

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:360
ANSWERED ON:18.02.2014
AGRICULTURAL PROFESSION
Sugumar Shri K. ;Venugopal Shri P.

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has conducted a review to assess the number of farmers who have quit agriculture during each of the last three years in each State/ UT;
- (b) if so, the details and the outcome thereof, State/UT-wise;
- (c) the main reasons identified in the review for quitting of agriculture by farmers;
- (d) whether the Government has suggested that the farmers shift to cash crop cultivation from traditional crops; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the other deficiencies identified during the review along with the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to popularize agriculture and ensure that the farmers do not quit agriculture in the near future?

Answer

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR)

(a) to (e): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 360 DUE FOR REPLY ON 18TH FEBRUARY, 2014.

(a) to (e): As per Census conducted by the Registrar General of India, the total number of agricultural workers in the country comprising cultivators and agricultural labourers increased from 234.1 million (127.3 million cultivators and 106.8 million agricultural labourers) in 2001 to 263.0 million (118.7 million cultivators and 144.3 million agricultural labourers) in 2011. The State/ UT-wise, number of agricultural workers are given in Annexure. However, the percentage of agriculture workers out of the total number of workers in the country fell from 58.2% in 2001 to 54.6% in 2011. Shift in the workforce from primary (agriculture) sector to secondary & tertiary sectors is a normal phenomenon of the development process. This shift has not had an adverse impact on agricultural production, which has increased to a record level of 263.2 million tonnes of foodgrains (2nd Advance Estimates) in 2013-14 as against 213.19 million tonnes in 2003-04.

Keeping in view the shift in consumption patterns and increasing profitability of cash crops, the farmers themselves decide about the acreage to put under cultivation of traditional crops and/ or the cash crops. Government has taken several steps to revitalize agriculture sector and improve the conditions of farming community on sustainable basis by increasing investment, improving farm practices, rural infrastructure and delivery of credit, technology and other inputs, and providing remunerative prices for farm produce through increased MSPs, higher level of procurement & competitive markets. Various programmes/ schemes for the development of agriculture sector are implemented in a decentralized manner with flexibility to State Governments to formulate and implement appropriate projects to suit their specific requirements.