

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
AGRICULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1360

ANSWERED ON:13.08.2013

AGRICULTURAL PROFESSION

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

- (a) whether farming has become un-remunerative/unviable profession and a large number of farmers in the country have shifted to other professions/areas;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Registrar General of India has conducted any survey on farmers` population in the country;
- (d) if so, the details and the findings thereof; and
- (e) the measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to make agriculture a profitable profession and to motivate the farmers and the new generation for taking up agricultural activities?

**Answer**

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

(a) & (b): No, Madam. 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 to high productive and more remunerative sector is a normal phenomenon in the development process.

(c) & (d): As per Census 2011 conducted by the Registrar General of India, the numbers 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.

(e): 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. Various programmes/schemes for the development of agriculture sector are implemented in a decentralized manner with flexibility to State Governments to formulate and implement appropriate projects to suit their specific requirements.