

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:812
ANSWERED ON:10.12.2013
LANDLESS PEASANTS
Das Shri Khagen

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the number of landless peasant households in the country has increased from 22 percent in 1992 to 41 percent in 2011;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the efforts made by the Government to ensure that such peasants are distributed land for their livelihood?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): Landless peasants households are not defined and enumerated in the Census of India. Agricultural labourers can be considered as the close proxy for landless peasants. As per Registrar General of India, the total number of cultivators which include persons engaged in cultivation of their own land or leased in from the Government or private persons for money or kind, has increased from 110.7 million in 1991 to 118.7 million in 2011. The number of agricultural labourers in India has increased from 74.6 million in 1991 to 144.3 million in 2011.

One of the reasons for an increase in agricultural labourers can be the continuous sub-division of agricultural land holdings due to limited land and increasing population, making the sub-divisions non-viable after a certain stage and forcing the subsistence farmers to supplement their income through other sources including agricultural wages.

(c): As per the information received from the States/UTs with the Deptt. of Land Resources, on implementation of land ceiling laws, as on 30.9.2013, an area of 68.48 lakh acres has been declared surplus, of which 61.47 lakh acres has been taken possession of and 50.93 lakh acres has been distributed to 57.38 lakh beneficiaries.

163.19 lakh acres of Govt. wasteland has been distributed to the eligible rural poor, 16.66 lakh acres of Bhoodan land has been distributed by the States/UTs to the eligible rural poor.