NATURE OF LABOUR INPUT IN AGRICULTURE WITH REFERENCE TO SEASONAL UNEMPLOYMENT AND UNDER-EMPLOYMENT

A THESIS SUBMITTED TO THE UNIVERSITY OF POONA FOR THE DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN ECONOMICS

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PREFACE

This study analyses and examines how far agriculture provides employment to the population engaged in it and what is the nature of such employment. For a proper appreciation of the nature and magnitude of the problem concerning this, it has been examined in the background of the structure of agricultural-industry and its relation to the population engaged in it in different parts of the country.

For a detailed analysis in its micro aspect, the study pertains to the regions covered by farm management studies under first and second series of survey. It examines the extent of self-employment and hired labour employment in agriculture, in general, and in crop production in particular, and the factors affecting the use of self-employed and hired labour.

Among various studies on the employment aspect of agricultural worker, not enough attention has been paid to the nature and extent of labour inputs used in crop production. Most of the studies confine attention to the problem of disguised unemployment and under-employment and generalize that the small farmers invariably suffer from large scale disguised unemployment without really going into the details of farm size-groupwise analysis of the

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labour input used and output obtained. This study makes a modest attempt to bring to the light, with the available published information the complexity of the problem.

The research underlying this study was carried out at the Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics, Poona 4. It was preceded by one-year pre-doctoral training imparted by the Institute.

This work owes much to Professor V. M. Dandekar, my research guide, who helped me in various ways all through my work. I take this opportunity to record my deep sense of gratitude to him.

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