

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2344
ANSWERED ON:21.07.2009
DECREASE IN PASTURE LAND
Ahir Shri Hansraj Gangaram

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether pasture land is decreasing continuously in the rural areas of the country;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor, State-wise;
- (c) whether the Government has assessed the ill-effects of decreasing pasture land on small farmers;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Government has taken any remedial step in this regard; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
(PROF. K.V. THOMAS)

(a) & (b) Yes, Madam. The total area under permanent pasture during 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06 was 10.44, 10.42, 10.41 million hectares, respectively (DOAC, 2008). Reasons for gradual decrease in area under pastureland, across the States, are that the majority of these lands have either been diverted for other agriculture purposes or encroached upon restricting availability for livestock grazing.

(c) & (d) The ill-effects of decreasing grazing area are manifested in (i) decreased availability of nutrients to the grazing animals leading to lower production and productivity, and (ii) increasing cost of production on making up the nutritional deficiency through purchased roughages or concentrates.

(e) & (f) Department is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Fodder Development Scheme throughout the country having a component of Grass Land Development including Grass Reserves Under the component during 2007-08, Rs. 828.19 lakh and in 2008-09, Rs. 535.20 lakh were released to the States.