

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:129
ANSWERED ON:02.12.2014
SHRINKING AGRICULTURAL LAND
Lakhanpal Shri Raghav;P. Shri Nagarajan

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of cultivable/agricultural area in the country, State-wise;
- (b) whether the area of agricultural/cultivable land is declining in the urban, semi-urban and rural areas in the country on account of diversion and acquisition of such land for non-agricultural purposes, if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) whether a large area of cultivable land remains uncultivated in some of the States including Uttar Pradesh during each of the last three years and the current year;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the remedial measures taken/ proposed to be taken by the Government to address the issue?

Answer

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH)

(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. 129 DUE FOR REPLY ON 2ND DECEMBER, 2014.

(a): The details of cultivable/agricultural area in the country State-wise are at Annexure.

(b): The agricultural/cultivable land across the country, including in urban and semi-urban areas, has marginally declined from 182.5 million hectares during 2008-09 to 182.0 million hectares during 2011-12. However, as a result of efforts made by the Government under various schemes/ programmes to enhance production and productivity in the agriculture sector, the marginal decline in agricultural/cultivable land has not adversely affected agricultural production.

(c) & (d): As per Land Use Statistics, 2011-12, area of cultivable land and uncultivated/ fallow land during 2008-09 to 2011-12 in Uttar Pradesh and in the entire country is given in the table below:

(in Thousand Hectares)

Year	Cultivable Land		Uncultivated/ Fallow lands	
	All India	Uttar Pradesh	All India	Uttar Pradesh
2008-09	182459	19166	24482	1802
2009-10	182179	19148	26847	1769
2010-11	182018	19126	24602	1753
2011-12	181983	19099	25381	1705

Source: LUS, 2011-12, Ministry of Agriculture

Keeping cultivable land fallow is a normal practice in agriculture for moisture conservation, control of weeds, pests and diseases, restoration of soil fertility, etc.

(e): As per the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India, land comes under the purview of State Governments. Therefore, it is for the State Governments to take suitable steps to check the diversion of agricultural land for non-agricultural purposes. 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 recommended that, as far as possible, projects may be set up on wastelands, degraded land or un-irrigated land. Acquisition of agricultural land for non agricultural use in projects may be kept to the minimum and avoided, to the extent possible, in respect of multi-cropped land. Acquisition of irrigated land, if unavoidable, may be kept to the minimum.