

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1177

ANSWERED ON:12.12.2013

AGRICULTURAL LAND

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Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether foreign companies are taking over agricultural land on a large scale in the country^
- (b) if so, the details thereof during each of the last three years and the current year, State/UT- wise;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to check procurement of agricultural land in the country by the foreign companies;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps being taken by the Government to check the decreasing agricultural land?

Answer

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

(a) to (e): 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. Accordingly States/UTs have their own Policies/Acts/Manuals in this regard. However, with a view to prevent utilisation of agricultural land for non-agricultural purposes, Ministry of Agriculture has formulated a National Policy for Farmers,2007 (NPF-2007) which also 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. 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. Further, the data regarding agricultural land taken over by the foreign companies, year-wise & State/UT wise is not being maintained by the Ministry.