

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4724

ANSWERED ON:22.12.2014

WOMEN FARM WORKERS

Devi Smt. Rama;Laguri Smt. Sakuntala;Shetti Shri Raju alias Devappa Anna

**Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:**

- (a) the number and percentage of women engaged in agricultural sector against the total workforce in the country;
- (b) whether the Government has defined the said labour activities as self employment, daily wagers or independent labour;
- (c) the contribution of this workforce in the National income;
- (d) whether women workers including women agriculture workers are not getting minimum wages as per the Minimum Wages Act and if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (e) whether the Government has made any assessment regarding the state of women farm workers; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof along with the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to improve the conditions of women farm workers in the country?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE (IC) FOR LABOUR & EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA)

(a): Reliable estimates of employment and unemployment are obtained through labour force surveys conducted by National Sample Survey (NSS) Office, Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation. As per last two such surveys on employment and unemployment conducted by the National Sample Survey Office (NSSO), the workers population ratio (WPR) for women in labour force was 22.8% in 2009-10 and 21.9% in 2010-11 on usual principal and subsidiary status basis. As per NSSO survey in 2011-12, the total percentage of workers engaged in agriculture was 48.9% and percentage of women engaged in the agriculture sector was 62.8%.

(b): In the NSSO surveys, self employed persons are those who operated their own farm or non- farm enterprises or work engaged independently in a profession or trade on own-account or with one or a few partners were deemed to be self- employed in household enterprises. Regular wage/ salaried employee are those persons who worked in others' farm or non-farm enterprises (both household and non-household) and, in return, received salary or wages on a regular basis (i.e. not on the basis of daily or periodic renewal of work contract). Casual wage labourer is a person who is casually engaged in others' farm or non- farm enterprises (both household and non-house hold) and, in return, received wages according to the terms of the daily or periodic work contract.

(c): The Gross Value added by major sectors is at Annex.

(d): Under the provisions of Minimum Wages Act, 1948, the wages fixed by the appropriate Government are equally payable both to male and female workers and the Act does not discriminate on the basis of gender.

(e) & (f): Equal Remuneration Act, 1973 provides for payment of equal remuneration to men and women workers for the same work or work of similar nature without any discrimination. The Act is effectively enforced by the Central and State Government by conducting regular inspections to detect the violation of provisions of the Act by establishments. The office of Chief Labour Commissioner (Central) in the Central Sphere and State Govt. in State Sphere are the appropriate authorities to conduct inspection to ensure implementation of the provisions of the Act. Officers of the appropriate Government notified as Inspectors make inspections and prosecute those found violating provision of the Act. The act extends to whole of India.