

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1496
ANSWERED ON:03.08.2010
CONVERSION OF AGRICULTURAL LAND
Semmalai Shri S.

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to take any steps to stop conversion of agricultural land for non-agricultural purposes through a suitable Central legislation; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): 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 legislations to check the conversion of agricultural land for non-agricultural purposes. However, with a view to prevent the use of agricultural land for non-agricultural purposes and sustaining food security across the country, Government of India, Ministry of Agriculture has formulated a National Policy for Farmers- 2007 (NPF-2007). The NPF-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. Further, for non -agricultural purposes, as far as possible, land with low biological potential for farming should be earmarked and allocated. Besides, a National Rehabilitation and Resettlement Policy - 2007 formulated by Government of India, Ministry of Rural Development, and Department of Land Resources came into effect on 31.10.2007. This policy envisages that as far as possible, projects may be established on wasteland, degraded land or un-irrigated land. Further, acquisition of agricultural land for non-agricultural purposes may be kept to the minimum and multi-cropped/irrigated land may be avoided to the extent possible.

These policies have been sent to all the States/Union Territories for implementation.