

Labour problem in agricultural sector

*537. DR. PRABHAKAR KORE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that apart from successive deficient monsoons, there has been a negative trend in agricultural labour force since 2004-2005;

(b) whether the rolling out of MGNREGA has worsened the agricultural labour problem; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by Government to bring back rural labour to agricultural sector?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) No, Sir. As per the census results though the number of cultivators has decreased from 127.3 million in 2001 to 118.7 million in 2011, number of agricultural labourers has increased from 106.8 million in 2001 to 144.3 million in 2011.

(b) and (c) Studies on the impact of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) have shown that its implementation leads to reduction in distress migration from rural areas and substantial increase in rural wages. Temporary shortage of labour has also been reported during the peak agricultural season.

Government has initiated steps for better convergence between MGNREGA, agriculture and other development programmes. Operational guidelines of MGNREGA aim to strengthen the synergy between MGNREGA and rural livelihoods, particularly agriculture.

Study centres being run by Universities

*538. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANAPATHI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of universities are engaged in running a racket of opening study centres across the country in violation of their prescribed territorial jurisdictions;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the University Grants Commission has listed many universities as fake; and