

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3973

ANSWERED ON:18.02.2014

DECLINE IN AREA UNDER CULTIVATION OF CROPS

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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there has been an alarming decline in the area under cultivation of major food crops in the country during each of the last three years and the current year;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, crop and State/UT-wise;
- (c) whether the slow pace of growth in the crucial agriculture sector is a matter of concern for food security in the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the corrective steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT)

(a) & (b): As per the latest Land Use Statistics data (2010-11) compiled by Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Ministry of Agriculture, the area under food crops was 144.6 million hectares in 2007-08, 143.0 million hectares in 2008-09, 138.8 million hectares in 2009-10 and 146.3 million hectares in 2010-11. The State-wise details of the area under cultivation of major food crops are at annexure.

(c) to (e): As a result of efforts made by the Government under various schemes/programmes to enhance production and productivity in the agriculture sector, the production of foodgrains has increased from 230.8 million tonnes in 2007-08 to 255.4 million tonnes in 2012-13. Further, foodgrains production touched a record high at 259.3 million tonnes in 2011-12.