

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:168
ANSWERED ON:20.02.2006
CULTIVATION AREA OF PADDY
Mohale Shri Punnulal

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the total area in the country including Chhatisgarh where paddy crop is cultivated;
- (b) whether the cultivation area under paddy crop in the country has declined during the last three years;
- (c) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government to enhance the paddy cultivation area and encourage the production of paddy in the country particularly in Chhattisgarh?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA)

(a): The normal area (average of 5 years from 1999-2000 to 2003-04) under rice cultivation is 43.69 million hectares out of which 3.77 million hectares are in Chhattisgarh.

(b) and (c): The following table shows the cultivation area under paddy crop in the country for the years 2002-03 to 2004-05:

Year Area (Million Hectares)

2002-03	41.18
2003-04	42.50
2004-05	42.12#

= 4th Advance Estimate.

It could be seen from the above table, that the area under paddy cultivation was around 41 million hectares in 2002-03, the year which was affected by drought. However, area under paddy increased to more than 42 million hectares in 2003-04 and 2004-05 due to better monsoon rainfall.

(d): The Central Government has been implementing Cereals Development Programme in Rice Based Cropping Systems Areas (ICDP-Rice) with a view to promote rice cultivation in the country including Chhattisgarh. The scheme has been subsumed under Macro management Mode of Agriculture with effect from October, 2000. This scheme is being implemented on 90:10 sharing basis between Government of India (GOI) and the States. Under the scheme, assistance is provided for propagation of improved production technology, hybrid rice production technology, integrated pest management through field demonstrations; training of farmers including women; transfer of technology through electronic media and published literature; farm implements; installation of sprinkler irrigation system; varietal replacement and production of certified seeds, as per the Work Plan of the State Governments. Besides, Frontline Demonstrations are also organized by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) on farmer's fields on 100 percent GOI assistance. Under Macro Management Mode of Agriculture, States have been provided flexibility to choose any scheme or its components as per their specific need.