

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:144

ANSWERED ON:23.02.2010

AGRICULTURAL LAND

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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether agricultural land in the country has shrunk over the years;
- (b) if so, the details thereof during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise;
- (c) the details of the Cultivable land that has been Urbanised; State-wise;
- (d) the strategy adopted to enhance agricultural productivity and to avert food crisis situation; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to convert barren land into fertile land?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS)

(a) & (b): As per the available estimates, the agricultural land has marginally decreased from 182.74 million ha. In 2005-06 to 182.44 million ha. In 2007-08 across the country. Available State-wise data on the extent of agricultural land in each of last three years (2005-06,2006-07 and 2007-08) is annexed.

(c): Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India does not maintain any data on cultivable land that has been urbanized.

(d): Government of India, has intensified programmes implemented under the National Food Security Mission (NFSM). National Horticulture Mission (NHM) and Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) with a view to increase the productivity of agricultural land and also to sustain the foodgrain production across the country.

(e): Cultivation on Barren land is not sustainable, and therefore, Ministry of Agriculture does not promote any specific scheme.