

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2983
ANSWERED ON:08.12.2009
SHIFTING TO CASH CROP CULTIVATION
Das Gupta Shri Gurudas;Lingam Shri P.

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether farmers in some parts of the country have shifted to cultivation of cash crops like bio-diesel and cotton;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (c) the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (d) the impact of such changes in cropping pattern on the country's foodgrain production;
- (e) whether the Government has issued/ proposes to issue guidelines in regard to such changes in the cropping pattern; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): No, Madam. There is no report of shifting of area to cash crops like bio-diesel and cotton crops. However there is increase in area under cotton during 2009-10. The state -wise details are enclosed at Annexure.

There was significant increase in cotton area in 2009-10 compared to 2008-09 in three states, namely Maharashtra, Gujarat and Rajasthan. In Maharashtra, there is general increase in area under various crops including cotton during Kharif 2009 due to favorable conditions. There was decrease in groundnut area in Gujarat. Due to late monsoon, farmers cultivated more area under cotton as it requires less water compare to groundnut. Like wise, more area was covered under cotton in Rajasthan due to availability of water during sowing period / and more favorable conditions for cultivation of cotton.

(c) & (d): The increased area under cotton benefits farmers & their income. Since no replacement of foodgrains area has been reported, there is no adverse affect in foodgrains production.

(e) & (f): Question does not arise.