

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3644
ANSWERED ON:18.12.2006
LANDLESS FARMERS
Chavda Shri Harisinh Pratapsinh

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) Whether the Government has conducted any survey/study on the number and conditions of landless farmers in the country
- (b) If so, the outcome thereof ;
- (c) The reaction of the Government thereto; and
- (d) The concrete measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to improve the condition of such landless farmers ?

Answer

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

(a)&(b) : Results of the 59th round survey (2003) of National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO) on various aspects of landholdings and farmers reveal, inter alia, the followings :

The percentage of Rural `household operational holdings` with no land or a land of an area not exceeding 0.002 hectare (landless) stood at 31.9 per cent during 2002-03.

The percentage of indebted farmer households in the land size class of less than 0.01 hectare stood at 45.3 per cent against 48.6 per cent for the farmers of all land size classes.

The farmer households with less than 0.01 hectare of land had an average farm and non-farm business income of Rs.1380.00 (excluding rent, dividend, interest and remittances) against the all size class average income of Rs.2115.00.

(c)&(d) : Land Resources and its management falls within the jurisdiction of States as enshrined in the Constitution of India. However, the Ministry of Rural Development monitors land reform programmes implemented by the States/UTs, including distribution of Government wasteland to the eligible rural poor. Surplus land are distributed to landless poor. Till 2005-06, 54.03 lakh acres declared ceiling surplus land, 21.75 lakh acres of Bhoodan land and 147.47 lakh acres of Government waste land were distributed among the rural landless.