

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1990

ANSWERED ON:19.08.2013

SHORTAGE OF MANPOWER

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Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the shortage of labour in various sectors particularly of wood-based industries and farm labour is being constantly felt in the country during the last few years;
- (b) if so, whether the implementations of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) has diverted such farm labourers to other sectors of jobs causing widespread labour scarcity resulting in the rise of wages in the agricultural sector;
- (c) if so, the action taken by the Government in this regard;
- (d) the details of the availability of labourers and landless agricultural workers vis-a-vis their requirement in agricultural sector in different States, State-wise including Madhya Pradesh during the last three years and the current year; and
- (e) the measures taken by the Government to solve such shortage of labour in various sectors in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR LABOUR & EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH)

(a) to (c) Reliable estimates of employment and unemployment are obtained through surveys on employment and unemployment conducted by the National Sample Survey Office, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation. Last such survey has been conducted during 2011-12. According to the NSS results, the estimated employment on usual status basis in agricultural & allied sector was 24.7 crore during 2009-10 and 23.2 crore during 2011-12. During this period, according to the NSS survey, the estimated daily wage of rural casual labour in different categories is given in the table below:

Year	(Wage in Rs.)		
	Casual labour in public works	Casual labour in other than public works	Casual labour in MGNREG public works
2009-10	121.83	93.11	89.03
2011-12	138.62	121.46	106.71

Thus while the overall employment in the agricultural & allied sectors have marginally reduced, the labour wages have increased in all the above areas where labourers are usually employed.

(d) State-wise details of agricultural labourers including Madhya Pradesh are at Annex.

(e) Government has taken several steps to reduce unemployment in the country. The focus is on creation of productive employment at a faster pace in order to raise incomes of masses to bring about a general improvement in their living conditions. The job opportunities are created on account of growth in Gross Domestic Product (GDP), investment in infrastructure development, growth in exports, etc. Government of India has also been implementing various employment generation programmes, such as Swarana Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY); Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP); National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM) and Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) besides entrepreneurial development programmes run by the Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises.