

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1950
ANSWERED ON:22.11.2010
ACQUISITION OF CULTIVABLE LAND
Ahir Shri Hansraj Gangaram;Patil Shri A.T. Nana

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a high level Committee constituted by the Government for agriculture and land resettlement work has warned about shortage of foodgrains due to excessive land acquisition;
- (b) if so, whether during the last two decades seven and half lakh acres of land have been acquired for mining project and two and half lakh acres for industry;
- (c) if so, the fact thereof, State-wise;
- (d) whether the Government is taking any remedial steps on the warning of said Committee;
- (e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (f) the other steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SISIR KUMAR ADHIKARI)

(a) With a view to looking into the unfinished task in land reforms, a `Committee on State Agrarian Relations and the unfinished Task in Land Reforms` was constituted under the Chairmanship of Minister of Rural Development on 9th January, 2008. The Committee has made recommendation on various aspects of Land Reforms, including non-agriculture use of agriculture land.

The recommendations of the Committee are being examined by the Committee of Secretaries and will be placed before the `National Council for Land Reforms` constituted under the Chairmanship of the Prime Minister for its consideration and direction.

Further, the National Policy for farmers- 2007 of the Department of Agricultural & Cooperation envisages that prime farmland be conserved for agriculture except under exception 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 watershed elsewhere. State Government have been advised to earmark land with low biological potential such as uncultivable land, land affected by salinity, acidity etc. for non-agricultural development activities, including industrial and construction activities.

(b) to (c) Since State Governments grant mineral concessions as the owner of the minerals and acquire land for mining purposes. Likewise the land for industries is acquired at the State level. So, information regarding the population/affected due to mining activities/industries for the last two decades is not maintained at the Central level.

(d)to (f) Land and its management falls within the exclusive legislative and administrative jurisdiction of the respective States as provided under Entry No.18 of List II (State List) of the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution. The role of the Central Government in the field of land reforms is only of an advisory and coordinating nature. Further action in this regard will be taken as per the directions of the National Council for Land Reforms.