

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, COOPERATION AND FARMERS WELFARE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2644
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 9TH JULY, 2019

DIVERSION OF CULTIVABLE LAND

2644. SHRI RAJA AMARESHWARA NAIK:
SHRI KHAGEN MURMU:
DR. SUKANTA MAJUMDAR:
SHRI VINOD KUMAR SONKAR:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is an adverse impact on agricultural production due to diversion of cultivable land for non-agricultural purposes such as industrial, housing and power projects, etc. in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the decline in the area of cultivable land in the country during the last three years, State/UT-wise;
- (c) whether there has been a sharp decline in the per capita availability of land and several farmers/people have become landless across the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the corrective measures taken/ proposed to be taken by the Government to check the use of agricultural land for non-agricultural purposes and to increase the area of cultivable land in the country?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

(a) & (b): No Sir. Due to technological advances and various initiatives of the Government, the production of foodgrains and horticulture crops has been showing an increasing trend. The production of foodgrains and horticultural crops from 2015-16 to 2018-19 is given in the table below:

Year	Food Grains (million tonnes)	Horticulture crops (million tonnes)
2015-16	251.54	286.19
2016-17	275.11	300.64
2017-18	285.01	311.70
2018-19	283.37*	314.87**

*As per the Third Advance estimates of production of Foodgrains

** As per Second Advance Estimate of production of Horticulture crops

Contd....2/-

As per the publication on Land Use Statistics for 2014-15 (latest available), the State/UT-wise details of agricultural/ cultivable land in the country from 2012-13 to 2014-15 is at **Annex I**.

(c) &(d): As per various Quinquennial Agriculture Censuses conducted by Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare in 1970-71, 1976-77, 1980-81, 1985-86, 1990-91, 1995-96, 2000-01, 2005-06, 2010-11 and 2015-16 the average size of operational holdings in the country was 2.28, 2.00, 1.84, 1.69, 1.55, 1.41, 1.33, 1.23, 1.15 and 1.08 hectares respectively, which shows that the average size of the operational holdings declined by more than 50% in 2015-16 over 1970-71. The decline in average size of operational holdings has been attributed largely to growing population and fragmentation of land holdings.

As per the Agriculture Census 2015-16 (latest available), the number of operational holders (Marginal and Small) in the country is 86.2 percent with the coverage of 47.3 percent of area under operational holding.

(e): As per the Seventh Schedule of Constitution of India, land comes under the purview of State Governments and, therefore, it is for them to take suitable steps to increase the area of arable land. However, Government of India supplements the efforts of States, through appropriate policy measures and budgetary support.

In order to check decline in the arable area in the country, 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 and 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 to the Watershed Development Component of the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) from the financial year 2015-16.

Annex I

Annexure referred in reply to part (a) and (b) of Lok Sabha Unstarred Q. No. 2644 due for answer on 9/07/19

State-wise details of cultivable land/ agricultural land in the country from 2012-13 to 2014-15 (latest available)

(thousand hectares)			
STATES/UTs	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15
ANDHRA PRADESH	15930	8879	9047
ARUNACHAL PRADESH	424	424	423
ASSAM	3356	3357	3364
BIHAR	6582	6578	6579
CHHATTISGARH	5552	5550	5558
GOA	197	197	197
GUJARAT	12661	12661	12661
HARYANA	3664	3645	3656
HIMACHAL PRADESH	812	812	812
JAMMU & KASHMIR	1070	1070	1075
JHARKHAND	4336	4343	4343
KARNATAKA	12846	12840	12827
KERALA	2280	2279	2266
MADHYA PRADESH	17264	17267	17252
MAHARASHTRA	21129	21127	21099
MANIPUR	316	384	390
MEGHALAYA	1056	1056	1056
MIZORAM	408	402	367
NAGALAND	694	693	694
ODISHA	6743	6797	6784
PUNJAB	4286	4219	4285
RAJASTHAN	25548	25542	25511
SIKKIM	97	97	97
TAMIL NADU	8126	8120	8112
TELANGANA		6929	6877
TRIPURA	274	273	272
UTTARAKHAND	1547	1550	1549
UTTAR PRADESH	19075	18955	18939
WEST BENGAL	5673	5662	5655
A&N ISLAND	28	28	28
CHANDIGARH	1	1	1
D & N HAVELI	24	24	24
DAMAN & DIU	3	3	3
DELHI	53	53	53
LAKSHADWEEP	2	2	2
PUDUCHERRY	30	30	29
ALL INDIA	182085	181850	181886

Source: Directorate of Economics & Statistics, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.
