

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:138
ANSWERED ON:21.08.2012
DIVERSION OF AGRICULTURAL LAND
Pandey Saroj;Singh Rajkumari Ratna

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has made any assessment of the adverse impact on agricultural production due to large scale acquisition and diversion of agricultural/ cultivable land for non-agricultural purposes;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether there is any proposal to check indiscriminate acquisition/diversion of cultivable land for non-agricultural purposes such as industrialisation and housing projects etc.;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the measures taken/being taken by the Government to increase the foodgrains production to meet the requirement of the increasing population in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 138 DUE FOR REPLY ON 21ST AUGUST, 2012.

(a) to (e): Available data reveals that agricultural / cultivable land has marginally decreased from 182.68 million hectare (2005-06) to 182.47 million hectare (2009-10) across the country. However, during the same period, production of foodgrains has increased from 208.60 million tonnes to 218.11 million tonnes and has further enhanced to 257.44 million tonnes in 2011-12 (4th advance estimates).

As per the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India, land including transfer and alienation of agricultural land, falls under the purview of the State Governments and, therefore, it is for the State Governments to frame suitable policy / enact Legislation to prevent diversion of agricultural land for non-agricultural purposes. Government of India has formulated National Policy for Farmers, 2007 and National Rehabilitation and Resettlement Policy, 2007 which envisage minimization in acquisition of agricultural land for non-agricultural purposes.

Government is implementing various schemes / programmes / missions, namely, Macro Management of Agriculture, National Food Security Mission, National Horticulture Mission, National Mission on Micro Irrigation, Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana etc. with a view to increase the productivity of agricultural land & sustaining foodgrain production in the country.