

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1701
ANSWERED ON:07.03.2013
PER CAPITA AVAILABILITY OF LAND
Mahendrasinh Shri Chauhan

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the per capita availability of land has sharply declined in the country;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government has conducted any survey to ascertain the reasons for the decline in per capita availability of land; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a) to (d): As per various quinquennial Agriculture Censuses conducted by the Ministry of Agriculture in 1970-71, 1976-77, 1980-81, 1985-86, 1990-91, 1995-96, 2000-01 and 2005-06, the average size of operational holdings in the country was 2.28, 2.00, 1.84, 1.69, 1.55, 1.41, 1.33 and 1.23 hectares respectively, which shows that the average size of the operational holding declined by about 46% in 2005-06 over 1970-71. The decline in the area of operational holding has been attributed to conversion of land for urbanization/industrialization or transfer of land to meet the requirement of non-agricultural purposes.