

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
AGRICULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1362

ANSWERED ON:05.03.2013

IMPACT OF MGNREGS ON AGRICULTURE

Gowda Shri D.B. Chandre;Jeyadural Shri S. R.;Punia Shri P.L.

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

- (a) whether the Government has made any survey/assessment regarding the impact of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) on agriculture;
- (b) if so, the outcome of the survey;
- (c) whether there are reports regarding shortage and large scale exodus of farm workers/ labourers in various parts of the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof along with the impact of shortage of farm workers on agriculture; and
- (e) the action plan of the Government to ensure availability of farm workers in the agriculture sector in the country?

**Answer**

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

(a) to (e): Yes, Madam. Studies and surveys on the implementation of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) reveal, inter alia, improvement in agricultural productivity, cropping intensity, ground water, etc. One study has reported that implementation of MGNREGA has created competition for labour due to which there is shortage of labour for agricultural operations particularly during the peak seasons like sowing and harvesting. Further, cost of cultivation/production has increased due to significant increase in agricultural wages. Another study has reported reduction in distress migration.

Several agricultural activities including provision of irrigation facility, dug out farm pond, horticulture, plantation, farm bonding and land development; agriculture related works, such as, NADEP composting, vermin-composting, liquid bio-manures; livestock related works, such as, poultry shelter, goat shelter, construction of pucca floor, urine tank and fodder trough for cattle, azolla as cattle-feed supplement; works in coastal areas, such as, fish drying yards, belt vegetation; rural drinking water related works, such as, soak pits, recharge its; and rural sanitation related works are now eligible to be taken under MGNREG Scheme on the lands of small and marginal farmers.