

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1309

ANSWERED ON:13.08.2013

PRICES OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCE

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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether people are losing interest in continuing with agriculture as prices of farm produces have become unremunerative;
- (b) if so, whether it is a fact that overheads are leading to a rise in the prices of farm produces and neither farmers nor consumers benefit out of it;
- (c) if so, the steps taken by the Government to provide adequate and remunerative prices to the farmers for their produce;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to provide any special package for improving the pitiable condition of the farmers of various States including Gujarat; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a): As per Census 2011 conducted by the Registrar General of India, the number of cultivators have come down from 127.3 million in 2001 to 118.7 million in 2011. However, the number of agricultural labourers increased from 106.8 million in 2001 to 144.3 million in 2011. Out of 481.7 million total workers in 2011, nearly 55 per cent of the workers are still engaged in agricultural activities.

According to the Situation Assessment Survey of Farmers 2003 conducted by the National Sample Survey Office (NSSO), cultivation was the most important source of income of farmer households in rural India. A shift from low productive and low remunerative sector is a normal phenomenon in the development process.

(b) to (e): The increase in the cost of production of agricultural commodities is directly related to increase in the cost of various agriculture inputs like labour, seeds, fertilizers and pesticides etc. The effect of rising input cost of cultivation of major crops is balanced by way of assuring Minimum Support Prices that help the farmers receive adequate return.

Minimum Support Prices for most crops have increased significantly in recent years. In order to make agriculture a profitable venture, the Government of India has launched several schemes to increase investments in agriculture sector, for accelerating agricultural growth and to raise farm incomes, such as, the Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), National Food Security Mission(NFSM), Development and Strengthening of Infrastructure facilities for Production and Distribution of Quality Seed, National Horticulture Mission (NHM), Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize (ISOPOM), Gramin Bhandaran Yojana etc. In addition, Government has substantially improved the availability of farm credit; implemented a rehabilitation package for areas with higher agrarian stress; implemented a massive programme of debt waiver and introduced better crop insurance schemes.