

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3506
ANSWERED ON:15.05.2006
LOSS OF CULTIVABLE LAND IN ASSAM
Sarma Dr. Arun Kumar

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the extent of permanent loss of cultivable land area of Assam during the last decade by way of erosion, unfertile silt deposition and diversion of river channel;
- (b) whether any assessment has been made by the Union Government to ascertain the extent of such annual loss and damages;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the steps taken to check such loss of cultivable land in Assam?

Answer

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

(a) to (e): As per available estimate, the cultivable land has been 3.23 million ha. in 1994-95 and 3.22 million ha. in 2003-04 in the State of Assam, as such there is no major change in cultivable land. According to the assessment made by Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), about 2.22 million ha. area (28.21%) is suffering from various categories of land degradation, out of total geographical area of 7.84 million ha. in the State of Assam as per details given below:-

Land Degradation Extent of Area
in million ha.

Water erosion	0.69
Water logging	0.04
Soil acidity	0.61
Complex problem	0.88
Total Degraded area	2.22

Government of India is implementing four Watershed Development Programmes, namely,

- (i) National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas (NWDPR),
- (ii) Soil Conservation for Enhancing the Productivity of Degraded Lands in the Catchments of River Valley Project and Flood Prone River (RVP & FPR),
- (iii) Watershed Development Project for Shifting Cultivation Areas (WDPSCA), and
- (iv) Integrated Wasteland Development Programme (IWDP) for checking the soil erosion and thereby prevention of land degradation in the country, including Assam. Scheme-wise physical and financial achievements during Tenth Five Year Plan (2002-2006) for the State of Assam are as under:-

Name of the Programmes Achievements during X Plan (2002-2006)
Phy. (lakh.ha.) Fin (Rs.lakh)

NWDPR	0.10	468.13
RVP & FPR	0.05	248.27
WDPSCA	0.16	1405.00
IWDP	4.87	9747.00
TOTAL	5.18	11868.40