

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2015

ANSWERED ON:17.12.2013

INCOME FROM FARM SECTOR

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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has categorised the farmers into small, marginal, Below Poverty Line (BPL) and Other Backward Classes (OBC) farmers and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the average size of agricultural land holdings in the country is small and marginal and un-remunerative to the farmers;
- (c) if so, the details thereof, State-wise along with the steps taken to improve the productivity of such land in the country;
- (d) whether as per India Rural Development report, the income from the farming sector is insufficient for 85 percent farmers households in the country and if so, the reaction of the Government thereto; and
- (e) the details of the steps/welfare measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to improve the condition of small and marginal farmers and to make the agriculture a profitable profession to arrest shifting of farmers to other professions?

Answer

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

(a), (b) & (c): In Agriculture Census, the operational holdings are categorized in five size classes as follows:-

Sl. No.	Category	Size-Class
1.	Marginal	Below 1.00 ha.
2.	Small	1.00-2.00 ha.
3.	Semi-Medium	2.00-4.00 ha.
4.	Medium	4.00-10.00 ha.
5.	Large	10.00 ha. and above

The operational holdings are also classified in three social groups, viz., Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Others.

As per the results (provisional) of latest Agriculture Census 2010-11, the State-wise average size of operational holdings in the country is given at Annexure.

To improve production / productivity of various agricultural crops, the Government is promoting adoption of modern technologies and practices like multiple cropping, intercropping and integrated farming systems, etc.

(d) & (e): In the 'India Rural Development Report 2012-13' prepared by the IDFC Rural Development Network, it has been observed, inter-alia, that by 2010-11, roughly 67 percent of land holdings were marginal (less than 1.00 ha.) and another 18 per cent were small (1.00-2.00 ha.) bringing the total to 85 per cent of total land holdings. It is further observed that Small farms are more efficient, especially in cultivating labour-intensive crops or tending livestock, but landholdings are too small to generate sufficient household income.

For the livelihood security of the rural poor including farmers, the Ministry of Rural Development is implementing Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (Mahatma Gandhi NREGA), National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM), etc.

Apart from the steps taken to improve production / productivity in the Agriculture Sector and to assist farmers, other initiatives of the Government include (i) subsidies on seeds, micro irrigation systems, premium on crop insurance and fertilizer, etc., (ii) strengthening farm credit delivery system for providing credit at affordable rate of interest to support the resource requirements of the agricultural sector, (iii) providing adequate support services to farmers, etc.