

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
AGRICULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1932  
ANSWERED ON:04.08.2003  
CULTIVABLE LAND  
BALIRAM KASHYAP;BHAN SINGH BHAURA

**Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Government propose to increase the area of cultivable land in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (c) whether cultivation has not been done on the cultivable land in many parts of Uttar Pradesh during 2002-2003;
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (e) whether the Government propose to provide assistance to farmers for this purposes; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV):

- (a) and (b) The Government of India have been implementing schemes for development of degraded lands, such as:
- (i) Soil Conservation for Enhancing Productivity of Degraded Land in the catchments of River Valley Projects and Flood Prone Rivers.
  - (ii) Reclamation of Alkali soil.
  - (iii) Watershed Development project in Shifting Cultivation Areas in North-Eastern Region.

The area consisting of net sown area and fallow land was 166 Million hectares-in 1999-2000. State-wise details are enclosed as statement.

- (c) and (d) The area sown under several crops decreased in Uttar Pradesh in the year 2002-03 as compared to the previous year due to drought in several parts of the State.
- (e) and (f) Special Drought Relief price ranging from Rs. 5 to Rs. 20 over and above the Minimum Support Prices per Quintal in respect of Kharif and Rabi crops of 2002-03 were announced by the Government to provide relief to the farming community.