

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3305

ANSWERED ON:13.12.2012

ACQUISITION OF AGRICULTURAL LAND

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Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government intends to ensure acquisition of agricultural land for non-agricultural purposes only in exceptional cases;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the action plan of the Government in this regard;
- (c) whether the Union Government has taken up the issue with the States and if so, the details thereof and the response of the States thereto;
- (d) whether the Government has constituted any Committee to assess the impact of declining cultivable area on the food security scenario in the country and if so, the details and the findings thereof; and
- (e) the corrective measures taken/being taken by the Government in this direction?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI LALCHAND KATARIA)

(a) to (c): The Land and its management falls within the legislative and administrative jurisdiction of the State Governments as provided under Entry No. 18 of the State List (List II) of the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution. The acquisition of land for various projects is done by the concerned State Government/UT Administrations under the provisions of Land Acquisition Act, 1894.

The salient features of the policy of the Government for acquiring land for development purposes, including industry is reflected in National Rehabilitation & Resettlement Policy (NRRP), 2007. The policy aims to minimize large-scale displacement, as far as possible. Only the minimum area of land commensurate with the purpose of the project has to be acquired. Also, as far as possible, projects may be set up on wastelands, degraded or un-irrigated land. Acquisition of agriculture land for non-agriculture use in the project may be kept to the minimum, multi-cropped land may be avoided to the extent possible for such purposes and acquisition of irrigated land if un-avoidable may be kept to the minimum. The Policy also provides comprehensive rehabilitation & resettlement benefits to the displaced families.

However, the State Governments have been consulted on LARR Bill, 2011. To give legal backing to the above Policy, the Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation & Resettlement (LARR) Bill, 2011 has been introduced in the Lok Sabha on 7th September, 2011. Clause 10 of the LARR Bill provides that -

10(1) Save as otherwise provided in sub-section (2), no irrigated multi-cropped land shall be acquired under this Act.

(2) Such land may be acquired subject to the condition that it is being done under exceptional circumstances, as a demonstrable last resort, where the acquisition of the land referred to in sub-section (1) shall, in aggregate for all projects in a district, in no case exceed five percent of the total irrigated multi-crop area in that district.

(3) Whenever multi-crop irrigated land is acquired under sub-section (2), an equivalent area of culturable wasteland shall be developed for agricultural purposes.

(4) In a case not falling under sub-section (1), the acquisition of the land in aggregate for all projects in a district in which net sown area is less than fifty percent of total geographical area in that district, shall in no case exceed ten percent of the total net sown area of that district:

Provided that the provisions of this section shall not apply in the case of projects that are linear in nature such as those relating to railways, highways, major district roads, irrigation canals, power lines and the like.

(d) & (e): As per available estimates (Feb.2012), despite increase in area of non-agricultural uses from 25.44 million hectare (2006-07) to 26.17 million hectare (2009-10), production of foodgrains during the same period has increased from 217.28 million tonnes to 218.11 million tonnes and has further increased to 251AA million tonnes (2011-12 -4th Advance estimates) due to various advanced technological interventions across the country. Besides, with a view to sustain agricultural production and to meet demands of food grains in the event of wake of changing climatic scenario, Ministry of Agriculture, DAC has intensified implementation of various schemes/programmes, namely; Macro Management of Agriculture

(MMA), Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), National Food Security Mission (NFSM), National Horticulture Mission (NHM) and National Mission on Micro Irrigation (NMMI) etc. to make Indian agriculture climate resilient by embedding and mainstreaming various adaptation measures.

