

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:450
ANSWERED ON:27.04.2010
DECREASE IN AGRICULTURAL LAND
Joshi Dr. Murlī Manohar;Sharma Shri Jagdish

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the percentage of agricultural land to the total land area, State-wise;
- (b) the extent of decrease in agricultural land over the years;
- (c) the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the extent to which the various measures adopted by the Government in this regard have achieved the objective of enhancing the area of agricultural land and agricultural productivity in the country?

Answer

MINISTER 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. 450 DUE FOR REPLY ON 27TH APRIL, 2010.

- (a): The State-wise details of percentage of agricultural land to the total land area during 2007-08 is at Annexure.
- (b) & (c): The total agricultural land at all-India level marginally declined from 183.19 million hectares in 2003-04 to 182.44 million hectares in 2007-08. There are several factors that determine the agricultural land area such as farmers' preference, alternate economic opportunities etc.
- (d): In order to increase the agricultural land area in the country, Government has various Programmes/Schemes, such as,
 - (i) National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas (NWDPR),
 - (ii) Soil Conservation in the Catchments of River Valley Projects and Flood Prone Rivers (RVP & FPR),
 - (iii) Reclamation & Development of Alkali and Acid Soils (RADAS) and
 - (iv) Watershed Development Project in Shifting Cultivation Areas (WDPSCA). At all-India level, the barren and unculturable land area has declined from 17.46 million ha. in 2005-06 to 17.29 million ha. in 2007-08.

Further National Food Security Mission (NFSM), Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), National Horticulture Mission (NHM), Development and Strengthening of Infrastructure Facilities for Production and Distribution of Quality Seeds are some of the Schemes being implemented for enhancing the productivity of Agriculture. As a result of these programmes the productivity of food grains has increased from 1727 kg/hectare in 2003-04 to 1909 kg/hectare in 2008-09. The productivity of oilseeds has also increased from 885kg/hectare to 1006 kg/hectare during the same period.