

problem, love affair, barrenness/impotency, cancellation/non-settlement of marriage, dowry dispute, fall in social reputation, causes not known, etc.

Causes of farmers suicide due to agrarian reasons, *inter-alia*, include indebtedness, crop failure, drought, socio-economic and personal.

(c) Agriculture, being a state subject, State Governments take appropriate measures for development of the same. Government of India supplements the efforts of States through policy and budgetary support. Government of India has taken several steps to revitalize the agriculture sector and improve condition of farming community on sustainable basis by increasing investment, improving farm practices, rural infrastructure, extension, marketing, etc. Various programmes/schemes for the development of agriculture sector are being implemented in a decentralized manner with flexibility to State Governments to formulate and implement appropriate projects to suit their specific requirements. The focus of Government is primarily on expansion of farm income, creation of non-farm income opportunities, improvement in productivity of rainfed agriculture, increasing coverage of farming areas under protective irrigation and forging appropriate backward and forward linkages. Other measures taken by the Government for the benefit of farmers include enhancement in minimum support prices of agricultural commodities, increase in credit flow to agriculture sector, debt waiver/relief, interest subvention on crop loans, revival package for strengthening Short Term Rural Cooperative Credit Structure, etc.

#### **Cultivable land in the country**

† 1793. DR. CHANDRAPAL SINGH YADAV : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the area of cultivable land in the country; and
- (b) whether there has been any increase in area of cultivable land during last ten years and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJIBHAI KUNDARIYA) : (a) and (b) As per the latest available Land Use Statistics data, area of cultivable land in the country during last ten years is as given in the table below:-

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Year	Cultivable Land in 000' ha
2002-2003	183450
2003-2004	183132
2004-2005	182946
2005-2006	182686
2006-2007	182476
2007-2008	182438
2008-2009	182459
2009-2010	182179
2010-2011	182018
2011-2012	181983

#### **Adoption of Dr. B. Meenakumari Committee Report on Fishing**

1794. SHRI K.N. BALAGOPAL : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has accepted and adopted the Dr. B. Meenakumari Committee Report related to fishing, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether any apprehension and concerns by indigenous fishermen and traders were noticed by Government, if so, the steps taken on the basis of that?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN) : (a) and (b) Report of the Expert Committee constituted under the Chairpersonship of Dr. B. Meenakumari for comprehensive review of deep-sea fishing Policy and Guidelines has been received in the Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying & Fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture in August, 2014. Representations from some quarters have been received on the report. The report has been placed on the website of the Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries inviting comments from all stakeholders.

#### **New scheme for crop insurance**

1795. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken on the proposal of Government of Odisha for introduction of