

1	2	3
23.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	1
24.	Arunachal Pradesh	19
25.	Dadar & Nagar Haveli	—
26.	Chandigarh	Not available
27.	Delhi	18
28.	Goa, Daman & Diu	16
29.	Lakshadweep	—
30.	Mizoram	201
31.	Pondicherry	(a)
32.	All India	20167

(a) Below 500 hectares.

Putting Farmland to Non-Agricultural Use

1144. SHRI R. P. GAEKWAD :
Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE
be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the growing trend in various States in the country of putting farmland to non-agricultural use and thus allowing degradation of soil;

(b) whether Central Government have issued necessary guidelines to States to protect green land, forests and natural environment while planning for industrial and economic development; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN
THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE
(SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Government of India have been repeatedly stressing to all the States and Union Territories that good agricultural land should not be diverted for other uses especially when less productive land is available. The increasing requirement of food on account of population increase and attendant developmental activities, make very essential

to conserve as much land as possible for agricultural production and not to permit its diversion to non-agricultural purposes, except when such diversion subserves an important public purposes. Even there, diversion is to be limited to the minimum. States and Union Territories have been further advised to have State Land Use Boards to look into this matter. The National Land Board which is represented by a Minister each, from the States and Union Territories in its first meeting held on 7th March, 1984 recommended that the States and Union Territories will ensure by all possible means that good agricultural lands are not diverted for non-agricultural purpose. In the tenancy laws of a majority of the States, restrictions have been imposed on diversion of agricultural land to non-agricultural use. Laws of some States, however, provide for such diversion under certain circumstances with the permission of the competent authority.

The Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 provides that prior approval of the Central Government is necessary before any reserved forest land is dereserved or any forest land is diverted to any non-forest purpose by any State Government or

local authority Guidelines have been issued to the States and Union Territories regarding fellings in forests. The following are some of the important instructions in brief regarding fellings in forests communicated to all State Governments and Union Territories :

- (i) Clear-felling in natural forests should be avoided as far as possible.
- (ii) State Governments should consider banning of all fellings above 1000 m. altitude.
- (iii) Critical areas in hills and plains such as :
 - (a) catchments of river valleys
 - (b) those prone to land-slides and erosion
 - (c) those with unstable geological formation, and
 - (d) those in the vicinity of roads, nullahs, etc.

are protected from falling of trees.

Target of C.A.D. Programme in Gujarat

1145. SHRI SHANTUBHAI PATEL : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION be pleased to state :

- (a) the extent of Command Area Development Programme in financial and physical terms (Project-wise) targeted in Gujarat during the Sixth Plan;
- (b) the achievement till today; and
- (c) the reasons for shortfall, if any, and how it is proposed to be covered up ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) The approved Sixth Plan State outlay for Gujarat was Rs. 18 8 crores. The target for construction of field channels was 0.16 million hectares, for land levelling 0.054 million hectares and no

target was fixed for warabandi. The targets have been fixed State-wise and not projectwise.

(b) The State Plan expenditure from 1980-81 to 1982-83 was Rs. 4.754 crores and the anticipated State Plan expenditure during 1983-84 is Rs. 4.7 crores. Besides this amount, matching assistance was released from Government of India amounting to Rs. 10.99 crores from 1980-81 to 1983-84.

The achievement under construction of field channels till 1983-84 is 0.088 million hectares and under land levelling is 0.023 m. ha. The achievement under warabandi till 1983-84 is 0.098 m. ha.

(c) The progress in the first three years of the Sixth Plan was slow as far as construction of field channels is concerned. However, in 1983-84 because of the incentive scheme for field channels whereby 100% of the cost was reimbursed by Government of India for performance over and above the Annual target for the State, achievement in 1983-84 has been almost double the target for the year. In 1984-85 the State is expected to do very well and achieve about 80 to 90% of the Sixth Plan target.

The progress under land levelling has been slow because of the high cost of the works and the consequent reluctance of the farmers to take up this work and delay in recovery of dues. Other problems like lack of necessary technical support, delay in identification of ineligible and eligible farmers have been sorted out by the State Government to a great extent. The State Government is also taking adaptive trials on the efficacy of the sprinkler system in certain areas as an alternative to land shaping and construction of field channels.

Inclusion of Coconut among Oil-seeds

1146. SHRI A. NEELALOHITHA-DASAN NADAR : Will the Minister