

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:828

ANSWERED ON:27.11.2012

AGRICULTURAL PROFESSION

Anandan Shri K.Murugesan;Angadi Shri Suresh Chanabasappa;Dubey Shri Nishikant ;Ganpatrao Shri Jadhav Prataprao;Haque Shri Sk. Saidul;Tandon Annu;Vasava Shri Mansukhbhai D.;Vijayan Shri A.K.S.

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the statement made by Prof. M.S. Swaminathan of the National Commission on Farmers (NCF) that 45% of farmers wanted to quit farming;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) whether the Government has conducted any assessment in this regard;
- (d) if so, the details thereof along with the estimated number of farmers who have given up farming during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise; and
- (e) the steps being taken by the Government to make farming a viable and sustainable profession?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR)

(a) to (d): National Commission on Farmers (NCF) has not made any remarks in its report that 45% of farmers wanted to quit farming. However National Sample Survey 59th Round for Situation Assessment Survey of Farmers conducted in January to December, 2003, has indicated that 40% of the farmers felt that given a choice they would take up some other career.

According to press report, in one of his speeches, Prof. Swaminathan has mentioned about it by quoting from the above mentioned National Sample Survey Report. As per the Agriculture Census, 2010-11, the total number of operational holdings in the country has increased from 129 million in 2005-06 to 138 million in 2010-11, i.e. an increase of 6.61%. A statement indicating state-wise number and area of holdings is annexed.

(e): The Government has taken numerous initiatives to make farming viable and sustainable. These include stepping up public investment in agriculture; bridging yield gaps through various schemes such as, National Food Security Mission, Bringing Green Revolution to Eastern India, Integrated Development of 60,000 Pulse Villages in Rain fed areas, Promotion on Oil Palm, National Mission for Protein Supplements, Accelerated Fodder Development Programme, etc.

The Government has implemented Rehabilitation Package for distressed farmers. Also to address the indebtedness problems of farmers, a scheme of Debt Waiver and Debt Relief Policy for farmers was announced in 2008-09. Increased availability of agricultural credit at reduced interest rate (for timely repayments) has also been ensured. The target for 2012-13 has been fixed at Rs. 5,75,000 crore , showing an increase of over Rs.1.00 crore over the target for 2011-12. To facilitate flow of credit to farmers and increase financial inclusion, Government is providing Kisan Credit Cards (KCC) to all eligible and willing farmers in time bound manner.