

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, COOPERATION AND FARMERS WELFARE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-490
TO BE ANSWERED ON 05/02/2021

ENSURING EMPLOYMENT FOR FARM LABOUR

490 Shri Sushil Kumar Gupta:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE & FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government has not been able to recognize the importance of maintaining the quality of soil, traditional farming techniques and the social and economic fragility of communities operating on the margins of society;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that mechanised farming would receive enhanced importance in contract farming, resulting in a decrease in the numbers of farm labourers; and
- (c) if so, the steps that are being taken to ensure that farm labour does not become unemployed?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

(SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

(a): No Sir, recognising the importance of maintaining the quality of soil, traditional/ organic farming techniques, Government of India has initiated several schemes like Soil Health Cards, Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY) and Mission Organic Value Chain Development for North Eastern Region (MOVCDNER) since 2015. Soil Health Cards Scheme aims at providing soil test based recommendations to ensure balanced use of fertilisers by farmers. On an average 11.5 Crore Soil Health Cards have been issued in each cycle. Similarly, PKVY and MOVCDNER promote chemical free organic farming through Clusters/ Farmers Producer Organisations (FPO) to maintain soil health, environmental sustainability and availability of healthy food to all by providing assistance for inputs, post-harvest management including marketing. An area of 16.18 lakh ha has already been covered under PKVY and MOVCDNER.

(b) & (c): Mechanisation enhances productivity & reduce the cost of cultivation. In order to boost the farm mechanization in the country, a dedicated scheme Sub Mission on Agricultural Mechanization (SMAM) has been introduced since, under which subsidy is provided for purchase of various types of Agricultural implements and machinery used for tillage, sowing, planting, harvesting, reaping, threshing, plant protection, inter cultivation and residue management.

Contd....2/-

In addition, assistance is provided for establishment of Custom Hiring Centres (CHC) by entrepreneurs, FPOs etc.,

As far as employment of farm labour in farm mechanization sector is concerned, DAC & FW has established Farm Machinery Training and Testing Institutes (FMTTIs) regionally which are located at Budni (MP), Hissar (Haryana), Anantapur (AP) Biswanathchariyali (Assam). The FMTTIs have been imparting training on farm mechanization to various categories such as farmers, technicians, engineers, entrepreneurs, manufacturers, government officials, etc. since 2014-15. As on date, more than 61065 trainees including farm labour are trained in the institutions.
