

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
AGRICULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:244  
ANSWERED ON:21.07.2009  
ACQUIRING FARMLANDS ABROAD BY INDIAN COMPANIES  
Lagadapati Shri Rajagopal

**Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to reports that several Indian firms are acquiring a large tracks of farmland in African countries to produce food and export the same to India;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to support such overseas ventures; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR)

(a) to (d): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 244 DUE FOR REPLY ON 21-07-2009.

(a) & (b): The Government has received some reports regarding Indian firms entering into commercial contracts through lease of land for commercial agriculture purposes in some African countries such as Ethiopia and Tanzania which may, inter alia, include export to third countries including India. Details of these deals are not available.

(c) & (d): These acquisitions are mainly driven by desire for growth and need for market access and are generally supported by the policy of the government for overseas investment according to which Indian companies are permitted to make overseas investment up to 400 percent of the net worth of the company.