

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
RURAL DEVELOPMENT  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1966  
ANSWERED ON:23.08.2012  
SHORTAGE OF AGRICULTURAL LABOURERS  
Singh Kunwar Rewati Raman

**Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether due to the implementation of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme farmers are facing shortage of migratory agricultural labourers in the country including Punjab and Haryana;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT(SHRI PRADEEP JAIN 'ADITYA')

(a) to (c): 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, etc. Migration of workers from rural areas is influenced by factors like education, skills and aspirations of the labour force, alternate employment opportunities etc.

There have been no definitive findings indicating that the shortage of farm labourers is primarily due to Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA). Some studies have in fact highlighted MGNREGA's positive impact in terms of a rise in rural wages and reduction in distress migration from rural areas.

The primary objective of MGNREGA is to enhance the livelihood security of the rural households by providing up to 100 days of guaranteed wage employment in a year to every household on demand for doing unskilled manual work. The Act extends to all rural areas in the country. Since, MGNREGA is a demand driven, rights based wage employment programme backed by legislation, State Governments are obliged to provide up to 100 days of guaranteed wage employment in a financial year to every rural household for doing unskilled manual work, if demanded, at any time of the year, as mandated in the Act.