

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
AGRICULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4836

ANSWERED ON:12.08.2014

AGRICULTURAL HOLDINGS

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

- (a) whether there has been an increase in fragmentation of cultivable land/a sharp decline in per capita availability of cultivable land in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government has assessed/proposes to assess the contribution of rainfed areas/monsoon dependent areas in agricultural production in the country;
- (d) if so, the details and the outcome thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to increase arable land as well as to check the shift of farmers to other sector in the country?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN)

(a) & (b): Agriculture Census in India is conducted at an interval of five years to collect data on operational holdings in the country. As per results of Agriculture Census conducted during 2005-06 and 2010-11, the number of operational holdings has increased from 129.22 million in 2005-06 to 138.35 million in 2010-11 and the average size of operational holdings has declined from 1.23 hectare in 2005-06 to 1.15 hectare in 2010-11.

(c) & (d): Estimates for production of agricultural crops are prepared for the District/ State and Country as a whole and separate estimates, to assess contribution of rainfed and irrigated areas in the total agricultural production in the country, are not prepared by the Ministry of Agriculture.

(e):The important measures taken by the Government to increase arable land in the country include development of location specific bio-engineering measures and reclamation technologies to make the barren/waste land cultivable, implementation of Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) for developing wasteland/degraded land to increase productivity of land in rainfed areas, etc.

Government is taking several steps including; conducting research in farmers' participatory mode with due consideration of farmers' resource availability for development of location specific and cost effective technologies making farming more profitable, implementation of All India Coordinated Research Projects (AICRP) on development of Integrated Farming System (IFS) for enhancing the productivity, profitability and livelihood of farming community etc. to check shift of farmers to other sectors in the country.