

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:920

ANSWERED ON:10.12.2013

SHORTAGE OF AGRICULTURAL LABOURERS

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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the cultivation of paddy and wheat has been hit badly in some States due to acute shortage of agricultural labourers;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to assess the impact of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) on the agriculture sector and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government has conducted a comprehensive socio-economic study of the farmers in the country and if so, the details and the findings thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken and the mechanism put in place by the Government to address the shortage of farm labourers in the agriculture sector?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): There is no evidence to show that cultivation of paddy and wheat has been hit badly in some States due to acute shortage of agricultural labourers. Rice and wheat witnessed record production during the recent years. During 2011-12 the production of rice was 105.3 million tonnes and the estimate for 2012-13 is 104.4 million tonnes. The production of the wheat in 2011-12 was 94.86 million tonnes and the estimate for 2012-13 is 92.46 million tonnes .

(c): Studies conducted on the impact of MGNREGA reveal that its implementation has lead to reduction in distress migration to urban areas as well as increase in wages in rural areas. Temporary shortage of labour has also been reported in some regions during the peak agricultural season. Studies also reveal that water and soil conservation works have helped improvement in agricultural production and productivity.

(d): To assess the income and condition of farmers in the country, a Situation Assessment Survey (SAS) was carried out in 2003 by the National Sample Survey Office (NSSO), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, Government of India.

The highlights of the survey are published in the NSS Report No.497 entitled "Income, Expenditure and Productive Assets of Farmer Households, 2003" and the same are indicated in the Annexure.

(e): In order to improve convergence of MGNREGA with other sectoral programmes, the fourth edition of MGNREGA operational guidelines 2013 have been issued to strengthen synergy between MGNREGA and rural livelihoods, particularly agriculture.

Concerted efforts are made by the Government for adoption of mechanization in various agricultural operations like land preparation or tilling, harvesting and rice transplantation which will reduce the dependence on man power.