

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 982
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 10/02/2023

DEVELOPMENT OF ARABLE LAND IN ASSAM

982. SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA:

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

- (a) whether Government has extended all possible help to the tribals living in remote area of Assam for development of arable land, if so, the names of crops being cultivated in these areas;
- (b) the total area in hectares of arable land in the country, especially Assam;
- (c) whether Government has formulated any scheme for expansion of arable land with a view to tackle foodgrain crisis in the country, if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the area of barren land is also increasing in many North Eastern States; and
- (e) if so, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE & FARMERS WELFARE

(SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

(a) to (e): As per the Seventh Schedule of Constitution of India, land comes under the purview of State Governments. Therefore, State Governments are to take suitable steps for development of arable land in the State. However, Government of India supplements the efforts of States, through appropriate policy measures and budgetary support. Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare is implementing various programmes/ schemes viz. Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana, National Food Security Mission, Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture, Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana, Rainfed Area Development component of National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture, Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana, Mission Organic Value Chain Development for North Eastern Region (MOVCDNER), etc. for development of agriculture sector benefitting all farmers of the country including tribals of Assam. The principal crops produced in the tribal and remote areas of Assam are paddy, rapeseed, mustard, maize, sugarcane, blackgram, greengram, jute, tea, etc.

As a result of the various efforts of Government, the food grain production in the country has increased from 275.11 MT in 2016-17 to 315.72 MT in 2021-22 as per Fourth Advance Estimates of 2021-22.

As per the latest Land Use Statistics-at a glance 2010-11 to 2019-20, the arable land in the country during 2019-20 is 17,99,93,287 ha, which includes 32,96,258 ha in Assam. The barren land in the North Eastern States was 15,90,448 ha in 2010-11, which decreased to 14,01,362 ha during 2019-20.
