

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3810

ANSWERED ON:19.12.2005

UNEMPLOYMENT IN UNIRRIGATED LAND AREAS

Kushwaha Shri Narendra Kumar; Munshiram Shri ; Patle Shri Shishupal Natthu; Shahid Shri Mohammed; Shiwankar Shri Maha Deo Rao

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the percentage of unemployment among farmers in unirrigated land areas has increased during the last three years; and
- (b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to raise the per capita income of farmers in such areas?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA)

(a): The employment among farmers in terms of mandays in the unirrigated areas is adversely affected in the years of low rainfall. Thus, with the fluctuating rainfall during the last three years, the employment/ unemployment also seems to have fluctuated in these areas.

(b): The projects such as National Watershed Development Project in rain fed areas (subsumed under the Scheme Macro Management of Agriculture) and Watershed Development Project in Shifting Cultivation Areas which are under implementation in rain fed and ecologically fragile areas also create employment opportunities through various types of activities in addition to the prime objective of increasing production and productivity in these resource poor areas. Schemes on 'Micro Irrigation' and 'Enhancing Sustainability of Dryland Farming System' which are on the anvil would bring more areas under irrigation and promote dryland farming by way of on-farm water harvesting and conservation and promotion of improved dryland technologies. Further, the present thrust on diversification of agriculture would promote non-crop production related activities like dairying, poultry etc with a view to increase employment in the agricultural sector.

As part of the National Water Resource Development Project, a pilot project is already under implementation to repair, renovate and restore water bodies that are directly linked to agriculture covering 1084 water bodies in 23 districts.