

Shrinking in acreage of land under cultivation in hilly areas

†1741. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that due to the increasing influence of wild animals in the hilly areas of Uttarakhand, farmers have reduced acreage of land under cultivation in those areas;

(b) if so, whether Government would constitute a team of agricultural scientists to explore the measures for carrying out alternative farming in place of agricultural crops; and

(c) if not, the steps Ministry is going to take to compensate the shrinkage in acreage of land under cultivation in hilly areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR) : (a) The total cultivated land (Net sown area + current fallows) in Uttarakhand during 2001-02 was 8.12 lakh hectare, which has reduced to 7.63 lakh hectare in 2011-12. Net sown area has reduced from 7.76 lakh hectare in 2001-02 to 7.14 lakh hectare in 2011-12. Year wise details for the same is given in statement (*See below*). The reduction in acreage is attributed mainly to urbanisation, industrialisation, migration and menace of wild animals.

(b) and (c) No proposal for alternative farming has so far been received from State Government of Uttarakhand. However, Government of India, in consultation with Ministry of Environment and Forests is advocating the State Governments to promote use of traditional/chemical repellents, trenches, live /solar electric fencing, bio-fencing and other innovative methods to reduce the damage to crops caused by wild animals like blue bulls, monkeys, elephants, etc. in the areas adjoining the forests. Besides this, State of Uttarakhand is implementing various crop development programmes like National Food Security Mission, Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana and Horticulture Mission for North East and Himalayan States to enhance the production and productivity of food grains, cash crops and horticulture crops.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Statement

Details of Cultivated Land Area and Net Sown Area in Uttarakhand from 2001-02 to 2011-12 in Uttarakhand.

| Year | Cultivated Land Area (Net Sown Area + Current Fallows) | Net Sown Area |
|---------|---|---------------|
| 2001-02 | 8.12 | 7.76 |
| 2002-03 | 8.00 | 7.59 |
| 2003-04 | 8.04 | 7.61 |
| 2004-05 | 8.08 | 7.67 |
| 2005-06 | 8.09 | 7.68 |
| 2006-07 | 8.09 | 7.65 |
| 2007-08 | 7.91 | 7.55 |
| 2008-09 | 7.89 | 7.54 |
| 2009-10 | 7.73 | 7.37 |
| 2010-11 | 7.66 | 7.23 |
| 2011-12 | 7.63 | 7.14 |

Source: Directorate of Economics and Statistics

Growth Rate in Agriculture Sector

1742. SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the growth rate realized in agriculture sector during Eleventh and Twelfth Five Year Plan period;

(b) whether Government is satisfied with the performance of agriculture sector and taken mid term corrective action to boost the growth rate;

(c) if so, the details thereof, including the targeted and actual growth realized;

(d) whether Government has set any target for growth rate in agriculture for