

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3218

ANSWERED ON:21.03.2017

Land under Cultivation

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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of land under cultivation and land irrigated with different sources of irrigation in the country during the last three years and the current year, State/UT-wise;
- (b) whether cultivable land is declining day by day in the country due to diversion of agricultural land for non-agricultural purposes;
- (c) if so, the extent of cultivable land declined due to change in classification of land from agricultural zone to industrial, commercial and institutional zones during the said period, State/UT-wise;
- (d) whether there has been an adverse impact on the agricultural production and productivity on account of diversion of land for non-agricultural purposes and if so, the details thereof and the corrective measures taken by the Government in this regard; and
- (e) whether the Government has formulated any policies/laws to check diversion of agricultural land and boost agricultural production in the country and if so, the details thereof along with the subsidies being given to farmers during the said period, State-wise?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

श्री अहलुवालिया (SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA)

(a): As per report on Land Use Statistics for 2013-14 (latest available) State-wise details of land under cultivation(cultivable land) and land irrigated with different sources of irrigation in the country during 2013-14 and previous three years i.e. 2010-11 to 2013-14 are given at Annexures-IA and IB respectively.

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(b) & (c): Due to diversion for non-agricultural purposes such as urbanization, roads, industries, housing etc., the area of cultivable land in the country has marginally declined from 182.01 million hectares in 2010-11 to 181.85 million hectares in 2013-14.

In the present system of reporting of land utilization in the country, the details of total cultivable land put to non-agricultural uses are not available separately. However, the state wise details of total cultivable land and area under Non agricultural uses during 2010-11 to 2013-14 are given at Annexure-II.

(d): No, Madam. Despite marginal decline in the cultivable area, as a result of various initiatives taken by the Government, the agricultural production and productivity in the country has been generally increasing; with the exception of the years affected by drought, floods, other natural calamities, etc.

(e): As per Seventh Schedule of Constitution of India, land comes under the purview of State Government and, therefore, it is for the State Governments to take suitable steps to check diversion of agricultural land for non-agricultural purposes. However, under the National Policy for Farmers – 2007 (NPF -2007), State Governments have been advised to earmark lands with low biological potential such as uncultivable land, land affected by salinity, acidity, etc., for non-agricultural development activities, including industrial and construction activities. National Rehabilitation and Resettlement Policy – 2007 (NRRP-2007) has also recommended that as far as possible, projects may be set up on waste land, degraded land or un-irrigated land. Acquisition of irrigated, multi-cropped agricultural land for non-agricultural uses may be kept to the minimum and avoided, to the extent possible. Further, Ministry of Rural Development is implementing an Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) for development of rainfed/ degraded areas. The IWMP has been converted as the Watershed Component of the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) from the financial year 2015-16.

Further, Government of India implementing National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA) with a view to prevent soil erosion, land degradation and also to maintain balance in various types of land uses across the country.

Under this mission all type of land including wastelands/barren land are developed with suitable need based soil and water conservation measures and parts of such degraded lands developed are put to agricultural practices, leading to net sown area

remaining largely unchanged around 141 million ha. in last two decades.

Under the existing schemes of the Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers Welfare, there are provisions for supply of seeds, plant protection chemicals, nutrients including secondary, micro & bio-nutrients, agriculture machinery and equipments, etc. at subsidized rates to the farmers in the country. Scheme-wise details of funds released under various schemes during the last four years to various States/UTs are given at Annexure-III.