

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
URBAN DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4229
ANSWERED ON:20.12.2011
URBAN LAND CEILING ACT
Argal Shri Ashok

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Urban Land (Ceiling and Regulation) Act has been scrapped by the Union Government;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the extent of land acquired by the Government under the said Act;
- (d) whether the land so acquired is being returned to the original land owners; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SAUGATA ROY)

- (a): Yes, Madam. The Urban Land (Ceiling & Regulation) Act, 1976 a Central Act on State subject has been repealed through The Urban Land (Ceiling & Regulation) Repeal Act, 1999.
- (b): Objective of The Urban Land (Ceiling & Regulation) Act, 1976 was to prevent concentration of urban land in a few hands and to provide affordable housing to the Economically Weaker Sections. The Act was repealed because it was felt that it had pushed up land prices, practically brought the housing industry to a stop, spate of litigations giving rise to serious hurdles in taking over possession of land by State Governments and nearly unanimous public opinion that the Act had failed to achieve its objectives as expected.
- (c) : According to the information received from State Governments, 19020 hectare of land was taken over as on 31.12.1997.
- (d) and (e): Consequent upon repeal of The Urban Land (Ceiling & Regulation) Act, 1976, land acquired thereunder is not to be restored to original land owners. Restoration of land is to be regulated in terms of the provisions contained in clause 3 of the Urban Land (Ceiling & Regulation) Repeal Act, 1999.