

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:522

ANSWERED ON:22.05.2006

LABOUR FORCE

Prasad Shri Hari Kewal; Vasava Shri Mansukhbhai D.

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) Whether the Government has made any assessment of the labour force available in the country;
- (b) if so, the percentage of labour force in the country at present out of the total population;
- (c) the estimated percentage of labour force out of it engaged in agriculture, industry and service sectors;
- (d) the facilities available to the labourers engaged in agriculture sector at present; and
- (e) the steps proposed to be taken by the Union Government to improve the conditions of the agricultural labourers?

Answer

MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K.CHANDRASEKHAR RAO)

(a to e) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 522 BY SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA AND SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD, REGARDING LABOUR FORCE FOR REPLY ON 22.05.2006.

(a to c) Reliable estimates of labour force in the country are obtained through quinquennial surveys on employment and unemployment conducted by National Sample Survey Organisation. Last such quinquennial survey for which results are available was conducted during 1999-2000. As per this survey, percentage of population in the labour force was around 40.6% as per usual status approach. Percentage of employment in agriculture, industry and services sector was around 60%, 17% and 23% respectively.

(d) The Government have initiated several measures for the welfare of the labourers in the unorganized sector including agricultural labourers. Various labour laws like the Minimum Wages Act, 1948; the Workmen compensation Act, 1923; the Equal Remuneration Act, 1976; the Inter-State Migrant workmen (RECS) Act, 1979 etc. are applicable to these labourers.

The Government is implementing various welfare and employment oriented schemes and programmes through various Ministries/Departments for the rural poor including agricultural labourers. Some of such schemes are Swarnjayanti Gram Swarojgar Yojana, National Social Assistance Programme, Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojana, Sampoorna Grameen Rojgar Yojana etc. Government has enacted National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, which provides for 100 days of employment every year to every household in the rural area. This will supplement the income of the labourers for their better livelihood.

There are schemes like Janshee Bima Yojana for persons below and marginally above the poverty line. The redesigned Universal Health Insurance Scheme provides health insurance for the persons living below poverty line.

e) National Commission for enterprises in the unorganized sector headed by Prof. Arjun Sengupta has looked into social security measures for the unorganized workers including agriculture labourers and submitted report to the Prime Minister.