

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1275
ANSWERED ON:29.11.2011
INCREASING DRY LAND
Meghwal Shri Arjun Ram

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether as per a United Nations Organisation (UNO) report, dry land is increasing rapidly in the country;
- (b) if so, the details of the findings thereof;
- (c) the reaction of the Government thereto; and
- (d) the remedial measures taken by the Government in view of the food security situation in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI HARISH RAWAT)

(a) to (d): A report of United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD, 2011), suggests that drylands in India are becoming more vulnerable to desertification processes due to high population pressure on land and water resources. However, there is no evidence of any significant change in dryland areas in the country.

With a view to prevent soil erosion, land degradation and to improve productivity of dryland/rainfed areas, various watershed programmes are being implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Rural Development. Special emphasis on rainfed/dryland areas are accorded in all major programmes of the Ministry of Agriculture. The details of the programmes are:

(A) Watershed Programmes

Ministry of Agriculture

1. National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas (NWDPA)
2. Soil Conservation in the Catchments of River Valley Project and Flood Prone River (RVP & FPR)
3. Watershed Development Project for Shifting Cultivation Areas (WDPSA)

Ministry of Rural Development

4. Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP)

(B) Other Major Programmes

1. Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY)
2. Macro Management of Agriculture (MMA)
3. National Food Security Mission (NFSM)
4. National Horticulture Mission (NHM)
5. National Mission on Micro Irrigation (NMMI)
6. Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm & Maize (ISOPOM)

Research Projects on dryland agriculture are being implemented by Indian Council of Agriculture Research (ICAR) under the All India Coordinated Research Project on Dryland Agriculture (AICRPDA).