

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
AGRICULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:380

ANSWERED ON:15.12.2009

AREA UNDER CULTIVATION

Mohapatra Shri Sidhant ;Panda Shri Prabodh

**Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the area under cultivation in various parts of the country has declined;
- (b) if so, the details thereof during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise;
- (c) the reasons therefor;
- (d) the extent to which the agricultural production has declined due to shrinking of the cultivable area during the said period; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to check such decline and to grow other crops to maintain balance in agricultural production?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR)

(a) to (e): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 380 DUE FOR REPLY ON 15-12-2009.

(a) & (b): The cultivated land, which consists of net area sown and current fallows, has marginally decreased from 155.57 million hectares in 2004-05 to 155.54 million hectares in 2006-07 in the country. A statement on State-wise cultivated land for the years 2004-05 to 2006-07 is given at Annexure.

(c): The decline in the extent of cultivated land is mainly due to increase in population and diversion of agricultural land for non-agricultural purposes such as urbanisation, roads, industries, housing, etc.

(d): Despite the decrease in the cultivated land, foodgrains production has increased from 198.36 Million Tonnes in 2004-05 to 217.28 Million Tonnes in 2006-07.

(e): Government of India is conscious of the need for taking measures to ensure food security of our country. With a view to prevent land degradation and to bring additional land under cultivation as well as increasing the productivity of the existing land under agriculture, Government of India is implementing various schemes/programmes, which include the National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas (NWDPA), Soil Conservation for Enhancing the Productivity of Degraded Lands in the Catchments of River Valley Project and Flood Prone River (RVP & FPR), Reclamation and Development of Alkali & Acid Soils (RADAS), Watershed Development Project in Shifting Cultivation Areas (WDPSCA), Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP), etc. in the country. Three major Initiatives namely, National Food Security Mission (NFSM), National Horticulture Mission (NHM) and Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) have been launched to enhance productivity of agricultural land and overall agricultural output.