

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1344
ANSWERED ON:14.07.2009
EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN FARM SECTOR
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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether employment opportunities in the farm sector have come down over a period of time;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the steps taken to create adequate and additional employment opportunities in the farm sector in the country including Andhra Pradesh?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS)

(a)&(b): As per Population Census 1991, the total number of cultivators and agricultural workers in the country engaged in agriculture was 210.68 million. The same has increased to 234.10 million in 2001 Census, registering an increase of 11.11% in ten years. As per two most recent quinquennial rounds of National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) on Employment and Unemployment, employment on Usual Status Basis in agriculture sector was estimated at 239.73 million persons in 1999-2000 (55th round) which has gone up to 258.59 million persons in 2004-05 (61st round), showing an increase of 7.86% in five years. As such dependence on agriculture has increased.

(c): Schemes in the agricultural sector aim at increasing production and productivity and in the process create additional employment in agriculture. Several development programmes such as National Food Security Mission, Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana, Macro Management of Agriculture covering Integrated Cereals Development Programme (ICDP) for Rice, Wheat and Coarse Cereals, Gramin Bhandaran Yojana, Development of Agricultural Marketing Infrastructure, Micro Irrigation, Rural Credit, Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize (ISOPOM) and National Horticulture Mission (NHM) are being implemented.

These programmes, apart from creating on-farm and non-farm employment are also expected to improve the income realization by the farmers.

A scheme "Establishment of Agri-clinics and Agri-business Centres" (ACABCs) for unemployed agriculture graduates in the country including Andhra Pradesh provides credits and other supports to open agri-ventures. So far, 805 Agriculture graduates have been trained under ACABC Scheme and 320 agri-ventures have been established in Andhra Pradesh till 31-05-2009.