

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

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 242**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 4<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY, 2020

**LOW RATE OF AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT**

242. SHRI S. JAGATHRAKSHAKAN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the rate of employment, as well as employment opportunities in the agricultural sector has 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 the Government has assigned the responsibility for technology upgradation in the labouroriented 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 AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

(a) & (b): As per the Annual Report of Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) (July 2017 to June 2018), the Worker Population Ratio (WPR) in usual status [principal status (ps) + subsidiary status (ss)] and percentage working in usual status (ps + ss) engaged in agriculture sector among total workers in usual status (ps + ss) is 34.7 and 44.1 respectively.

As per the report, the percentage distribution of workers in usual status (ps + ss) in agriculture for rural areas is as follows:

<b>Category</b>	<b>NSS 68th round (July, 2011 to June, 2012)</b>	<b>PLFS (July, 2017 to June, 2018)</b>
Rural Male	59.4	55.0
Rural Female	74.9	73.2

*NSS- National Sample Survey.*

*The concept/ definition for ps, ss, WPR etc is in Annexure-I*

Movement of agricultural labour from agriculture to other sectors of the economy is a general phenomenon and a natural part of the development process of developing economies. The reasons for this shift include, inter alia, better employment opportunities in industry and services, increasing urbanization, low income in agriculture etc. In a market economy like India, movement of the people for better economic opportunities is inexorable.

(c): To increase the employability in agriculture sector, non-farm employment opportunities for rural workers have been accelerated. Focus of the Government has been on skilling of rural youth and creating gainful employment opportunities. Accordingly the following initiatives have been taken in this regard like:

1. Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act
2. Food Security Mission.
3. Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY).
4. Custom Hiring Centres.
5. Establishment of the Agri-Clinics and Agri-Business Centres (ACABC).
6. Small Farmers' Agribusiness Consortium (SFAC).
7. National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC), etc.

(d) to (e): Department of Agricultural Research and Education/Indian Council of Agricultural Research (DARE/ICAR) Central Institute of Agricultural Engineering; Bhopal is engaged in development and improvement farm equipment/ machines and introduce the technologies in farming. The small tools of proven designs have been designed and developed. The equipments are demonstrated during Frontline Demonstration and trainings. These equipments reduce drudgery in farm operation and save inputs (seeds, fertilizers, chemicals, water and fuel).

Similarly, Central Institute of Post Harvest Technology, Ludhiana is working on Research and Development activities towards the development of tools, machines and technologies for storage, post-harvest processing and value-addition of agricultural commodities. During last five years about 180 improved farm equipments/ tools/machines, 120 process protocols and products and 08 pilot plants were developed by the institutes. Based on the feedback received from stakeholders, technologies are upgraded from time to time.

**Annexure referred to in reply to Unstarred Lok Sabha Question No. 242 Due for answer on 04.02.2020**

**Explanatory Note on WPR, PS, SS and coverage with respect to Agriculture Sector:**

1. Definition of Worker (employed persons): Persons who, during the reference period, were engaged in any economic activity or who, despite their attachment to economic activity, temporarily abstained from work for reasons of illness, injury or other physical disability, bad weather, festivals, social or religious functions or other contingencies constituted workers.
2. Definitions of usual status workers (ps + ss): The workers in the usual status (ps + ss) are obtained by considering the usual principle status (ps) and the subsidiary status (ss) together. The workers in the usual status (ps + ss) include (a) the persons who worked for a relatively long part of the 365 days preceding the date of survey and (b) the persons from among the remaining population who has worked at least for 30 days during the reference period of 365 days preceding the date of survey.

$$\text{Worker Population ratio (WPR)} = \frac{\text{no. of employed persons}}{\text{Total Population}} * 100$$

3. For the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS), NIC 2008 has been used to record the industry of activity of the worker. The industry section wise description of agriculture sector as per NIC 1998, NIC 2004 and NIC 2008 are as follows.

NIC 1998	Section A: Agriculture, hunting and Forestry Section B: Fishing
NIC 2004	Section A: Agriculture, hunting and Forestry Section B: Fishing
NIC 2008	Section A: Agriculture, hunting and Fishing

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