

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

LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 344
TO BE ANSWERED ON 25TH MARCH, 2025

FARMERS QUITTING/LEAVING AGRICULTURE

*344. SHRI ANUP SANJAY DHOTRE:

Will the Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has conducted a review to assess the number of farmers who have quit agriculture during each of the last three years in each State/UT;
- (b) if so, the details and the outcome thereof, State/UT-wise;
- (c) the main reasons identified in the review for quitting of agriculture by farmers;
- (d) whether the Government has suggested that the farmers shift to cash crop cultivation from traditional crops;
- (e) if so, the details thereof along with the other deficiencies identified during the review; and
- (f) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to popularize agriculture and ensure that the farmers do not quit agriculture in near future?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री (SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN)

- (a) to (f): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) to (f) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 344 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 25TH MARCH, 2025 ON “FARMERS QUITTING/LEAVING AGRICULTURE”.

(a) to (c): No, the Government has not conducted review to assess the number of farmers who quit agriculture.

As per the decennial Census conducted by the Office of the Registrar General & Census Commissioner, India, the total number of cultivator in the country, have declined from 12.73 core in 2001 to 11.88 crore in 2011 showing a decrease of 6.67%. This shift of cultivators 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. Further, the reasons for this shift include, inter-alia, better employment opportunities in industry and services sectors, increasing urbanization etc.

State/UT-wise details of number of cultivator as per Census 2001 and 2011 is given in the **Annexure**.

Since the Population Census is conducted after every ten years, the details of cultivators who have shifted from agriculture to other occupations since 2011 are not known.

(d): The cultivation of crops depends upon the preference of farmers attributed to many factors like agro climatic conditions, market prices, resource availability, etc. The Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare (DA&FW) is implementing scheme on commercial crops viz., cotton, jute & sugarcane under National Food Security Mission (NFSM) from 2014-15. The farmers are getting benefited from these crops. Further, Government is promoting integrated farming with focus on horticulture, floriculture, bee-keeping, fisheries, agro-forestry, etc, to diversify the income base of agricultural households.

(f): With a view to make agriculture attractive and more remunerative, Government is implementing a number of schemes. The various schemes/programmes of the Government of India are meant for the welfare of farmers by increasing production, remunerative returns and income support to farmers. The Major schemes/programmes initiated by DA&FW to enhance overall income of farmers and remunerative returns in the agriculture sector are as under:

1. Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN)
2. Pradhan Mantri Kisan Maan Dhan Yojana (PM-KMY)
3. Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY)/ Restructured Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme (RWBCIS)

4. Modified Interest Subvention Scheme (MISS)
5. Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF)
6. Formation and Promotion of 10,000 new Farmer Producers Organizations (FPOs)
7. National Bee Keeping and Honey Mission (NBHM)
8. Namo Drone Didi
9. National Mission on Natural Farming (NMNF)
10. Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay SanraksHan Abhiyan (PM-AASHA)
11. Agri Fund for Start-Ups & Rural Enterprises' (Agri SURE)
12. Per Drop More Crop (PDMC)
13. Sub-Mission on Agriculture Mechanization (SMAM)
14. Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY)
15. Soil Health & Fertility (SH&F)
16. Rainfed Area Development (RAD)
17. Agroforestry
18. Crop Diversification Programme (CDP)
19. Sub-Mission on Agriculture Extension (SMAE)
20. Sub-Mission on Seed and Planting Material (SMSP)
21. National Food Security and Nutrition Mission (NFSNM)
22. Integrated Scheme for Agriculture Marketing (ISAM)
23. Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH)
24. National Mission on Edible Oils (NMEO)-Oil Palm
25. National Mission on Edible Oils (NMEO)-Oilseeds
26. Mission Organic Value Chain Development for North Eastern Region
27. Digital Agriculture Mission
28. National Bamboo Mission

Further, agriculture is a State subject and Government of India supports the efforts of States through appropriate policy measures, budgetary allocation and various schemes/ programmes.

(e): In view of (a) to (c) above, the question does not arise.

Annexure

Annexure in reference to Reply to Part (a) to (c) of the Starred Question No. 344 due for reply on 25.03.2023

Number of cultivators (in lakhs) State/UT-wise for 2001 and 2011

SI.No.	States/UTs	Number of cultivators (in lakh)	
		2001	2011
1	ANDAMAN & NICOBAR ISLANDS	0.21	0.17
2	ANDHRA PRADESH	78.60	64.92
3	ARUNACHAL PRADESH	2.79	3.03
4	ASSAM	37.31	40.62
5	BIHAR	81.94	71.96
6	CHANDIGARH	0.02	0.03
7	CHHATTISGARH	43.11	40.05
8	DADRA & NAGAR HAVELI	0.39	0.28
9	DAMAN & DIU	0.04	0.02
10	GOA	0.50	0.31
11	GUJARAT	58.03	54.48
12	HARYANA	30.18	24.81
13	HIMACHAL PRADESH	19.55	20.62
14	JAMMU & KASHMIR	15.92	12.45
15	JHARKHAND	38.90	38.15
16	KARNATAKA	68.84	65.81
17	KERALA	7.24	6.70
18	LAKSHADWEEP	0.00	0.00
19	MADHYA PRADESH	110.38	98.44
20	MAHARASHTRA	118.13	125.69
21	MANIPUR	3.80	5.74
22	MEGHALAYA	4.67	4.95
23	MIZORAM	2.56	2.30
24	NAGALAND	5.49	5.38
25	NCT OF DELHI	0.37	0.33
26	ODISHA	42.48	41.04
27	PUDUCHERRY	0.11	0.12
28	PUNJAB	20.65	19.35
29	RAJASTHAN	131.40	136.19
30	SIKKIM	1.31	1.17
31	TAMIL NADU	51.16	42.48
32	TRIPURA	3.13	2.96
33	UTTAR PRADESH	221.68	190.58
34	UTTARAKHAND	15.70	15.80
35	WEST BENGAL	56.54	51.17
All India		1273.13	1188.09

Note: The Census 2001 figures for the India and Manipur exclude that of Mao Param, Paomata and Purul sub-divisions of Senapati district of Manipur

Source: PCA, Census of India, 2011