

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
URBAN DEVELOPMENT  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3915

ANSWERED ON:31.07.2009

FARM LANDS

Ramasubbu Shri S.

**Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the large areas of farm lands are being converted into residential colonies by private developers and builders in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and
- (c) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to arrest this trend and to protect the farm lands?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT(SHRI SAUGATA ROY)

(a)to(c): As per the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India, the subject `Land` falls under the purview of the State Governments and, therefore, it is for the State Governments to bring suitable legislation to protect use of agricultural land for non-agricultural purposes. There is no specific information available regarding conversion of farm land into residential colonies by private developers and builders in the country. However, as per available estimate, there is marginal decline in the availability of agricultural land from 183.07 million ha. in 2003-04 to 182.71 million ha. in 2006-07. During the same period, land under non-agricultural purposes has increased from 24.68 million ha. to 25.19 million ha. A statement showing State-wise area of Agricultural land and area under Non-agricultural uses is annexed.