

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3799

ANSWERED ON:17.08.2010

CONVERSION OF AGRICULTURAL LAND

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Prakash;Roy Shri Nripendra Nath

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the agricultural land in the country is being allowed to be diverted for non- agricultural use including housing projects, Special Economic Zones, industries, etc.;
- (b) if so, the details thereof during the last three years, State-wise;
- (c) the mechanism put in place to monitor such conversion;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to impose ban/restriction on the acquisition/ conversion of agricultural land;
- (e) if so, the details thereof;
- (f) whether farmers in some States are using their agricultural land for non-agricultural purposes due to lack of remunerative prices for their produce; and
- (g) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government in this regard including legislative measures?

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): As per the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India, Land comes under the purview of the State Governments and acquisition of land for non-agricultural purposes is decided by the respective State Governments.

(b) & (c): Government of India, Ministry of Agriculture do not maintain any data regarding diversion of agricultural land for other purposes.

(d) & (e): 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), which 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.

Similarly, Ministry of Rural Development, Department of Land Resources has developed a National Rehabilitation & Resettlement Policy, 2007 which envisages that 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 purposes 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.

(f): Government of India, Ministry of Agriculture do not maintain any data of agricultural land which is used by the farmers for non-agricultural purposes.

(g): Does not arise.