

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4517
ANSWERED ON:07.12.2010
IRRIGATION FACILITIES
Rajbhar Shri Ramashankar

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether most of the land in the country is becoming barren due to the lack of irrigation facilities;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government in this regard;
- (c) whether the Government provides assistance to the farmers whose land has become barren; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

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): No, Madam.

(b): As per the data available, barren & un-cultivable land has declined from 17.46 million ha. in 2005-06 to 17.29 million ha. in 2007-08. During the same period the total net irrigated area has increased from 60.41 million ha. in 2005-06 to 62.28 million ha. in 2007-08.

(c) & (d): According to the definition of Land Uses, barren land includes all land covered by mountains, deserts, etc. which cannot be brought under cultivation except at an exorbitant cost and is classified as un-culturable land located in isolated blocks or within cultivated holdings and, therefore, there is no comprehensive scheme/programme for the development of barren land.