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27.	Uttarakhand	03.12.2010	Nil
28.	West Bengal	13.12.2010	Nil
29.	Andaman & Nicobar	10.02.2011	Nil
30.	Govt. of NCT of Delhi	25.11.2010	Nil
31.	Daman and Diu	19.11.2010	Nil
32.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	15.12.2010	Nil
33.	Lakshadweep	04.12.2010	Nil
34.	Puducherry	2009 (24.03.2010)	Nil
		2010	NA
35.	Chandigarh	14.02.2011	Nil

Scheme to save arable land

†950. SHRI NARESH CHANDRA AGRAWAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the arable land area in hectare in the country at present and the annual production of foodgrains on that land;

(b) the demand of foodgrains in comparison to the production and the quantum of foodgrains imported to meet the demand;

(c) whether it is a fact that 10 per cent of current arable land is being used annually in industry, establishment and urbanization, if so, whether Government is working upon any scheme to save the arable land in view of this serious situation; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARUN YADAV): (a) and (b) As per available estimates (2008-09), the total area of arable/agricultural land is 182.385 million hectare across the country. As per the second advance estimates of Directorate of Economics

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

& Statistics, the annual production of foodgrains is 232.07 million tones in the year 2010-11 against the corresponding demand of 229.12 million tones in the country. Import of rice and wheat on Government account was not undertaken during last two years and current year.

(c) and (d) Government of India, Ministry of Agriculture do not maintain data on diversion of agricultural land for non-agricultural purposes such as urbanization, roads, industries, housing etc. With a view to prevent land degradation and to maintain balance in various types of land uses, Government of India is implementing various Watershed Development Programmes namely; National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas (NWDPRA), Soil Conservation in the Catchments of River Valley Project and Flood Prone River (RVP & FPR), Reclamation and Development of Alkali & Acid Soils (RADAS), Watershed Development Project in Shifting Cultivation Areas (WDPSCA), Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) etc. across the country.

Protection of fertile land

951. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANAPATHI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for farm commodities should be 50 per cent higher than well calculated input costs to enable farm families to earn out a decent living;

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government in this regard;

(c) whether it is also a fact that farmers' organizations had demanded a new Act to protect the fertile land; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARUN YADAV): (a) and (b) The National Commission on Farmers under the Chairmanship of Prof. M.S. Swaminathan had recommended that the Minimum Support Price (MSP) should be atleast 50% more than the weighed average cost of production. This recommendation, however, has not been accepted by the Government because MSP is recommended by the Commission for Agricultural Cost and Prices (CACP) based on objective criteria and considering variety of relevant factors. Hence, prescribing an increasing of at least 50% on cost may distort market. A mechanical linkage between MSP and cost of production may be counter-productive in some cases.