

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3773
ANSWERED ON:17.08.2010
SOIL EROSION
Bali Ram Dr.

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether agricultural land is shrinking due to soil erosion by rivers in the country including Uttar Pradesh and Bihar;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (c) whether the Government has taken adequate measures to prevent such soil erosion;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the details of the compensation provided by the Government to the farmers whose land had been adversely affected by soil erosion?

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): No, Madam. Agricultural land is not shrinking due to soil erosion in the country. However, the marginal decrease in agricultural land from 182.74 million ha. in 2005-06 to 182.44 million ha. in 2007-08 is mainly due to diversion of agricultural land for non-agricultural purposes such as urbanization, roads, industries, housing, etc. During the same period in the State of Uttar Pradesh agricultural land has decreased from 19.27 million ha. to 19.18 million ha., whereas in the State of Bihar, it remains unaffected.

(c) & (d): With a view to prevent soil erosion and land degradation, Government of India, Ministry of Agriculture is implementing various Watershed Development Programmes, namely; National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas (NWDPR), Soil Conservation in the Catchments of River Valley Project and Flood Prone River (RVP&FPR), Reclamation and Development of Alkali & Acid Soils (RADAS), and Watershed Development Project in Shifting Cultivation Areas (WDPSCA) across the country.

(e): Government of India, Ministry of Agriculture does not have any scheme/programme to provide compensation in this regard.