

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE & FARMERS WELFARE  
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE & FARMERS WELFARE

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1945**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 23/12/2022

**REDUCTION IN CULTIVATION AREA OF PADDY FARMING**

1945. SHRI S NIRANJAN REDDY

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE & FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is a 16.4 per cent decline in the area used for cultivation of paddy due to depleting groundwater levels, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether Government intends to bring a policy or incentivize farmers for diversification of crops, especially in regions facing acute shortage of groundwater levels; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE & FARMERS WELFARE

(SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

- (a) As per report on Land Use Statistics for 2018-19 (latest available), the details of area used for cultivation of paddy in the country since 2014-15 are given at **Annexure**.
- (b) and (c) The Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare is supplementing the efforts of State governments to encourage diversified production of crops such as pulses, coarse cereals, nutri cereals, cotton & oilseed under National Food Security Mission (NFSM) and high value horticultural crops under Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH). Crop Diversification Programme (CDP), a sub-scheme of Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) is also being implemented in original Green Revolution States viz; Haryana, Punjab and Western Uttar Pradesh since 2013-14 to divert the area of paddy crop to alternative crops like pulses, oilseeds, coarse cereals, nutri cereals, cotton etc. CDP has been extended to diversify tobacco crop in 10 tobacco growing states of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal since 2015-16. The Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare also provides flexibility to the states for state specific needs/priorities under RKVY. The state can promote crop diversification under RKVY with the approval of State Level Sanctioning Committee (SLSC) headed by Chief Secretary of the State.

**Annexure referred in reply to part (a) of Rajya Sabha Un-Starred Q. No. 1945 due for answer on 23/12/2022**

Details of Area under Paddy in the country from 2014-15 to 2018-19 (latest available)

(in thousand hectare)

<b>Year</b>	<b>Area Under the Crops</b>
2014-15	44237
2015-16	43381
2016-17	44537
2017-18	45059
2018-19	45416

Source: Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare