

Conversion of waste land into arable land

†2586. DR. CHANDRAPAL SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the area of land in hilly and plateau region converted into arable land throughout the decade; and

(b) the details of area of waste land converted into arable land?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJIBHAI KUNDARIYA): (a) and (b) As per the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India, land and its management comes under the purview of State Governments. However, as per the latest available Land Use Statistics data, “barren and unculturable land” which includes land covered by mountains, deserts etc. has declined from 17414 thousand hectare in 2001-02 to 17227 hectare in 2011-12 and area of, ‘culturable wastelands’ has decreased from 13520 thousand hectare in 2001-2002 to 12636 thousand hectare in 2011-12.

Scheme for poor fishermen

2587. SHRI ANUBHAV MOHANTY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the schemes Government have for poor fishermen who do not have their own fishing boats; and

(b) the other schemes Government have to provide financial help and sustainable livelihood to the poor fishermen?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN): (a) The Ministry of Agriculture, Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries implements a Central Sector Scheme on National Scheme of Welfare of Fishermen for both inland and marine sector. The scheme has four components namely (i) Development of Model Fishermen village, (ii) Group Accident Personal Insurance, (iii) Saving-cum-Relief and (iv) Training and Extension. The component on Saving-cum-Relief is implemented for benefit of fishermen who are engaged in active fishing, member of cooperative society/federation/welfare society, lives below poverty line, does not own mechanized fishing boat/bench landing craft and below 60 years of age.

(b) The other schemes implemented by the Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries to provide financial help and sustainable livelihood are as below:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (i) Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Development of Marine Fisheries, Infrastructure and Post Harvest Operations.
- (ii) Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Development of Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture.
- (iii) Central Sector Scheme on National Fisheries Development Board.

Aluminium toxicity in earth's crust

†2588. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that according to research done by Biotechnology Department of Ch. Charan Singh Agriculture University, Meerut, the aluminium toxicity present in the earth's crust is causing the extinction of several crop species;

(b) if so, the names of the places where such situation persist;

(c) the steps taken by Government to tackle this situation;

(d) whether Government has made available any information to the farmers of the aluminum toxicity affected areas in this regard so that farmers can have good harvest; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN): (a) The Biotechnology Department at Ch. Charan Singh University, Meerut, has published a review article "*Molecular basis of aluminium toxicity in plants – A review*" in 2013; and as such the University did not conduct research on aluminium toxicity. However toxicity of aluminium to crop plants is a limiting factor in areas having acidic soils only. As such extinction of crop species due to aluminium toxicity is not reported in India.

(b) Extreme cases of adverse aluminium toxicity are not reported from India. Soil surveys carried out by Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) show that soils in certain parts of the country (such as North East Region) are acidic in nature. Such soils are prone to aluminium toxicity.

(c) ICAR has developed amelioration technologies for sustainable crop production in acidic-aluminium soils.

(d) Krishi Vigyan Kendras, ICAR-Institutes, State Agricultural Universities and State Departments of Agriculture of North Eastern States are providing information/package of practices for acidic-aluminium soil conditions to farmers.

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