

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE
RAJYA SABHA
QUESTION NO 12.11.2010
ANSWERED ON**

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY IN AGRICULTURE SECTOR .

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Shri Bhagat Singh Koshyari

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :-

- (a) whether the rate of employment as well as employment opportunities in the agricultural sector have dwindled over a period of time;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) the steps taken to create additional employment opportunities in the agricultural sector;
- (d) whether Government has assigned the responsibility for technology upgradation in the labour- oriented agricultural sector to any research institute; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the time by which such upgraded technology is likely to be implemented?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION

(SHRI K.V. THOMAS)

(a) & (b):As per Population Census 1991, the total number of cultivators and agricultural workers in the country engaged in agriculture was 210.68 million. The same has increased to 234.10 million in 2001 Census, registering an increase of 11.11% in ten years. As per two recent quinquennial rounds of National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO) on Employment and Unemployment, employment on Usual Status basis in agriculture sector was estimated at 239.73 million persons in 1999-2000 (55th round) which has gone up to 258.59 million persons in 2004-05

(61st round), showing an increase of 7.86% in five years. As such employment in agriculture has increased.

(c):Several schemes launched in the agricultural sector aim at increasing production and productivity and in the process also create additional employment opportunities. Important programmes implemented in agriculture sector include Macro Management of Agriculture (MMA), National Food Security Mission (NFSM), Rashtrya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), Gramin Bhandaran Yojana, Development of Agricultural Marketing Infrastructure, micro Irrigation, Rural Credit, Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, 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 in addition to improvement in the income realization by the farmers.

(d) & (e):Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) is an apex organization at the national level for coordinating, guiding and managing Science and Technology research and education in agriculture and allied sectors. With 97 ICAR institutes, 45 Agricultural Universities and other institutions the ICAR system is continuously working in this direction. The technology upgradation in agricultural sector is a continuous process.