

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
AGRICULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2489  
ANSWERED ON:17.03.2008  
INVESTMENT IN LAND DEVELOPMENT  
Ahir Shri Hansraj Gangaram;Patil Smt. Rupatai Diliprao Nilangekar

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

- (a) whether investment in the development of agricultural land has declined over the years;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the steps taken to increase investment in land development during the Eleventh Five Year Plan;
- (d) whether National Commission on farmers has recommended for provision of one acre of land to every landless labourer; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and steps taken in this regard?

**Answer**

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

(a) to (c): Government of India, Ministry of Agriculture is implementing Watershed Development Programmes for development of degraded lands including agricultural land in the country. These programmes are;

(i) National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas (NWDPR),

(ii) Soil Conservation for Enhancing the Productivity of Degraded Lands in the Catchments of River Valley Project and Flood Prone River (RVP & FPR),

(iii) Reclamation of Alkali Soil (RAS) and

(iv) Watershed Development Project in Shifting Cultivation Areas (WDPSCA). The investment under these programmes in 2004-05 was Rs. 397.74 crore and increased to Rs. 627.37 crore in 2006-07, as per details given below:

Name of programme    Investment (Rs. crore)

2004-05    2005-06    2006-07

NWDPR        235.58    267.86    356.54

RVP & FPR    136.84    146.52    222.00

RAS            6.06    9.30    10.26

WDPSCA        19.26    29.16    38.57

Total 397.74 452.84 627.37

The Working Group of the Sub Committee of National Development Council (NDC) on Agriculture and related Issues on Dryland/Rainfed Farming System including Regeneration of Degraded/Wasteland, Watershed Development Programmes has recommended for development of about 38 million ha. land out of Rs. 32095.00 crore during Eleventh Five Year Plan.

(d) & (e): Based on the recommendations of the National Commission on Farmers, Government of India has approved the National Policy for Farmers 2007, which is already under implementation through various schemes and programmes of various Central Ministries and Departments. The Commission's recommendation relating to asset reforms in respect of land, as accepted by the Government, has been incorporated in the National Policy for Farmers 2007. The policy provides for ensuring that every farmer household in villages possess and/or has access to productive assets like land, livestock, fish pond, homestead farm, and/or income through an enterprise and/or market driven skills, so that the household income is increased substantially on a sustainable basis. This in turn would ensure nutrition and livelihood security and their education and health requirements.