

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:266
ANSWERED ON:12.12.2005
MARGINAL /SMALL FARMERS
Singh Shri Lakshman

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the percentage of marginal and small farmers as per the census of 1990-91;
- (b) the total land being cultivated by them, State-wise;
- (c) whether the Government has taken any steps to diversify marginal and small farmers from agriculture to areas like dairy, fisheries, poultry etc. to increase their income; and
- (d) if so, the details in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH)

(a) to (d): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 266 DUE FOR REPLY ON 12TH DECEMBER, 2005.

(a) to (d): The percentage of marginal and small farmers as per the Agricultural Census 1990-91 was 59.4 and 18.8. percent respectively.

A statement showing state-wise area operated by the marginal and small farmers during 1990-91 is enclosed (Annexure-I).

The Government is implementing different schemes, which enable farmers to supplement their income by diversifying into dairying, fisheries and poultry sectors.

The following schemes in the fisheries sector provide financial assistance in the form of subsidy to fishermen.

(i) Development of Inland fisheries and Aquaculture with the following components:-

Development of Freshwater Aquaculture;

Development of Brackish water Aquaculture;

Development of Coldwater Fisheries and Aquaculture in the Hilly Regions;

Development of Water-logged Areas into Aquaculture Estates;

Utilization of Inland Saline/Alkaline Soils for Aquaculture; and

Inland Capture Fisheries.

The scheme on Central Poultry Development Organization addresses employment generation and subsidiary income earning. The Centrally Sponsored Scheme `Assistance to State Poultry farms` is mainly oriented towards giving impetus to rural poultry development programmes. Government has taken a new initiative to implement the Project on `Rural Backyard Poultry` in which assistance is extended to backyard poultry rearers including training and services.

A new scheme `Dairy/Poultry venture Capital Fund` has been launched during the year 2004-05, wherein there is a provision to grant subsidy on interest payment. Components like establishment of poultry, breeding farm, establishment of feed godowns, feed mills, feed analytical laboratories, marketing of poultry products (specialized transport vehicles, cool room storage facilities and retention sheds for birds etc.). Egg grading, packing and storage for export capacity, Retail poultry dressing unit (300 birds per day), Egg/broiler carts for sale of poultry products and Central grower unit etc. are considered for financing under this Scheme.

Under the dairying sector, the following Dairy Development Schemes are implemented for the benefit of farmers including marginal and small farmers:

Intensive Dairy Development Programme

Assistance to Cooperatives

Strengthening Infrastructure for Quality and Clean Milk production

Dairy/Poultry Venture Capital Fund.

Annexure-I

Area operated by marginal and small holdings as per Agriculture Census 1990-91

(Area in thousand hectares)

S.No.	States	Marginal holdings	Small holdings	Other holdings	All holdings
1	Andhra Pradesh	2369	2827	9264	14460
2	Arunachal Pradesh	10	26	314	350
3	Assam	607	784	1814	3205
4	Bihar	3591	1954	5198	10743
5	Goa	19	11	37	67
6	Gujarat	489	1343	8460	10292
7	Haryana	295	463	2953	3711
8	Himachal Pradesh	215	235	560	1010
9	Jammu & Kashmir	347	272	395	1014
10	Karnataka	1072	2308	8941	12321
11	Kerala	865	383	548	1796
12	Madhya Pradesh	1409	2783	17919	22111
13	Maharashtra	1618	3983	15324	20925
14	Manipur	38	67	197	302
15	Meghalaya	32	68	202	302
16	Mizoram	18	36	30	84
17	Nagaland	9	30	929	968
18	Orissa	1045	1426	2825	5296
19	Punjab	164	328	3541	4033
20	Rajasthan	725	1469	18777	20971
21	Sikkim	1	19	81	111
22	Tamil Nadu	2118	1794	3562	7474
23	Tripura	87	106	115	308
24	Uttar Pradesh	5653	4391	7942	17986
25	West Bengal	2064	1694	1898	5656
26	All Union Terr.	25	25	90	140
	All India	24894	28827	111786	165507