

(d) the steps taken by Government to ensure sustainable growth of farm sector to meet food security of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJIBHAI KUNDARIA): (a) and (b) The growth rate of agriculture (including agriculture, livestock, forestry and fishery subsectors) has shown improvement from 2.5% during the 9th Plan and 2.4% during the 10th Plan to 4.1% during the 11th Plan. As per the latest estimates released by Central Statistics Office, growth rate of Agriculture and Allied sectors (including agriculture, livestock, forestry and fishery subsectors) is 4.7% during 2013-14.

Further, the productivity of food grains has increased from 1535 Kg. Hectare in 2002-03 to 2101 Kg. Hectare in 2013-14 and the production of food grains has increased from 174.8 million tonnes in 2002-03 to 264.8 million tonnes in 2013-14.

(c) and (d) Government has taken several steps to increase agricultural production and productivity and to ensure sustainable growth of the farm sector to meet the requirements of food security by increasing investment, improving farm practices, rural infrastructure and delivery of credit, technology and other inputs and providing remunerative prices for farm produce through increased Minimum Support Prices (MSPs), higher level of procurement and competitive markets. Further, several programmes/schemes for the development of agriculture sector are implemented in a decentralized manner with flexibility to State Governments to formulate and implement appropriate projects to suit their specific requirements.

Decline in fertility of soil

623. SHRI PARVEZ HASHMI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether farmers are gradually shifting towards farming of fruits, vegetables and oilseeds in place of foodgrain crops, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the details of cultivable land available in the country, State/UT-wise;

(c) whether the area under foodgrain cultivation is decreasing due to acquisition of agricultural land for non-agricultural purposes;

(d) whether fertility of soil has declined owing to use of pesticides and if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the corrective measures taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJIBHAI KUNDARIA) : (a) The share of area under foodgrain crops as percentage of total area under crops has gradually come down from

68.9% in 1990-91 to 63.2% in 2011-12, whereas the area under fruits, vegetables and oilseeds witnessed an increase from 17.1% to 19.2%, during the same period.

(b) State/UT-wise details of cultivable land in the country is given in Statement (See below).

(c) Acreage under cultivation of different crops changes in response to shift in consumption patterns, profitability of different crops, urbanization and growth in industrial sector, etc.

(d) and (e) There is no report confirming that the fertility of soil has declined as long as there is judicious use of pesticides. However, indiscriminate and non-judicious use of pesticides may cause soil pollution problems.

Integrated Pest Management (through a combination of agronomic, chemical and biological method) is being implemented to reduce the use of pesticides in the country.

Statement

Cultivable Land in India 2011-12

(Area '000 Hectare)

States/UTs	Cultivable Land
Andhra Pradesh	15894
Arunachal Pradesh	424
Assam	3217
Bihar	6588
Chhattisgarh	5557
Goa	197
Gujarat	12661
Haryana	3698
Himachal Pradesh	817
Jammu and Kashmir	1063
Jharkhand	4288
Karnataka	12850
Kerala	2274
Madhya Pradesh	17284
Maharashtra	21125
Manipur	372

States/UTs	Cultivable Land
Meghalaya	1056
Mizoram	389
Nagaland	686
Odisha	6749
Punjab	4250
Rajasthan	25555
Sikkim	98
Tamil Nadu	8129
Tripura	277
Uttarakhand	1546
Uttar Pradesh	19099
West Bengal	5697
A&N Island	28
Chandigarh	2
D & N Haveli	24
Daman & Diu	4
Delhi	53
Lakshadweep	2
Puducherry	30
ALL INDIA	181983

Source: Land-use Statistics 2011-12, Ministry of Agriculture

Sale of camel milk

624. SHRI TARUN VIJAY : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Research Centre on Camel has approached the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) to authorize the sale of camel milk in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government is considering to permit the sale of camel milk in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?