

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2873

ANSWERED ON:27.08.2013

MANAGEMENT OF LAND RESOURCES

Anuragi Shri Ghansyam ;Siddeswara Shri Gowdar Mallikarjunappa

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has set up any institutions for the development, conservation and management of land resources in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government has issued any directions to the State Governments to notify agriculture land under 'Special Category' that cannot be put to any other use;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the response of the State Governments thereto?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR)

(a) & (b): Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), through its research institutions namely, National Bureau of Soil Survey and Land Use Planning, Nagpur, Central Soil and Water Conservation Research and Training Institute, Dehradun, Indian Institute of Soil Science, Bhopal and Central Soil Salinity Research Institute, Karnal is developing technologies for development, conservation, management of land resources, which are used by various central and state agencies/institutions and Non Governmental Organizations to sustain higher agricultural productivity in the country.

(c) to (e): As per the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India, land falls under the purview of the State Government and, therefore, it is for the State Governments to bring in suitable Policy/Legislation to prevent the diversion of agricultural land for non-agricultural purposes. However, with a view to preventing use of agricultural land for non-agricultural purposes and sustaining food security of the country, Government of India, Ministry of Agriculture has formulated a National Policy for Farmers -2007 (NPF-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 should be earmarked and allocated". State Governments have been advised to "earmark lands with low biological potential such as uncultivable land, land affected by salinity, acidity, etc., for non-agricultural development activities, including industrial and construction activities".