

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1700

ANSWERED ON:07.03.2013

ACQUISITION OF LAND

Nagar Shri Surendra Singh;Reddy Shri Magunta Srinivasulu;Reddy Shri Modugula Venugopala ;Singh Shri Radha Mohan;Singh Smt. Meena

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of agricultural land acquired for public purpose in the country during the last three years and the current year, State/UT-wise;
- (b) whether such acquired land is not used for the purpose for which it were acquired;
- (c) if so, the relevant rules and the directions issued by the Union Government to State Governments in this regard; and
- (d) the measures taken by the Union Government to prevent misuse of fertile land for non- farm use?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI LAL CHAND KATARIA)

(a) to (d): The Land and its management falls within the legislative and administrative jurisdiction of the States 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/s/UT Administrations under the provisions of the Land Acquisition Act, 1894. The data regarding agricultural land acquired by the State Governments for various purposes and use of the acquired land for various purposes is not being maintained at the Central level. Further, to address various issues related to land acquisition and rehabilitation & resettlement, this Department has prepared the National Rehabilitation & Resettlement Policy, 2007 which was notified in the Official Gazette on 31st October, 2007. The Policy provides that "as far as possible, project may be setup on wastelands, degraded land or un-irrigated land". Acquisition of agricultural land for non-agricultural 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 unavoidable, may be kept to the minimum. Further, the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation has formulated National Policy for Farmers, 2007 which envisages that Prime farmland must be conserved for agriculture except under exceptional circumstances, provided that the agencies that are provided with agricultural land for non-agricultural projects should compensate for treatment and full development of equivalent degraded/wastelands elsewhere. For non-agricultural purposes, as far as possible, land with low biological potential for farming would be earmarked and allocated.