

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3144
ANSWERED ON:29.11.2010
ACQUISITION OF LAND FOR SEZS
Sinha Shri Shatrughan

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether number of people engaged in agriculture and rural artisans have been displaced or estimated to be displaced due to acquisition of land for Special Economic Zones (SEZs);
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government purposes to provide them employment in Special Economic Zones(SEZs);
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, 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) & (b): 367 Special Economic Zones (SEZs) have been approved by the Board of Approval in various States/UTs. Land is a State subject. Land for Special Economic Zones (SEZs) is procured as per the policy and procedures of the respective State Governments. The State Governments allot Government land and also wherever needed acquire land for the purpose. Therefore, State Governments have been advised that in case of land acquisition for SEZs, first priority should be for acquisition of waste and barren land and if necessary single crop agricultural land could be acquired for the SEZs. If perforce a portion of double cropped agricultural land has to be acquired to meet the minimum area requirements, especially for multi-product SEZs, the same should not exceed 10% of the total land required for the SEZ. The Board of Approval on SEZs only considers those proposals, which have been duly recommended by the State Government. Further, pursuant to the decision of Empowered Group of Ministers (EGOM) in its meeting held on 5th April, 2007, the State Governments have been informed on 15th June, 2007 that the Board of Approval will not approve any SEZs where the State Governments have carried out or propose to carry out compulsory acquisition of land for such SEZs after 5th April, 2007.

(c) to (e): The National Rehabilitation and Resettlement Policy, 2007, which covers all cases of involuntary displacement, came into effect on 31st October, 2007. The rehabilitation & resettlement benefits for the affected families in the Policy, inter alia, include that in case of a project involving land acquisition on behalf of a requiring body, the requiring body shall give preference to the affected families - at least one person per nuclear family - in providing employment in the project, subject to the availability of vacancies and suitability of the affected person for the employment. Further, wherever necessary, the requiring body shall arrange for training of the affected persons, so as to enable such persons to take on suitable jobs.