

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:78
ANSWERED ON:14.08.2012
EXODUS OF FARM LABOURERS
Chitthan Shri N.S.V.;Patil Shri A.T. Nana

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has undertaken any survey to identify the reasons for large scale exodus of farm labourers to the urban areas;
- (b) if so, the outcome thereof;
- (c) whether this migration has an impact on agricultural production in the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the remedial measures taken/ proposed to be taken by the Government to arrest the exodus of farm labourers to the urban areas?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY 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. 78 DUE FOR REPLY ON 14TH AUGUST, 2012.

(a) & (b): As per the NSSO Survey Report (No. 533 on Migration 2007 - 08) people leave their place of residence or origin due to poverty, high population pressure on land, lack of basic infrastructural facilities like health care and education, natural disasters such as flood, drought, cyclonic storms, earthquake and tsunami and better job opportunities for regular and remunerative work and relatively higher wages.

Migration of agricultural labour from rural to urban areas is not a new phenomenon. It is a natural part of the development process. Eleventh Plan document has clearly stated that "Migration itself is not an abnormal phenomenon and is common all over the world since growth centres which generate demand for labour often tend to concentrate in certain areas". What is pertinent is the arrest of distress migration which is being addressed by various policy measures like implementation of MGNREGA and several other alternative employment and livelihood promotion activities in rural areas.

(c): No, Madam.

(d): Does not arise.

(e): Agriculture including allied activities is the principal source of livelihood for more than 58 percent (2001 census) of the population while it contributes around 14 percent to national GDP. Many of the workers engaged in agriculture are under- employed with low levels of productivity. Reducing the population pressure on agriculture will also contribute to increase in productivity of agriculture. Several alternative employment/livelihood generation programmes have been launched recently. Major initiative in this regard is the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme (MGNREGA) which seeks to reduce distress migration by providing up to 100 days of guaranteed wage employment in a year to every household on demand for doing unskilled manual work. Other programmes like Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY), Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) and initiatives under Prime Minister's National Council on Skill Development are also aimed at improving alternative employment and livelihood opportunities both in rural and urban areas thus reducing the pressure on distress migration to urban areas.