

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:123
ANSWERED ON:13.03.2012
DECLINE IN WHEAT AREA
Tudu Shri Laxman

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether cultivable area of wheat is declining in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the measures taken by the Government to increase the sown area of wheat in the country?

Answer

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

(a) and (b): No, Madam. The area coverage under wheat has increased from 27.99 million hectares in 2006-07 to 28.89 million hectares in 2011-12 (2nd advance estimates).

(c): Government is implementing a number of crop development schemes/programmes such as National Food Security Mission (NFSM), Integrated Cereals Development Programme in Wheat Based Cropping System Areas (ICDP- Wheat) subsumed under Macro-Management of Agriculture (MMA) and Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) to increase wheat production in the country through area expansion and productivity enhancement.

Further, to increase overall cultivable area including area coverage under wheat, Government of India is implementing various Schemes/Programmes such as; (i) National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas (NWDPA), (ii) Soil Conservation in the Catchments of River Valley Projects and Flood Prone Rivers (RVP & FPR), (iii) Reclamation & Development of Alkali and Acid Soils (RADAS) and (iv) Watershed Development Project in Shifting Cultivation Areas (WDPSCA).

To promote cultivation of wheat crop in the country, the Minimum Support Price of wheat during 2011-12 has also been increased to Rs.1285/- per quintal as compared to Rs.1120/- per quintal during the last year.