

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
AGRICULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:70  
ANSWERED ON:08.07.2014  
DECLINE IN AGRICULTURAL LAND  
Dhruvanarayana Shri Rangaswamy

**Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether agricultural land is declining day-by-day in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) the details of agricultural land declined during the last three years and the current year, State-wise; and
- (d) the action being taken by the Government to contain the decline in agricultural land in the country?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN)

(a) & (b): As per the latest available Land Use Statistics data, the agricultural land in the country has marginally declined from 182.5 million hectares during 2008-09 to 182.0 million hectares during 2011-12 due to shift in area for non-agricultural purposes.

(c): The details of state-wise agricultural land during 2008-09, 2009-10, 2010-11 and 2011-12 are at annexure.

(d): As per the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India, land comes under the purview of State Government and therefore, it is for the State Governments to take suitable steps to check the diversion of agricultural land for non-agricultural purposes.

Under the, National Policy for Farmers 2007 (NPF 2007), 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. National Rehabilitation and Resettlement Policy, 2007 (NRRP, 2007) has recommended that, as far as possible, projects may be set up on wastelands, degraded land or un-irrigated land. Acquisition of agricultural land for non agricultural use in projects may be kept to the minimum and avoided, to the extent possible, in respect of multi-cropped land. Acquisition of irrigated land, if unavoidable, may be kept to the minimum.