

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

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UNSTARRED QUESTION NO- 522
ANSWERED ON- 26/07/2024

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN AGRICULTURE SECTOR

522 # SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that employment opportunities in agriculture sector are decreasing due to which labourers are getting less work in villages;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) whether the excessive use of modern machines is also a reason for less employment opportunities in the agriculture sector at present?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

(SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN)

(a) to (c): The Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) conducted by National Sample Survey Office (NSSO), Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation (MoSPI) is the primary source of data on employment and unemployment situation in India. As per Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) report, the percentage of workers in the usual status engaged in agriculture sector during the last three years 2020-21, 2021-22 and 2022-23 are as under:

Year	Distribution of workers in the usual status engaged in agriculture sector (%)
2020-21	46.5
2021-22	45.5
2022-23	45.8

Further, Government has taken several policies, reforms, developmental programmes and schemes for making agriculture more profitable profession. These include:

- (i) Supplementary income transfers under PM-KISAN of Rs 6000 per year in three equal instalments.

- (ii) Increase in Minimum Support Price (MSPs) for all Kharif & Rabi crops ensuring a minimum of 50 percent of profit margin on the cost of production,
- (iii) Crop insurance under Pradhan Mantri FasalBimaYojna (PMFBY),
- (iv) Better access to irrigation under Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana (PMKSY),
- (v) Special attention for creation of infrastructure through Agri Infrastructure Fund (AIF) with a size of Rs. 100,000 crore,
- (vi) New procurement policy under PM-AASHA in addition to FCI operations,
- (vii) Kisan Credit Cards (KCC) offering production loan to even dairy & fishery farmers besides agricultural crops,
- (viii) Formation and promotion of 10,000 FPOs,
- (ix) National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA), which aims to evolve and implement strategies to make Indian agriculture more resilient to the changing climate.
- (x) Adoption of drone technologies in agriculture which has a potential to revolutionize the Indian agriculture.
- (xi) Benefits accruing under Bee-Keeping, Rashtriya Gokul Mission, Blue Revolution, Interest Subvention Scheme, agro-forestry, restructured bamboo mission, implementation of new generation watershed guidelines, etc
- (xii) Focus on application of digital technology at all stages of agricultural value chain.
- (xiii) Supply of fertilizer to farmer at subsidized price so as to reduce input cost.

The impact evaluation study of Sub-Mission on Agricultural Mechanization conducted in 2018-19, indicate that farm mechanization has played a positive role in addressing the issues of shortage of farm labour and helped in increasing employment in rural areas through generation of opportunities for operators, mechanics, salesmen etc. of the agricultural machines.
