

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1991

ANSWERED ON:17.12.2013

AGRICULTURAL WORKERS

Baitha Shri Kameshwar ;Majhi Shri Pradeep Kumar

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) has recommended to link the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) and the wages of labourers with agriculture to arrest the shortage of agricultural labourers during the crop season;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the response of the Government thereto; and

(d) the details of the assistance provided and utilised for the welfare of agricultural workers during each of the last three years and the current year, State- wise?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): The Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP), in Price Policy for Kharif 2013-14, has recommended fusion between Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) and agricultural operations, with the cost of wages to be shared by the farmer and by the scheme. As per the recommendation, this would help agriculture labour to earn more and also help the farmer save on labour costs, and keep the labour productive.

(c) & (d): As per the amendment to schedule 1 of MGNREGA issued in May 2012, a large number of activities/works having significant impact on agriculture and farm sector relating to provision of irrigation facility, dug out farm pond, horticulture, plantation, farm bunding and land development; agriculture related works such as vermin-composting, liquid bio-manures etc are included in as eligible activities under MGNREGA. The works permissible on individual lands or homesteads are expected to help small/marginal farmers to solve the issue of shortage of agricultural labourers. No state-wise, scheme-wise details of assistance to agriculture workers is maintained.