

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:13
ANSWERED ON:22.02.2011
AGRICULTURAL LAND
Lingam Shri P.;Virendra Kumar Shri

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the agricultural land in the country is shrinking constantly;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the said situation is likely to have an impact on the availability of agricultural produce and price stability in the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the remedial measures taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR)

(a) to (e): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 13 DUE FOR REPLY ON 22ND FEBRUARY, 2011.

(a) to (e): On account of shift in area for non-agricultural purposes, the agricultural/cultivable land in the country has marginally declined during the last five years. As compared to 183.19 million hectares during 2003-04, the agricultural land in the country has come down to 182.39 million hectares during 2008-09 i.e. a decline of 0.80 million hectares. However, as a result of various initiatives taken by the Government to enhance production and productivity in the agriculture sector, the production of foodgrains has increased considerably and marginal decline in the agricultural/cultivable land is not likely to have any adverse impact on the availability of agricultural produce and price stability in the country.

For increasing productivity and production of foodgrains in the country, various Crop Development Schemes and Programmes, namely; National Food Security Mission (NFSM), Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize (ISOPOM), Integrated Cereals Development Programme for Rice/Wheat/Coarse Cereals under Macro Management of Agriculture and Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) are being implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture through State Governments. In addition to the above schemes, during the current year, i.e. 2010- 11, two new programmes for bringing Green Revolution to Eastern India and Integrated Development of 60,000 Pulses and Oilseeds Villages in rainfed areas have been initiated under RKVY. National Food Security Mission has been strengthened from 1.4.2010 with the merger of pulses component of ISOPOM and inclusion of two new potential States namely; Assam and Jharkhand for pulses production. A new programme `Accelerated Pulses Production Programme (A3P)` in the form of block demonstrations has also been started to cover 1000 units of 1000 hectares each of five pulses crops in 16 pulse growing States of the country. Further, land development and soil health/soil fertility have also been ensured through implementation of centrally sponsored schemes such as Reclamation and Development of Alkali & Acid Soil and the National Project on Management of Soil Health & Fertility etc.