

Decrease in area of cultivable land

1367. SHRI ANUBHAV MOHANTY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a constant decrease in the percentage of area of land under cultivation in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor along with the decreasing trend since last ten years to till date;

(c) whether the Ministry considers seriously reviewing the agriculture policy in order to float more lucrative schemes so that more and more farmers are attracted to their traditional profession of agriculture, farming in the interest of the country and its population;

(d) if so, the details of the proposals; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA): (a) and (b) Depending upon the rainfall situation, availability of water in reservoirs, irrigation facilities etc, over the years there have been minor fluctuations in the total cultivated land in the country. As per Land Use Statistics for 2012-13 (latest available), yearwise details of cultivated land in the country during 2003-04 to 2012-13 are as under:

	(Million Hectare)
Year	Cultivated Land
2003-04	155.20
2004-05	155.43
2005-06	155.37
2006-07	155.33
2007-08	155.66
2008-09	155.09
2009-10	155.18

Year	Cultivated Land
2010-11	155.84
2011-12	155.49
2012-13	155.21

(c) to (e) In consonance with the Government's declaration to double the income of the farmers over the next six (6) years, the Government has constituted an inter-ministerial committee under the Chairmanship of Additional Secretary of the Department to recommend appropriate strategy.

Marketing facilities to onion growers

1368. SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that onion growing farmers were compelled to sell their produce at price lower than the cost of production or to leave their onions openly on roads to rot in Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra during current year in absence of proper marketing facility and remunerative price, if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(b) the reasons for failure of Government to provide marketing facility to onion growers in the country during last two years; and

(c) the measures Government would take to provide marketing facility and remunerative price to farmers during next onion and potato season?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) and (b) As per reports available from State Government of Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra, in current season, no such incidence of farmers leaving their onions openly on the roads to rot has come up. States have reportedly provided better marketing facilities for sale of fruits and vegetables including onions.

(c) In order to provide remunerative prices to the farmers for their agricultural produce including onion and potato, the Government has launched National Agricultural Market (e-NAM) on 14th April, 2016. The scheme aims to facilitate onion and potato growers to sell their produce online, thus accessing to large number of markets and