

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:62

ANSWERED ON:04.08.2011

ACQUISITION OF LAND

Patil Shri A.T. Nana;Singh Shri Ijyaraj

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has taken note of the large scale agitations by the farmers in various parts of the country on account of the alleged forced acquisition of land;
- (b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to amend the relevant statute for acquisition of land;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether any mechanism exists which would ensure that fertile agricultural lands are not acquired under the guise of development or public purpose(s); and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a) to (f): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred to in reply to Parts (a) to (f) of the Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 62 due for reply on 04.08.2011.

(a): Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d): A draft Land Acquisition and Rehabilitation and Resettlement Bill, 2011 has been prepared and was put in the public domain on July 29th, 2011 for discussion. The draft has been shared with State Governments and political parties as well. Time has been given till August 31st for receiving comments and suggestions.

(e) & (f): Yes, Sir. This Department has formulated the National Rehabilitation & Resettlement Policy, 2007 which has been notified in the official gazette on 31st October, 2007. The Policy provides that only the minimum area of land commensurate with the purpose of the project may be acquired and as far as possible, projects may be set up on wastelands, degraded land or un-irrigated land. Acquisition of Agriculture land for non-agriculture use in the project may be kept to the minimum, and multicropped land may be avoided to the extent possible for such purposes and acquisition of irrigated land, if un-avoidable, may also be kept to the minimum. The Policy also provides comprehensive rehabilitation & resettlement benefits to the displaced persons. Further, Land Acquisition (companies) Rule, 1963 provide that wherever a company makes an application to the appropriate Government for acquisition of any land, the Govt. shall direct the Collector to submit a report on the matter that 'Where the land is proposed to be acquired in good agricultural land, that no alternative suitable site can be found so as to avoid acquisition of that land.'