

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
AGRICULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5033

ANSWERED ON:27.04.2010

LAND ACQUISITION ACT

Balram Shri P.;Ponnam Shri Prabhakar;Shetkar Shri Suresh Kumar;Siricilla Shri Rajaiah

**Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Government proposes to amend Land Acquisition Act, 1894 for ensuring food security;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the reaction of the Government thereto; and
- (d) the steps being taken in this regard?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS)

(a) to (c): No, Madam. As per the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India, Land falls under the purview of the State Governments and, therefore, it is for the State Governments to bring suitable policies/legislations to check the diversion of agricultural land for non-agricultural purposes. However, with a view to prevent diversion of agricultural land for non-agricultural purposes, the National Rehabilitation & Resettlement Policy, 2007, formulated by Government of India, Ministry of Rural Development, Department of Land Resources came into effect on 31.10.2007. The policy provides that only the minimum area of land commensurate with the purpose of a project may be acquired. Also, 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.

(d): With a view to prevent the use of agricultural land for non-agricultural purposes and sustaining food security of the country, the National Policy for Farmers, 2007 has recommended 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.

Government of India, Ministry of Agriculture has also intensified programmes implemented under the National Food Security Mission, National Horticulture Mission & Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana with a view to increase the productivity of agricultural land & foodgrain production across the country.