

Sl. No.	Name of the State	2013-14	2014-15
30.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	6.80	1.00
31.	Chandigarh	3.19	0.00
32.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	1.11	3.70
33.	Daman and Diu	0.93	0.00
34.	NCT Delhi	50.00	48.53
35.	Lakshadweep	0.34	0.00
36.	Puducherry	0.00	0.00
	SUB TOTAL-3	62.37	53.23
	TOTAL	6151.84	1504.84

**Buffer Zone for fishing**

1392. SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :-

(a) whether Government recognizes the fact that traditional fishermen and small motorised fishing craft in the ten coastal States have been using the waters between 200 m and 500 m depth as their fishing grounds;

(b) whether Government recognizes the fact that a recent Expert Committee's recommendation that water between 200 m and 500 m be kept as buffer zone, will hurt the livelihood of these fishermen;

(c) whether the recommendation to throw open off-shore regions for fishing by foreign and joint venture companies would also work against the interest of the local fishermen; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN) : (a) and (b) The Expert Committee constituted under the chairpersonship of Dr. B. Meenakumari for a comprehensive review of deep sea fishing Policy and Guidelines has *inter-alia* suggested that the waters between 200m to 500 m depth zone may be kept as a buffer zone to augment the resources in both the near-shore waters as well as in the off-shore areas. However, considering the concerns and apprehensions expressed by stakeholders, the Government has announced that the concept for creation of buffer zone will not be accepted.

(c) There is no recommendation to throw open off-shore regions for fishing by foreign and joint venture companies. Further, the Government has also announced that the foreign fishing vessels will not be allowed in Indian waters.

(d) Does not arise.

#### **Plantation of GM crops**

1393. SHRI PALVAI GOVARDHAN REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has surpassed Canada and attained fourth position in terms of area planted under Genetically Modified (GM) crops;

(b) whether it is a fact that 90 per cent of the said crops constitute cotton alone; and

(c) the other GM crops that India is producing and how those can be compared with other GM crops producing countries of the world?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN) : (a) Yes, Sir. It is true that Indian occupies the fourth place globally in terms of area under GM crops.

(b) and (c) Cotton occupies only 14% of the global GM crop coverage in terms of area, after Soybean (50%) and Maize (30%); however Bt. Cotton is the only GM crop allowed for cultivation in India.

#### **Reclamation of land unsuitable for agriculture**

†1394. SHRI ASHK ALI TAK: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 1.47 lakh hectares of land out of the total 3.29 lakh hectares in the country has become unsuitable for cultivation, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether any efforts have been made for reclamation of such land, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJIBHAI KUNDARIYA): (a) As per the latest report on Land Use Statistics for 2011-12 compiled by Directorate of Economics & Statistics,

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.