

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1006
ANSWERED ON:01.03.2011
CULTIVABLE LAND
Sainuji Shri Kowase Marotrao

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the total area of cultivable land being farmed in the country particularly in tribal areas, as on date;
- (b) the additional area of land available for being brought under cultivation;
- (c) the extent of loss incurred due to non-cultivation of the said land; and
- (d) the remedial steps proposed to be taken in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI ARUN YADAV)

- (a): As per available estimates (2008-09), the total cultivable land is 182.385 million hectare in the country. Separate data on cultivable land being farmed in tribal areas are not maintained by Government of India.
- (b): Barren and un-culturable land having an extent of about 17.02 million hectare (2008-09) though available, cannot be brought under cultivation except at an exorbitant cost.
- (c): Does not arise.
- (d): With a view to prevent land degradation and to maintain balance in various types of land uses, Government of India is implementing various Watershed Development Programmes namely; (i) National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas (NWDPR), (ii) Soil Conservation in the Catchments of River Valley Project and Flood Prone River (RVP & FPR), (iii) Reclamation and Development of Alkali & Acid Soils (RADAS), (iv) Watershed Development Project in Shifting Cultivation Areas (WDPSCA) & (v) Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) etc. across the country.