

SHOWCASE ARTICLE

Farm Bills: The Step in Right Direction?

Syllabus: GS-3 Agriculture

In News: The Centre passed three Bills — the Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Bill, Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Bill and Essential Commodities (Amendment) Bill.

Brief Overview of the Agriculture Sector in India:

- Agriculture's contribution to national output:** At the time of Independence, agriculture and allied activities accounted for around 54% of India's national income. As of 2019-20, it is less than 17% (in gross value-added terms).
- Employment in Agriculture** According to latest PLFS Survey by NSSO, employment in agriculture accounts to 44% of the overall employment. The Committee on Doubling Farmers' Income (2017)-(Ashok Dalwai Committee) observes that the dependence of the rural workforce on agriculture for

employment has not declined in proportion to the falling contribution of agriculture to GDP.

- Proportion of landless labourers:** It has increased from 28% (27 mn) in 1951 to 55% (144 mn) in 2011.
- Size of Landholding:** 86% of all landholdings in India are small (between 1 and 2 hectares) and marginal (less than 1 hectare). The average size among marginal holdings is 0.37 ha.

