

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5548
ANSWERED ON:02.05.2005
SHORTAGE OF PASTURE LAND
Singh Shri Dushyant

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the shortage of pasture land in the country taking into consideration the existing livestock population in the country;
- (b) if so, the steps taken to bring additional areas in the country under pasture and grass land development;
- (c) whether any achievement has been made in this regard during the last three years;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the funds allocated for the development of pasture land during the last three years and the current year?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA)

(a) to (b): Yes, Sir. The Government of India implemented a Centrally Sponsored Scheme- "Assistance to States for Feed and Fodder Development" including the components of "Establishment of silvi pasture system for increasing biomass production" and "Development of grass land including grass reserves" during the 8th and 9th Plan period. Central grant of Rs.938.20 lakhs was provided to different States during these Plan periods.

(c) to (e): No funds were provided to the State Governments during the last three years since the scheme was discontinued from 2002-03. A new Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Fodder Development comprising of Development of grassland including grass reserves as one of its components with 100% central grant has been approved for implementation from 2005-06. Rs.700 lakhs have been earmarked for this component during the current financial year.