

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
AGRICULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:27

ANSWERED ON:26.02.2013

AGRICULTURAL PROFESSION

Choudhary Shri Nikhil Kumar;Putul Kumari Smt.

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

(a) whether a large number of farmers especially in the rainfed agricultural areas are giving up the agricultural profession and are selling their land to repay their debts taken from local money lenders;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether increase in the cost of cultivation due to substantial increase in the prices of agricultural inputs like diesel, fertilizers, pesticides, seeds, etc. is also the main reason for farmers quitting the agricultural profession; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the remedial measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to make agriculture a remunerative profession?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 27 DUE FOR REPLY ON 26TH FEBRUARY, 2013.

(a) & (b) No, Madam. As per Agricultural Census 2010-11, the number of operational holdings have increased from 129.22 million in 2005-06 to 137.76 million in 2010-11.

(c) Wholesale Price Index (WPI) with base 2004-05 =100 for farm inputs during the period 2009-10 to 2011-12 (July to June) reveals that prices have increased by 25 per cent for fertilizers, 16 per cent for electricity for agricultural use, 4 per cent for pesticides, 5 per cent for non-electrical machinery, 12 per cent for tractors, 32 per cent for lubricants, 22 per cent for diesel oil (HSDO), 50 per cent for diesel oil (LDO). WPI for the period 2012-13 (July to January) shows further increase in the prices of farm inputs. Price increase in farm inputs would increase the overall cost of production, depending upon, inter alia, the yields of the crops.

(d) Government has taken several steps to revitalize agriculture sector and improve condition of farming community on sustainable basis by increasing investment, improving farm practices, rural infrastructure and delivery of credit, technology and other inputs, extension, marketing, etc. Various programmes/schemes for the development of agriculture sector are being implemented in a decentralized manner with flexibility to State Governments to formulate and implement appropriate projects to suit their specific requirements. The focus of Government is primarily on expansion of farm income, creation of non-farm income opportunities, improvement in productivity of rainfed agriculture, increasing coverage of farming areas under protective irrigation and forging appropriate backward and forward linkages. Other measures taken by the Government for the benefit of farmers include enhancement in minimum support prices of agricultural commodities, increase in credit flow to agriculture sector, debt waiver/relief, interest subvention on crop loans, etc.