

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5447
ANSWERED ON:02.05.2005
SALINITY IN AGRICULTURE LAND
Nayak Shri Ananta;Oram Shri Jual

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware of increasing damage to the agriculture land due to rise in salinity in the Coastal States;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the coastal pockets in Orissa affected thereby;
- (d) the action plan drawn up by the Ministry to save the coastal cultivable land from further degradation due to salinity, State-wise; and
- (e) the total funds earmarked and allocated under the said plan during 2005-06?

Answer

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

(a)&(b):Yes, Sir. The State-wise coastal saline area is estimated to be as under: States Extent of Coastal Saline Soils (lakh hactres)

West Bengal	8.20
Gujarat	8.20
Orissa	4.0
Andhra Pradesh	2.76
Tamil Nadu	1.0
Karnataka	1.95
Maharashtra	0.63
Kerala	0.26
Goa	0.18
Pondicherry	0.01
Andaman &	0.15
N.Islands	
Total	27.34

(c): The saline area of the State is commonly found in 445 km. long narrow strip, close to the coastal districts of Balasore, Cuttack, Puri and Ganjam.

(d)&(e): The Government has taken steps for the development of technology for prevention and control of salinity. The information generated by the Central Soil Salinity Research Institute, Karnal has been disseminated to the technical personnel from State Departments of Agriculture, Irrigation and Forestry. The Department of Agriculture & Cooperation, Government of India has no specific scheme for the reclamation of saline soil in the country. However, under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Macro Management of Agriculture, the State Governments have been given flexibility to propose any new programme upto 10% of the total allocation for the State in the year.