

1	2	3	4	5	6
4	2	2	1	1	1-CA
5		3	1	1	1-CA
6		3	1	1	1-CA
7		2+1 (Research Methodology and Project Work)	1		1-CA
8		2+1 (Research)	1		1-CA

• Cultural Activities include NCC, Sports, NSS etc.

*Language course.

The House then adjourned at two minutes
past eleven of the clock.

The House reassembled at twelve noon.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Effect of MGNREGA on agriculture

*522. DR. T.N. SEEMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that introduction of MGNREGA has led to acute shortage of farm labour across the country, not only affecting food production, but also increasingly forcing small farmers to abandon agriculture;

(b) if so, the preventive steps taken by Government;

(c) whether guidelines for convergence of MGNREGA with programmes of his Ministry, issued by Government, are not being followed; and

(d) what concrete steps are being taken to save farmers from prevailing agrarian distress apart from notifying new works related to agriculture and allied activities under MGNREGA?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (d) Studies conducted on the impact of MGNREGA 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. However, food production has not been affected due to implementation of MGNREGA and has increased from 217.28 million tonnes in 2006-07 to 259.32 million tonnes in 2011-12. 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.

In order to improve convergence of MGNREGA with other development programmes and to strengthen its implementation, the fourth edition of MGNREGA operational guidelines 2013 have been issued which have strengthened the synergy between MGNREGA and rural livelihoods, particularly agriculture.

Government has taken several steps to revitalize agriculture sector and improve condition of farming community on sustainable basis by increasing investment, improving farm practices, rural infrastructure and delivery of credit, technology and other inputs, extension, marketing, etc. Various programmes/schemes for the development of agriculture sector are being implemented in a decentralized manner with flexibility to State Government to formulate and implement appropriate projects to suit their specific requirements. The focus of Government is primarily on expansion of farm income, creation of non-farm income opportunities, improvement in productivity of rainfed agriculture, increasing coverage of farming areas under protective irrigation and forging appropriate backward and forward linkages. Other measures taken by the Government for the benefit of farmers include enhancement in minimum support prices of agricultural commodities, increase in credit flow to agriculture sector, debt waiver/relief, interest subvention on crops loan etc.

Vacant posts under NFR zone

*523. SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of posts, including Group C and D, are lying vacant in North-East Frontier Railway (NFR) zone;