

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO- 1125
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 16/12/2022

REDUCTION IN AGRICULTURAL LABOURERS

1125. Dr. Kirodi Lal Meena:

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

- (a) whether expenditure of farmers is increasing on fertilizers, seeds, irrigation, tillage, harvesting, freight etc., but prices of crops are not increasing in proportion to the expenditure;
- (b) whether Government does not procure crops at fixed price due to which small and marginal farmers are compelled to give up farming;
- (c) if so, number of farmers in Rajasthan, who gave up on farming during last three years, district-wise; and
- (d) whether there is a steep decline in number of agricultural laborers in the country including Rajasthan, if so, the total number of agricultural labourers?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

(SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

(a): While recommending Minimum Support Price /Fair & Remunerative Price (MSP/FRP), the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) considers important factors like cost of production, overall demand-supply situation, price trends in domestic and global prices, inter-crop price parity, terms of trade between agriculture and non-agriculture sectors, likely impact of the price policy on the rest of the economy, rational utilization of land, water and other production resources and a minimum of 50 percent as the margin over the all India weighted average cost of production. It may be noted that the increase in input cost such as fertilisers, seeds, irrigation, tillage, harvesting, freight, etc. were factored in while recommending MSP.

(b) & (c): There is no such difference amongst small, marginal and big farmers for procurement of paddy & wheat at MSP for central pool. It is further informed that the current procurement policy of Government of India is as under:

“State Government agencies and Food Corporation of India (FCI) purchase wheat & paddy with prescribed Fair Average Quality (FAQ) specifications at MSP for Central Pool to ensure that farmers get remunerative prices for their produce and do not have to resort to distress sale. However, if producer/farmer gets better price in comparison to MSP, they are free to sell their produce in open market. Procurement in a State depends not only upon production but also upon other multiple factors like marketable surplus, MSP, prevailing market rate, demand & supply situation and participation of private traders etc”.

(d): According to the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) conducted by the National Statistical Office (NSO) during July 2017-June 2018, July 2018 – June 2019, July 2019-June 2020 and July 2020-June 2021, percentage share of ‘casual labour’ among workers in usual status (ps+ss) engaged in Agriculture sector (industry Section A of National Industrial Classification (NIC-2008)) in India, including Rajasthan, is given as under:

Percentage share of ‘casual labour’ among workers in usual status (ps+ss) engaged in Agriculture sector		all-India
Survey Year	percentage of workers in agriculture sector with ‘casual labour’ as broad status in employment	
PLFS, 2017-18	25.5	
PLFS, 2018-19	24.7	
PLFS, 2019-20	24.0	
PLFS, 2020-21	22.5	
Source: Annual Report, PLFS, 2017-18 Annual Report, PLFS, 2018-19 Annual Report, PLFS, 2019-20 Annual Report, PLFS, 2020-21		

A shift from agriculture sector to other sectors of the economy is a normal phenomenon in the development process.
