

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:335
ANSWERED ON:22.12.2008
ARABLE LAND
Khandelwal Shri Hemant

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the total area in hectares of arable land in the country, State-wise;
- (b) whether in view of the foodgrain crisis in the country, any scheme for expansion of arable land is under consideration of the Government; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 335 DUE FOR REPLY ON 22ND DECEMBER, 2008.

(a): As per available estimates, the Agricultural/Arable land is 182.57 million ha (2005-06) in the country. The State-wise details are annexed.

(b)&(c): The Ministry of Agriculture aims to increase the foodgrains production through various policy measures in close coordination with the State Governments. These include schemes of National Food Security Mission (NFSM), Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize (ISOPOM) and Macro Management of Agriculture (MMA). The NFSM, a centrally sponsored scheme launched in 2007-08, is targeted to increase the production of rice, wheat and pulses by 10, 8 & 2 million tonnes, respectively by the end of XI Five Year Plan through area expansion and increase in productivity of crops. Similarly, the RKVY, also launched during 2007-08 is an intervention based on local agro-climatic conditions to incentivize the States to increase the share of agriculture in their State Plans and also to increase the growth in agriculture and allied sectors. Further, to develop the degraded lands with the objective of sustaining the extent of agricultural land, the Government of India is implementing various Watershed Development Programmes, namely,

- (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 and Development of Alkali & Acid Soils (RADAS),
- (iv) Watershed Development Project in Shifting Cultivation Areas (WDPSCA),
- (v) Drought Prone Area Programme (DPAP),
- (vi) Desert Development Programme (DDP),
- (vii) Integrated Wasteland Development Project (IWDP),
- (viii) Watershed Development Fund (WDF) and
- (ix) Externally Aided Projects (EAPs) for development of degraded lands in the country. With these measures, the foodgrains production in the country is projected to be about 239 million tones against the demand of about 234 million tones by 2011-12.