

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
AGRICULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4720  
ANSWERED ON:23.08.2001  
SALINE AFFECTED LAND IN A N ISLANDS  
BISHNU PADA RAY

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

- (a) whether the Government have carried out any land survey of saline affected land in the country particularly in Andaman and Nicobar Islands which has been causing huge loss to farmers;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the results achieved therefrom, State-wise, especially in Andaman and Nicobar Islands; and
- (c) the remedial steps proposed to be taken by the Union Government in this regard?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH)

(a) & (b): No systematic survey has been taken up to assess the saline affected land in the country. However, it has been estimated that 55.01 lakh ha. is affected by salinity including coastal saline soils in the country. The state-wise extent of saline including coastal saline is annexed. The Department of Agriculture, Andaman & Nicobar Administration has carried out land survey for Andaman Group of Islands including Campbell Bay. The area affected by salinity obtained from the survey report is as under:

i. Highly saline affected (S3)	532.12 ha.
ii Moderately affected (S2)	477.96 ha.
iii. Slightly affected (S3)	349.14 ha.
Total	1359.22 ha.

(c): Andaman Public Works Department is entrusted for the implementation of saline reclamation works. During the current year, Rs.80 lakhs has been provided to Andaman Public Works Department to take up reclamation of saline affected land. Besides this, Department of Agriculture is also taking up three saline reclamation bund works costing Rs.15 lakh during the current year. During the 10th Five Year Plan, in the draft proposal, a provision of Rs.571 lakhs has been proposed for the reclamation of saline affected land in the U.T. of Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Further, Central Agricultural Research Institute for A&N Group of Islands, Port Blair (ICAR) has developed suitable technologies in the form of high yielding rice varieties and other plantation crops, aqua culture under saline environment and several other techniques for the successful utilization of saline soils.

Annexure

**STATEWISE DETAILS OF THE ESTIMATED AREA UNDER SALINITY**

State Land Affected by Salinity  
Incl. coastal saline sandy

Andhra Pradesh	1.76
Gujarat	1.00
Haryana	0.76
Karnataka	3.28
Kerala	1.17
Madhya Pradesh	0.78
Maharashtra	4.75
Rajasthan	10.00+
Tamil Nadu	1.00
Uttar Pradesh	1.95
Andaman & Nicobar	0.01

Total 40.35

+14.65++  
55.01

+ Includes saline area of arid Rajasthan and Rann. of Katch.  
++ Sandy areas appears not reported along coastal saline soils.