

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
AGRICULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3829  
ANSWERED ON:18.02.2014  
SMALL AND MARGINAL FARMERS  
Singh Shri Ganesh;Yadav Shri Ranjan Prasad

**Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether a large number of small and marginal farmers in the country are living Below Poverty Line;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the amount allocated to improve the condition of such farmers during the year 2013-14, State/UT-wise;
- (c) whether there is any proposal to provide old age pension to them;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the details of other welfare measures taken by the Government in this regard?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT)

(a) & (b): As per the latest Agriculture Census 2010-11, the Marginal and Small operational holdings together (below 2.00 hectare) constituted 85.0 per cent of the total number of operational holdings in the country. However, data on number of small and marginal farmers living Below Poverty Line is not collected/maintained by the Ministry of Agriculture.

(c) & (d): The Ministry of Rural Development is implementing National Social Assistance Programme including (i) Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme, (ii) Indira Gandhi National Widow Pension Scheme, (iii) Indira Gandhi National Disability Pension Scheme. Below Poverty Line Households including Farmer Households, who fulfill the conditions associated with each of the Schemes can also take benefit of these schemes.

(e): Government has taken several welfare measures to benefit farmers, including marginal and small farmers in the country. To make small holdings viable, the Government is promoting adoption of modern technologies and practices like multiple cropping, intercropping and integrated farming systems, etc. Assistance is provided to farmers through various Schemes such as National Food Security Mission, Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana, National Horticulture Mission, Revised Macro Management of Agriculture etc. To facilitate flow of credit to farmers, Government provides Kisan Credit Card (KCC) to all eligible and willing farmers in a time bound manner. Besides, subsidies are provided on seeds, micro irrigation systems, premium on crop insurance and fertilizer etc. The Ministry of Rural Development is implementing Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act to enhance rural livelihood security of the households in rural areas of the country.