

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJIBHAI KUNDARIYA): (a) to (c) In order to protect farmers against crop failure, Government of India at present, is implementing National Agricultural Insurance Scheme and National Crop Insurance Programme (NCIP) with component schemes of Modified National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (MNAIS), Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme (WBCIS) and Coconut Palm Insurance Scheme (CPIS). Further, improvement in crop insurance schemes to make these more scientific and to better serve the interest of farmers is a continuous process and Government is desirous to develop a new crop insurance scheme to protect them against both yield and price losses. At present, Government is in the process of finalization of details in consultation with various stakeholders.

**Diversion of agricultural land for other purposes**

2565. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN:

SHRI A.K. SELVARAJ:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that cultivable land is being diverted for industrial and construction purposes;

(b) whether Government has taken any initiative to increase the net cultivable land in the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJIBHAI KUNDARIYA): (a) to (d) As per available estimates, cultivable land has marginally decreased from 182.68 million hectare (2005-06) to 181.98 million hectare (2011-12) in the country, mainly due diversion of agricultural land for non-agricultural purposes such as urbanization, roads, industries housing etc. However, due to various technological interventions, production of foodgrains has increased from 234.5 million tonnes in 2008-09 to 257.1 million tonnes in 2012-13 which has further increased to 264.8 million tonnes in 2013-14 (4th Advance Estimates).

With a view to prevent soil erosion, land degradation and to maintain balance in various types of land uses, Government of India, Ministry of Agriculture was implementing various programmes namely; National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas (NWDPA), Soil Conservation in the Catchments of River Valley Project and Flood Prone River (RVP&FPR) and Reclamation and Development of Alkali and Acid Soils (RADAS) through Macro Management of Agriculture (MMA) Scheme across the country upto March, 2013. Now, Ministry of Rural Development

is implementing a major Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) for restoring ecological balance by harnessing, conserving & developing degraded lands in the country. Parts of degraded lands developed under these programmes are also brought under cultivation to maintain balance in different types of land uses.

As per the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India, land falls under the purview of State Governments and, therefore, it is for the State Governments to bring in suitable Policy/Act/Legislation to prevent diversion of agricultural land for non-agricultural purposes. Government of India has formulated National Policy for Farmers, 2007, National Rehabilitation and Resettlement Policy, 2007 and Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013. These Policies/Act also envisage prevention of diversion of agricultural land for non-agricultural purposes.

**Decline in production due to deficient monsoon**

2566. SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR:

SHRI ARVIND KUMAR SINGH:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether as per the recent estimates of the Ministry, India's foodgrain production is likely to decline during 2014-15 due to deficient monsoon, if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(b) whether Government is aware that heavy rains in northern India in March 2015 would also aggravate the situation and miseries of farmers who are already committing suicides due to non-profitable agriculture, if so, the response of Government thereto; and

(c) the measures Government would take to ensure profit to farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJIBHAI KUNDARIYA): (a) As per 2nd Advance Estimates for 2014-15 released on 18th February, 2015, total production of foodgrains in the country is estimated at 257.07 million tonnes which is lower by 3.20% than the record production of 265.57 million tonnes of foodgrains achieved during 2013-14. State-wise details of foodgrains production in the country during 2013-14 and 2014-15 are given in the Statement (*See* below).

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The recent unseasonal rains and hailstorms in Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Haryana, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh and West Bengal have adversely affected production of rabi crops and further aggravated the overall production of agricultural crops during 2014-15.