

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:730
ANSWERED ON:15.07.2014
FARMING OF FRUITS AND VEGETABLES
Azad Shri Kirti (JHA);Rajesh Shri M. B.

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the farmers are gradually shifting towards farming of fruits, vegetables and oil seeds crops instead of foodgrains crops and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the details of cultivable land available in the country, State/UT-wise;
- (c) whether the area under cultivation of foodgrains are decreasing due to acquisition of agricultural land for non-agriculture purposes;
- (d) whether the fertility of soil has declined owing to use of several pesticides which check crop diseases and if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the corrective measures taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN)

- (a): The area under fruit farming increased from 67.05 lakh ha. in the year 2011-12 to 71.36 lakh ha. in the year 2013-14. Similarly, the area under vegetables increased from 89.89 lakh ha. in the year 2011-12 to 96.09 lakh ha. in the year 2013-14. The increasing trend in horticultural crops indicates that these crops are becoming more popular. However, there is no decline in the area under food grains except on account of rainfall situation in the country. The area under oilseeds varies from 260 to 275 lakh ha. As such there is no evidence to suggest the shift of area from food grains to fruits, vegetables and oil seeds.
- (b): The latest figures available on cultivable land as well as land available for non-agricultural uses is given in Annexure I.
- (c): No, Madam.
- (d) & (e): There is no information of pesticides depleting the fertility of soil. However, in order to improve the soil health, assistance is provided under National Mission for Oilseeds and Oil Palm (NMOOP) for micro nutrients, inter-cropping, soil ameliorates, vermicompost and Field Level Demonstrations on soil management.