

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR): (a) to (c) Department of Agriculture and Cooperation is implementing a number of schemes for development of agriculture in the country. An amount of Rs. 2068.04 crore during Eleventh Plan (2007-2012) and an amount of Rs. 585.31 crore during 2012-13 (till January, 2013) has been released to the State of Tamil Nadu under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes. In addition to that, under Central Sector Scheme "Development/Strengthening of Agricultural Marketing Infrastructure, Grading and Standardization" an amount of Rs. 555.89 crore has been sanctioned till December, 2012 covering 1116 development projects since inception of the scheme in 2004-05. For scientific storage of agricultural produce and prevention of post harvest losses, 1547 number of Rural Godowns have been constructed with a capacity of 9,47,243 M.Ts. in Tamil Nadu upto December, 2012 involving a subsidy of Rs. 20.23 crore.

Shifting of farmers to other professions

4. SHRI ALOK TIWARI:
SHRI PRABHAT JHA:
SHRI ARVIND KUMAR SINGH:
SHRIMATI KUSUM RAI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether as per the recent report of the Institute of Applied Manpower Research, millions of farmers have left farming to become labourers during 2005-10;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and year-wise;
- (c) the reasons for quitting of farm sector by farmers on such a large scale; and
- (d) the fresh steps Government would take to check shifting out of farmers to other professions in view of this report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR): (a) and (b) Institute of Applied Manpower Research in their Occasional Paper No. 9/2012 on "Joblessness and Informalization: Challenges to inclusive Growth in India", has stated that the share of agriculture in total employment has fallen from 57 per cent in 2005 to 53 per cent in 2010. Based on 2009-10 employment-unemployment National Sample Survey (NSS) data, the Report states that there has been a shift in employment from agriculture between 2004-05

to 2009-10 of 14.08 million to other sectors mainly construction. The State-wise and year-wise details were not given in the Report.

(c) Factors such as search for better employment, etc. lead to migration. Many of the workers engaged in agriculture are under-employed with low levels of productivity. Reducing the population pressure on agriculture will not only contribute to the increasing productivity of agriculture, it will also promote overall agriculture, it will also promote overall economic growth.

(d) Government have taken various steps to improve productivity and create additional employment in agriculture sector. Important programmes implemented in agriculture sector include National Food Security Mission (NFSM), Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), Gramin Bhandaran Yojana, Development of Agricultural Marketing Infrastructure, Micro Irrigation, Integrated Scheme of Oilseed, Pulsed Oil Palm and Maize (ISOPOM) and National Horticulture Mission (NHM).

These schemes apart from increasing agricultural production and productivity also create on-farm and non-farm employment.

Amendments to Agricultural Produce Marketing Act

5. SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI:

SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is making amendments to the Agricultural Produce Marketing Act to benefit the farmers; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken in this direction so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR): (a) and (b) 'Agriculture Marketing' is a State subject and most of the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations have enacted State legislations (APMC Act) for development and regulation of marketing of agricultural produce. In order to improve marketing of agriculture produce in the country for the benefit of farmers, the Ministry of Agriculture framed a model Agricultural Produce Marketing (Development and Regulation) Act in 2003 and circulated to all States and Union Territories for making necessary amendments in their present State APMC Act on the basis of model Act.