

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2592

ANSWERED ON:14.03.2001

SHRINKING OF CROP LAND

A. VENKATESH NAIK;ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL;RAMSHETH THAKUR

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the per capita crop land in India at present;
- (b) whether per capita crop land has been shrinking continuously since 1960 onwards;
- (c) if so, the reasons therefor and the extent to which the crop land has shrink till date;
- (d) whether this shrinkage of crop land has threatened India`s food security; and
- (e) if so, the corrective steps being taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SRIPAD Y. NAIK)

(a) to (c): Yes, Sirs. The per capita agricultural land has shrunk continuously from the level of 0.410 hectare in the year 1960-61 to 0.195 hectare in the year 1996-97 because the growth rate of population has been higher than the rate of increase in the agricultural land.

(d) & (e): The shrinkage in the per capita agricultural land has been offset by the increase in the productivity of land. The per capita availability of food grain has increased from 450 grams per day in the year 1960 to 480 grams per day in the year 1966. The Government have been implementing various schemes to increase production and productivity of food grain and non-food grain crops.