

Impact of change in land use on agricultural productivity

*218. SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that farmers in Punjab and Haryana are shifting away from rice and wheat cultivation to other cash crops;

(b) if so, the probable impact of this shift on the production of rice and wheat in the country;

(c) whether it is also a fact that large chunks of agricultural land have been converted to non-agricultural use; and

(d) if so, the impact of such change in land use on agricultural productivity in the country?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Details of area coverage under rice, wheat and cash crops *i.e.* sugarcane and cotton in Punjab and Haryana during 2007-08 to 2012-13 are given in the table below:-

State		Area coverage (lakh hectares)					
	Crop	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13*
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Punjab	Rice	26.10	27.35	28.02	28.31	28.18	28.45
	Wheat	34.88	35.26	35.22	35.10	35.28	35.22
	Sugarcane	1.10	0.81	0.60	0.70	0.80	0.83
	Cotton	6.04	5.27	5.11	5.30	5.60	4.81

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Haryana	Rice	10.75	12.10	12.05	12.45	12.35	12.15
	Wheat	24.62	24.62	24.92	25.15	25.22	24.97
	Sugarcane	1.40	0.90	0.74	0.85	0.95	1.01
	Cotton	4.83	4.55	5.07	4.92	6.41	6.14

* 4th Advance Estimates

The above figures indicate that there is no shift in area under cultivation in Punjab and Haryana from rice and wheat to cash crops.

Production of rice in the country increased from 96.69 million tonnes in 2007-08 to 104.40 million tonnes in 2012-13 (4th Advance Estimates). During the above period, production of wheat increased from 78.57 million tonnes to 92.46 million tonnes.

(c) and (d) As per latest Land Use Statistics, during 2007-08 to 2010-11, the agricultural land in the country marginally declined by 0.4 million hectares and the area under non-agricultural uses increased by 0.6 million hectares. However, production of foodgrains in the country increased from 230.78 million tonnes in 2007-08 to 244.49 million tonnes in 2010-11 and further to 255.36 million tonnes in 2012-13 (4th advance estimates) due to increase in productivity and cropping intensity.

Request for sharing cost of ROB

†*219. CHAUDHARY MUNAVVER SALEEM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a request has been made to the State Government of Madhya Pradesh for its concurrence for sharing the cost of the Road Overbridge (ROB) on the Khari Phatak railway crossing in Vidisha town; and

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.