

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
AGRICULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5986  
ANSWERED ON:05.05.2003  
USE OF CULTIVABLE LAND  
MANIBHAI RAMJIBHAI CHAUDHARY

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

- (a) whether cultivation has not been done even on the cultivable land in several parts of the country during 2002-03;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government have taken any steps for cultivation on the cultivable land in future;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV)

(a)&(b) : The country witnessed severe drought spanning over a number of states during monsoon 2002 (June-September). The moisture stress experienced during monsoon continued during post-monsoon (October-December), and thus the area coverage under various kharif and rabi crops remained low during 2002-03.

(c) to (e) : The net area sown under agriculture has remained almost constant at around 142 million hectares during the last few years. The Government have issued a 19-point National LandUse Policy Outline and Action Points to the States for implementation. The action points include, inter-alia, restructuring of urban policy in such a manner as to ensure that highly productive land is not taken away. Further, to promote agriculture in the rainfed regions, Central Government have accorded very high priority to the holistic and sustainable development of these areas through watershed approach. A large number of schemes are being implemented in rainfed areas. These include National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas (NWDPRA), Soil Conservation in the catchments of River Valley Projects (RVP) and Flood Prone Rivers (FPR), Watershed Development Project in Shifting Cultivation Areas (WDPSCA) and Externally Aided Projects on watershed development. These schemes have been subsumed under the macro- management mode of operation since November, 2000.