

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

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 264

TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 21ST JULY, 2026

REVERSE MIGRATION TO AGRICULTURE

†264. SHRI NEERAJ MAURYA:

SHRI BABU SINGH KUSHWAHA:

SHRI LALJI VERMA:

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

- (a) whether the data from the recently released Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) indicates that a large number of individuals who had migrated from rural India in search of employment are returning to agricultural work due to limited employment opportunities outside, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the planned steps being taken by the Government to promote sustainable and remunerative agricultural practices, natural farming, micro-irrigation, organic farming and crop diversification, in view of the increasing agricultural workforce;
- (c) the details of the measures being taken by the Government to support individuals returning to agriculture, especially landless, marginal and small farmers, in terms of providing credit, training, modern agricultural technology and access to basic infrastructure;
- (d) the strategy of the Government to reduce the growing pressure on the agricultural sector and to create alternative employment opportunities in rural areas to prevent overcrowding; and
- (e) whether the Government has any data in this regard related to Uttar Pradesh, particularly for the Aonla-Jaunpur and Ambedkar Nagar Lok Sabha Constituencies as well as the Bareilly, Budaun, and Shahjahanpur districts and if so, the details thereof ?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण राज्य मंत्री (SHRI RAMNATH THAKUR)

(a): The movement of workers from rural to urban and vice-versa is a common phenomenon due to various socio-economic reasons. As per the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) conducted by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI), the percentage distribution of workers engaged in the agriculture sector (covering both rural and urban areas) during the last three years are 46.1% (in 2023), 44.8% (in 2024) and 43% (in 2025).

(b) & (c): Agriculture is a State Subject. The Government of India supports the efforts of States through appropriate policy measures, various schemes/programmes, budgetary support and price support through MSP for improving the productivity, profitability and sustainability in the agriculture sector. The Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (DA&FW) has been implementing several Central Sector and Centrally Sponsored Schemes to support farmers, including marginal and small farmers, through improved access to institutional credit, training, modern agricultural technology and agricultural infrastructure.

Sustainable agricultural practices, including natural farming, micro-irrigation, organic farming and crop diversification, are being promoted through various Central Sector and Centrally Sponsored Schemes. The National Mission on Natural Farming (NMNF) promotes chemical-free and low-cost farming practices for improving soil health and reducing input costs. Per Drop More Crop (PDMC) component under Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (PM-RKVY) promotes efficient use of water through drip and sprinkler irrigation. It supports judicious use of water resources and optimize water availability during lean periods. Organic farming is supported through Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY) and Mission Organic Value Chain Development for North Eastern Region (MOVCDNER), while crop diversification is encouraged under the Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY). Additionally, schemes such as Soil Health & Fertility (SH&F), National Mission on Edible Oils (NMEO)-Oil Palm, National Mission on Edible Oils (NMEO)-Oilseeds, Mission for Atmanirbharta in Pulses are being implemented to encourage farmers to adopt climate-resilient, high-value and diversified crops.

To improve access to institutional credit, the Government has taken several measures, including annual fixation of Ground Level Agricultural Credit (GLAC) targets for banks, prescription of Priority Sector Lending (PSL) targets, and provision of affordable short-term crop loans through the Kisan Credit Card (KCC) scheme and the Modified Interest Subvention Scheme (MISS). Capacity building and skill development of farmers are undertaken through Agricultural Universities (AUs), Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs). Structured training programmes are integral part of various schemes such as the Agriculture Technology Management Agency (ATMA), Sub-Mission on Agricultural Mechanization (SMAM), and other flagship programmes like, National Mission on Natural Farming (NMNF), National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA), National Food Security & Nutrition Mission (NFSNM), Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH), etc. of the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, which are being implemented across States/UTs. Further, the Government is strengthening agricultural infrastructure through initiatives such as the Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF). The AIF provides medium and long-term debt financing for the development of post-harvest management infrastructure and community farming assets. Under the scheme, Government of India provides credit support through 3% per annum interest subvention.

(d) & (e): The Government of India is implementing various schemes and programmes aimed at making agriculture more remunerative, sustainable and employment-oriented, with the objective of enhancing farmers' income, improving agricultural productivity and creating employment opportunities in rural areas. Under these initiatives, financial assistance and subsidies are provided to farmers, Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs) and Self Help Groups (SHGs) to promote employment generation, entrepreneurship development and income enhancement in the rural areas. Further, the Government of India is also promoting employment opportunities and skill developments through focused interventions & measures in the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), manufacturing and services sectors. The Department does not maintain data relating to reverse migration or the extent of increase in the agricultural workforce attributable specifically to reverse migration.
