

(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.

Ministry of Agriculture, out of total Geographical Area of 3287.3 lakh hectares in the country, 1467.5 lakh hectares is non-agricultural land/ area. Area under non-agricultural land consists of forests, area under non-agricultural uses, Barren and un-culturable land, permanent pastures and other grazing land.

(b) The reclamation of area under Non-Agricultural Land is generally not viable due to ecological and cost considerations. However, to improve fertility of soils in the country, the Government under the component of Soil Health Management of National Mission on Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA) is promoting soil test based balanced and integrated nutrient management through setting up/strengthening of soil testing laboratories, establishment of bio-fertilizer and compost units, use of micronutrients, trainings and demonstrations on balanced use of fertilizers etc. Recently, a National Mission on Soil Health Card has been launched to provide soil tested based fertilizer recommendation to all the farmers in the country. Further, Ministry of Rural Development is implementing an Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) for development of rainfed/ degraded areas.

#### **Grant-in-aid to youth to set up dairies**

†1395. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether financial Grant-in-aid is being provided through the Ministry to the youth in the country to set up dairies;

(b) if so, the details of the number of applications received from various States in this regard during Financial Years 2013-14 and 2014-15 along with the number of youths provided with financial grant-in-aid; and

(c) whether Government would make provision for more funds under head keeping in view the increasing population of youths in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJIBHAI KUNDARIYA): (a) to (c) The Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries does not have any scheme to provide Grant-in-aid to the youth in the country to set up dairies.

However, this department is implementing "Dairy Entrepreneurship Development Scheme" (DEDS) through National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) across the country with an aim to generate self employment opportunities

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.