

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:365
ANSWERED ON:18.12.2006
DECLINE IN CULTIVABLE AREA
Adhalrao Patil Shri Shivaji

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) Whether the area of cultivation under various crops has been decreasing continuously for the last three years;
- (b) If so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor ;
- (c) The comparative figures of cultivable area recorded during the Ninth and Tenth Plans, State-wise; and
- (d) The remedial measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard ?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE(SHRI SHARAD PAWAR)

(a) to (d): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 365 DUE FOR REPLY ON 18TH DECEMBER, 2006.

(a)&(b) : No, Sir. The area of cultivation under Foodgrains, Oilseeds, Sugarcane, Cotton, Jute and Mesta taken together was 159.65 million hectares during 2003-04 which increased to 160.97 million hectares during 2004-05 and further to 163.71 million hectares during 2005-06

(4th advance estimates). At the disaggregated level, however, area of cultivation under pulses showed a continuous decline during the last three years coming down gradually from 23.46 million hectares during 2003-04 to 22.43 million hectares during 2005-06.

Pulses are grown mainly on marginal and sub-marginal land under rainfed conditions with low productivity and production. These factors, among others, make pulse cultivation less attractive to the farmers compared to other crops.

(c) : The State-wise comparative figures of cultivated area (average of five years of Ninth Plan period and the average of first four years of Tenth Plan period) of Foodgrains, Oilseeds, Sugarcane, Cotton, Jute and Mesta taken together are given in the Annexure.

(d): To increase the area under pulse cultivation, Government is encouraging intercropping of short duration pulse crops, use of fallow lands and enhanced irrigation facilities besides implementing 'Integrated Scheme on Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize (ISOPOM)'. Under the scheme, assistance is provided on 75:25 percent basis between the Government of India and the State Governments, inter-alia, for production and distribution of seeds, provision of minikits and Integrated Pest Management (IPM). A supplementary programme for major pulses growing States has been approved by the Government for Rabi and Summer 2006-07 and additional funds to the tune of Rs. 14.48 crores have been allocated under ISOPOM. Besides, large number of seed minikits of pulses have been supplied to the ISOPOM implementing States during Rabi 2006-07. A minimum price guarantee is also provided to the pulses growers through the price support mechanism.