

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 191
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 21/07/2023

DECLINE IN AGRICULTURE WORKFORCE

191 SHRI K.R. SURESH REDDY:

Will the Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare be pleased to state:

- (a) the reasons for substantial decline in agriculture workforce between 1993-94 to 2020- 21;
- (b) the measures being taken to overcome the decline in agricultural workforce;
- (c) whether measures are being taken to improve the conditions of small-scale farmers in the country; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefore

ANSWER

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE & FARMERS WELFARE

(SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

- (a) to (d): The shift in workforce from primary (agriculture) sector to secondary and tertiary sectors is a normal phenomenon of the development process experienced by countries across the world and the same is true for India as well. As per the Employment Unemployment Survey 1993-94 and Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) 2020-21 conducted by National Sample Survey office (NSSO), MoSPI, the percentage of workers in the usual status engaged in agriculture and allied sector during 1993-94 to 2020-21 are as under:

Year	Distribution of workers in the usual status engaged in agriculture and allied sector (%)
1993-94	64.8
2020-21	46.5

Further, Government has adopted and implemented several policies, reforms, developmental programmes and schemes for improving conditions and incomes of the farmers including small farmers. These include:

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