized agricultural machines under the centrally sponsored scheme of Macro Management of Agriculture, Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana etc. Further, new innovative technologies like Direct Seeding of Rice (DSR), Underground Pipeline System and micro irrigation are being promoted.