

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:768

ANSWERED ON:15.07.2014

SHORTAGE OF AGRICULTURAL WORKERS

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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether after the introduction of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) in the country, a large scale shortage of agricultural labour has been reported in various regions during the agricultural season adversely affecting the agricultural production;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any study has been conducted to assess the impact on agricultural production in the country;

(d) if so, the details of findings of the study/survey; and

(e) the corrective measures taken by the Government to overcome the shortage of agricultural labour?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN)

(a) to (d): Studies conducted on the impact of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) on Wage Rate, Food Security and Rural Urban Migration, inter-alia, reveal that its implementation leads to reduction in distress migration to urban areas as well as increase in wages in rural areas. Temporary shortage of labour has also been reported in some regions during the peak agricultural season. No specific study has been undertaken by the Ministry of Agriculture to study the impact of MGNREGA on agricultural production in the country. However, food production has not been affected due to implementation of MGNREGA and has in fact increased from 217.28 million tonnes in 2006-07 to 257.13 million tonnes in 2012-13.

(e): As per the Amendment to Schedule I of MGNREGA, 2005, issued vide notification dated 4th May 2012, a large number of activities/works having significant impact on agriculture and farm sector have been included in para 1 B of Schedule I of the MGNREGA to strengthen synergy between the programme and agriculture and allied activities. These activities include provision of irrigation facility, dug out farm ponds, horticulture, plantation, farm bunding and land development, vermin- composting etc.