

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4823
ANSWERED ON:26.04.2010
PER CAPITA LAND AVAILABILITY
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Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the per capita land availability in the country has declined;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reason therefor;
- (c) whether any survey has been conducted/proposed to be conducted in this regard;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to check this trend and to improve the situation?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT(SHRI SISIR KUMAR ADHIKARI)

(a) to (e): As per various quinquennial Agriculture Censuses conducted by the Ministry of Agriculture in 1970-71, 1976-77, 1980-81, 1985-86, 1990-91, 1995-96, 2000-01 and 2005-06, the average size of operational holdings in the country was 2.28, 2.00, 1.84, 1.69, 1.55, 1.41, 1.33 and 1.23 hectares respectively, which shows that the average size of the operational holding declined by about 46% in 2005-06 over 1970-71. The decline in the operated area has been attributed to conversion of land for urbanization/industrialization or transfer of land to meet the requirement of non-agricultural purposes.