

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:211
ANSWERED ON:22.07.2014
MIGRATION OF AGRICULTURAL WORKERS
Pal Shri Jagdambika

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware of shortage of farm workers during agricultural operations and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government has conducted any study to assess the migration of agricultural workers from rural areas to urban areas;
- (c) if so, the details thereof including the estimated number of agricultural workers migrated during each of the last three years and the current year and the main reasons identified therefor; and
- (d) the measures taken by the Government to ensure quality livelihood of farm labour and also arrest the migration of such workers from rural areas to urban areas?

Answer

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 211 DUE FOR REPLY ON 22ND JULY, 2014.

(a): An agro-economic research study conducted in 2009 for assessing impact of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) on Wage Rate, Food Security and Rural Urban Migration, inter-alia, revealed that the scheme has impacted the availability of labour for critical agricultural operations like sowing and harvesting.

(b): No, Madam.

(c): Information on annual migration of agricultural labourers to urban areas is not maintained. However, as per Economic Survey 2013-14, the share of agriculture and allied sector in total employment in the country declined from 59.9% in 1999-2000 to 58.5% in 2004-05 and further to 48.9% in 2011-12. This reduction is on account of growth of secondary and tertiary sector and is considered as a natural part of the development process. Main reasons for migration include poverty, high population pressure on land, lack of basic infrastructural facilities like health care and education, better job opportunities, relatively higher wages etc.

(d): Government has taken a number of measures for the growth of agriculture and allied sectors on sustainable basis by way of increasing investment, improving farm practices, creating rural infrastructure, delivering credit, technology and other inputs and forging appropriate backward and forward linkages. Several schemes for the development of agriculture sector aim at increasing production, productivity and farm income. Distress migration is being addressed through various employment and livelihood promotion programmes like MGNREGA and by making institutional finance available to five lakh joint farming groups of "Bhoomi Heen Kisan" through National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD).