

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:284

ANSWERED ON:18.07.2017

Cultivation of Pokkali Rice

Antony Shri Anto

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

(a) whether the Government has any record regarding the area under cultivation of Pokkali, an organic farming system of paddy in saline and waterlogged fields, in the coastal States of the country including Kerala and if so, the details thereof, Statewise;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Pokkali rice cultivation has drastically declined by one fourth in the country during the last 20 years; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken by the Government to promote the Pokkali cultivation?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

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(a): Pokkali is an alternating organic farming system of paddy and shrimp cultivation in saline and waterlogged coastal fields of Kerala. The area under Pokkali is limited to less than 8000 ha of which only 4000-5000 ha is being used for coastal saline paddy cultivation.

(b) & (c): According to Pokkali land development agency, there used to 20000-25000 ha of Pokkali fields in Kerala few decades ago, but now the extent has decreased to around 8000 ha. Government of India is providing support to the State for cultivation of "Pokkali" rice under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) on the basis of project submitted by State. Besides, assistance for paddy cultivation in Pokkali area is given @ Rs.10,000/ha from the State Plan provision.
