

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:310
ANSWERED ON:27.07.2010
DECLINE IN CULTIVABLE AREA
Ram Shri Purnmasi

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there has been a decline of about 8 per cent in the cultivable area resulting in decline in agricultural production;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the details of barren land in the country, State-wise;
- (d) the steps taken to make it cultivable;
- (e) whether the Government proposes to distribute such land to the landless peasants/agricultural labourers;
- (f) if so, the details thereof; and
- (g) the steps taken by the Government to maintain food security in the country?

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) to (f): Cultivable land marginally decreased from 182.74 Million ha in 2005-06 to 182.44 Million ha in 2007-08. However, the total food grain production has increased from 208.60 million tons in 2005-06 to 230.78 million tons in 2007-08. The state wise details of barren land in the country are placed at annexure 1.

Integrated Waste Land Development Program of Department of Land Resources, Ministry of Rural Development is the major program that has been implemented for waste land development. Besides, Department of Agriculture and Cooperation has been implementing schemes such as National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas (NWDPRRA); Soil Conservation in the Catchment of River Valley Project and Flood Prone River (RVP & FPR); Reclamation and Development of Alkali and Acid Soils (RADAS); and Watershed Development Project in shifting Cultivation Areas (WDPSCA) etc. for development of watershed and reclamation of problematic soils/areas etc.

(g): Ministry of Agriculture has been implementing various Centrally Sponsored Scheme like Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), Macro Management of Agriculture (MMA), National Food Security Mission (NFSM), Integrated Oilseed, Pulses, Maize and Oilpalm (ISOPOM), Accelerated Pulses Production Programme (A3P), Extending Green Revolution to Eastern India and organizing 60,000 pulses and oilseed villages etc. to enhance production of food grains and to ensure future food security. Minimum support prices are declared every year to ensure remunerative prices to the growers for their produce with a view to encourage higher investment and production.