

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
AGRICULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4290

ANSWERED ON:04.08.2009

AGRARIAN CRISIS

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**Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:**

(a) whether large number of farmers have quite farming due to the agrarian crisis;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) whether the Government has conducted any study about this phenomenon; and

(d) if so, the details of the outcome of the study?

**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) to (d): The total number of cultivators and agricultural labourers has only been increasing every decade since 1951. Even the cultivators and agricultural workers as a percentage of total rural population has varied marginally over decades since 1951. The National Policy for Farmers 2007 recommended several measures to enhance productivity and income of small farms and farmers and to diversify employment opportunities by strengthening production-processing-value addition-marketing-consumer chain. The Policy also recommended several methods by which small and marginal farmers can gain efficiency and economy like cooperative farming, group farming by Self-Help Groups, small holders' estates, contract farming etc.

The National Policy for Farmers, 2007 has also laid emphasis on identifying employment opportunities in the non-farm sector to shift work force from agriculture to non-farm sector. The objective of the National Policy for Farmers 2007 is to improve economic viability of farming by substantially increasing the net income of the farmers and to ensure that agriculture progress is measured by advances made in this income. Shifting of occupation from primary to secondary and tertiary sector activities is a natural phenomenon observed over a period of time.

In order to ameliorate the conditions of farmers and to address the problem of agrarian distress, the Government of India has taken a number of initiatives which inter-alia includes implementation of the Scheme of debt waiver and debt relief for farmers announced in the Union Budget, 2008-09 to address the problem of indebtedness of farmers. Measures taken by Government for revitalization of agriculture sector include implementation of schemes, namely, National Food Security Mission to improve production and productivity of foodgrains and Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana with an objective to incentivise the states so as to increase public investment in agriculture and allied sectors, National Horticulture Mission, Macro Management of Agriculture, Integrated Nutrient and Pest Management and Support to Agriculture Extension Services etc.