

Sixteenth Lok Sabha

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Title: Need to redress the problems of landless farmers belonging to Scheduled Castes

SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA (AMBALA): I would like to bring to the kind notice of the Government the pitiable condition of DALIT FARMERS who are the worst victims of marginalisation in rural economy.

The Government is committed to address the distress of farmers as is evident from the available data.

Seven decades after independence, while a majority of farmers cultivate their own land (however small their holdings may be), most Dalit farmers are daily wagers.

According to census data, 71% of Scheduled Caste farmers are what the census refers to as agricultural labourers —they work for wages on land they do not own.

It is not only in agriculture alone that they have been short-changed. They are under-represented when it comes to jobs in the private sector and education. The state's role in fighting this inequality is crucial.

Only state can give them the tools to fight marginalisation. Therefore, I urge to redress the problems of landless Dalit farmers so that they may be able to earn their livelihood.