

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:191
ANSWERED ON:02.12.2002
SHRINKING OF AGRICULTURAL LAND
CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the cultivable area in the country is gradually shrinking due to exploitation of land for residential and industrial purposes;
- (b) if so, whether the Government are considering bringing any legislation to prevent conversion of agricultural land for any purposes;and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH)

(a) TO (c) A statement is laid on the table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN THE REPLY TO PART (A) TO (C) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.191
02.12.2002.

(a) to (c) The land-use statistics data indicates that the Net Sown Area has increased from 140.27 million hectare in 1980-81 to 142.60 million hectare in 1998-99. During the same period, the area under non-agricultural uses, including for residential and industrial purposes, has increased from 19.66 million hectare to 22.81 million hectare. This indicates that the Net Sown Area has not shrunk and rather it has increased by 2.33 million hectare in last two decades. During the same period, area under non-agricultural uses has also increased by 3.15 million hectare as per details annexed. Since, it implies that even if some agricultural land has been diverted to non-agricultural uses, a large area has also been brought under cultivation through reclamation of wastelands and other degraded lands, thereby, increasing the Net Sown Area.

Land is a State subject and, therefore, to bring legislation to prevent conversion of cultivable land for any other purpose falls under the purview of State Government. Some of the States, through their State Land Use Boards have issued instructions to Line Departments of their Governments to ensure that prime agricultural land is not diverted for non-agricultural uses and if it becomes necessary to do so, then efforts may be made to provide equivalent land in lieu of diverted land. The Government of India provides support to State Land Use Boards.

ANNEXURE

DISTRIBUTION OF AGRICULTURAL LAND BY DIFFERENT USES IN INDIA FOR 1980-81 & 1998-99.

(Area in million hectares)

Sl.No.	Classification of area	1980-81	1998-99
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1	Geographical Area	328.73	328.73
2	Reporting Area for Land Utilisation Statistics		
(i)	to		
(v)	304.15	306.04	

(i)	Forests	67.47 (22.2)	68.87 (22.5)
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(ii) Not available for cultivation (a+b)

(a) Area under non-agricultural uses 19.66 (6.4) 22.81 (7.4)
(b) Barren and un-culturable land 19.96 (6.6) 19.55 (6.4)

(iii) Other Uncultivated land excluding Fallow Land (a+b+c)

(a) Permanent Pastures & other Grazing Lands 11.97 (3.9) 11.10 (3.6)
(b) Land under miscellaneous crops and groves not included in Net Sown Area 3.60 (1.2) 3.60 (1.2)
(c) Culturable Waste Land 16.74 (5.5) 13.97 (4.6)

(iv) Fallow Lands (a+b)

(a) Fallow Land other than Current Fallows 9.92 (3.3) 9.91 (3.2)
(b) Current Fallows 14.83 (4.9) 13.53 (4.4)

(v) Net Sown Area (vi - vii) 140.27 (46.0) 142.60 (46.6)

(vi) Total cropped area (Gross cropped area) 172.63 192.62

(vii) Area sown more than once 32.63 50.02

(viii) Cropping intensity # 123.3 135.10

3 Not irrigated area 38.72 57.03
4 Gross irrigated area 49.78 75.55

Cropping intensity is percentage of the gross cropped area to the net sown area.

Note: Figures in parentheses indicate percentage to Reported Area.