

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:452
ANSWERED ON:27.04.2010
FORMULATION OF LAND POLICY
Anuragi Shri Ghansyam ;Ram Shri Purnmasi

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of barren land converted into agricultural land during the last three years, State-wise;
- (b) whether the Government has taken note of the increasing number of cases of conversion of agricultural land for non-agricultural purposes;
- (c) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to formulate a policy to stop conversion/use of agricultural land for other purposes; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR)

(a) to (e): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 452 DUE FOR REPLY ON 27TH APRIL, 2010.

(a): Available data indicates that extent of total barren lands has marginally declined from 17.46 million ha. in 2005-06 to 17.29 million ha. in 2007-08. The State-wise extent of barren and un-culturable land is annexed.

(b) to (e): The National Policy for Farmers, 2007 envisages that prime farmland must be conserved for agriculture except under exceptional circumstances, provided that the agencies that are provided with agricultural land for non-agricultural projects should compensate for treatment and full development of equivalent degraded/wastelands elsewhere. For non-agricultural purposes, as far as possible, land with low biological potential for farming would be earmarked and allocated. State Governments have been advised to earmark lands with low biological potential such as uncultivable land, land affected by salinity, acidity, etc., for non-agricultural development activities, including industrial and construction activities.

Similarly, the National Rehabilitation & Resettlement Policy, 2007 also envisages only the minimum area of land commensurate with the purpose of a project may be acquired and, as far as possible, projects may be set up on wasteland, degraded land or un-irrigated land. Acquisition of agricultural land for non-agricultural use in the projects may be kept to the minimum; multi-cropped land may be avoided to the extent possible for such purposes and acquisition of irrigated land, if unavoidable, may be kept to the minimum. The Policy has been sent to the States/Union Territories for implementation.