

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**  
**MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE**  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**QUESTION NO 12.11.2010**  
**ANSWERED ON**  
**SCHEME FOR EXPANSION OF ARABLE LAND .**

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Shri Bhagat Singh Koshyari

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :-

- (a) the total area in hectares of arable land in the country, State-wise;
- (b) whether in view of the foodgrain crisis in the country, any scheme for expansion of arable land is under consideration of Government; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE  
MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION

(SHRI K.V. THOMAS)

(a): A statement showing State-wise total area of arable land is placed at Annexure-I.

(b) & (c): With a view to contain foodgrains crisis and to prevent soil erosion, land degradation and maintaining balance in different types of uses, Government of India, Ministry of Agriculture, is implementing various watershed development programmes; namely National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas (NWDPA), Soil Conservation in the Catchments of River Valley Project and Flood Prone River (RVP & FPR), Reclamation and Development of Alkali & Acid Soils (RADAS) and Watershed Development Project in Shifting Cultivation Areas (WDPSCA) across the country. Under these programmes, in last three years (2007-2010), an area of 19.57 lakh hectares has been developed at an expenditure of Rs.1685.08 crore. During 2010-11 also an amount of Rs.555.71 crore has been allocated for development of 5.8 lakh hectares.