

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
AGRICULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:157  
ANSWERED ON:20.02.2006  
DRY FARMING IN PUNJAB  
Gulshan Smt. Paramjit Kaur

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

- (a) whether many districts of Punjab adjoining Rajasthan are slowly turning into desert due to the over utilization of the scarce water resources on water intensive crops like paddy and wheat;
- (b) if so, whether the Government is taking steps to introduce dry farming in the region;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether some incentives are given to the farmers who opt for diversification of crops;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA)

- (a) to (c): The continuous cultivation of rice and wheat has resulted in reduction in ground water table in some districts of Punjab.
- (d) to (f): The States have been advised to promote crop diversification from cereal centric and rice – wheat cropping system to more remunerative high value and less water demanding crops. For promotion of oilseeds, pulses and maize, Integrated Scheme on Oilseeds, Pulses, Oilpalm and Maize (ISOPOM) is under implementation in different States including Punjab. The National Horticulture Mission has also been launched during 2005-06 to promote horticultural crops in the country.