

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
AGRICULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1485

ANSWERED ON:03.08.2010

CULTIVABLE LAND

M.Thambidurai Dr. ;Sainuji Shri Kowase Marotrao

**Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:**

- (a) the details of the cultivable land in the country, particularly in tribal areas, State-wise;
- (b) the details of the cultivable land on which farming activities are not being carried out;
- (c) whether the Government has made any assessment of the reasons for non productivity of such land and the estimated losses suffered on account of not carrying out farming activities on such land;
- (d) if so, the details thereof during each of the last three years, State-wise;
- (e) the steps taken by the Government in this regard;
- (f) whether the Government proposes to allow conversion of agricultural land into non-agricultural purpose including for setting up industries; and
- (g) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

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

(a) & (b): Details of cultivable land and culturable waste land (State-wise) may be seen at Annexure-I.

(c) to (e): No, Madam. However, National Project on Management of Soil Health and Fertility has been launched in November, 2008 to facilitate and promote Integrated Nutrient Management (INM) through judicious use of chemical fertilizers, including secondary and micro nutrients, in conjunction with organic manures and bio -fertilizers, for improving soil health and its productivity.

(f) & (g): The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Commerce on functioning of Special Economic Zone (SEZ) has recommended ensuring that prime agricultural land is not diverted and if it becomes unavoidable to make use of cultivable land, only single-crop, rain-fed land should be used. Also, the Report of the Working Group of Sub-Committee of the National Development Council (NDC) on Agriculture and Related Issues on Dryland/Rainfed Farming System including Regeneration of Degraded/Waste land, Watershed Development has recommended that efforts may be made not to allow diversion of productive agricultural land for industrialization or urbanization. In case of extreme national need, it may be made mandatory that industries who are provided with agricultural or other lands for development projects should compensate for treatment and full development of equivalent degraded/waste lands elsewhere.