

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1452

ANSWERED ON:09.08.2011

DIVERSION OF AGRICULTURAL LAND FOR COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES

Rao Shri Inderjit Singh

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government intends to make provisions/formulate policies to ensure that irrigated/agricultural land are not diverted for commercial activities including SEZ/residential/industrial estate purposes etc., in the vicinity of National Capital Region as well as State Capitals;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has made any efforts towards the use of agricultural land in the immediate periphery of the National Capital Region as well as State Capitals for growing various vegetables and fruits for the general public at cheaper rates;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the concerned States and certain other agencies including the Planning Commission have been consulted in this regard;

(f) if so, the details thereof, and if not, the reasons therefor; and (g) the time by which such a policy is likely to be formulated?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI HARISH RAWAT)

(a) & (b): As per Seventh Schedule of Constitution of India, land falls under purview of State Governments and, therefore, it is for State Governments to bring in suitable Policy / Act / Legislation to prevent diversion of agricultural land for non-agricultural purposes including industrial estates. Government of India has formulated National Policy for Farmers, 2007 and National Rehabilitation and Resettlement Policy, 2007 which envisage prevention in utilization of agricultural land for non-agricultural purposes.

(c) to (g): Government of India, Ministry of Agriculture has launched a new programme on "Vegetable Initiative for Urban Clusters (VIUC)" during 2011-12 under the aegis of Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY). This Programme is being implemented in urban clusters having a population of one million and above which is either State Capital or any other city with a population of over one million. During 2011-12, an amount of Rs.300.00 crore is allocated for implementation of various interventions and, so far, State Level Sanctioning Committee of RKVY has sanctioned projects in 19 States and funds have been released to these States.