

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE  
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

**RAJYA SABHA**

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2273**

TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 08/08/2025

**CONVERSION OF AGRICULTURAL LAND INTO COMMERCIAL LAND**

2273. SHRI SANDOSH KUMAR P:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the loss of agricultural land due to acquisition of land for infrastructural and industrial projects for the last five years, State-wise;
- (b) the criteria for giving compensation to farmers for the loss of agricultural land;
- (c) whether Government is aware of the impact of the conversion of agricultural land into commercial land on the country's long term food security; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof ?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE  
(SHRI RAMNATH THAKUR)

(a) & (b): Land and agriculture are the state subjects, as per Entry No. 18 of List II (State List) of the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India. Both the Central and State Governments undertake land acquisition for industrial projects and infrastructure development. The Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare does not centrally maintain data on agricultural land acquired for various purposes.

The Central Government has enacted the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation & Resettlement (RFCTLARR) Act, 2013, which came into force on 01.01.2014. Under this act, land can be acquired for public purposes. Section 10 of the Act explicitly restricts the acquisition of multi-crop irrigated land, unless in exceptional cases where no alternative land is available. In such cases, an equivalent area of culturable wasteland shall be developed for agricultural purposes or an amount equivalent to the value of the land acquired shall be deposited with the appropriate Government for investment in agriculture for enhancing food-security. The RFCTLARR Act, 2013, strongly discourages such conversions unless absolutely necessary. Wherever agricultural land is acquired, compensatory mechanisms, including monetary compensation, rehabilitation and resettlement benefits, and in some cases, land for land compensation, are provided to mitigate the impact on farmers.

(c) & (d): Land being a State subject, it is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments to take appropriate measures to increase the area under cultivation and prevent the diversion of agricultural land for non-agricultural purposes. The RFCTLARR Act, 2013, has special provision to safeguard the food security of the country which inter-alia provides to minimize the acquisition of multi-cropped irrigated land and to define the limits for acquisition of agricultural land in aggregate for all projects in a district or State. In addition, the Government of India supports States through policy initiatives and budgetary assistance. To ensure food security of the country, Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare is implementing several schemes with the objective of increasing food grains production through area expansion and productivity enhancement. As a result, the gross cropped area, food grain production and cropping intensity have been increased. The food grain production has risen significantly, from 246.42 million tonnes in 2013-14 to 353.96 million tonnes in 2024-25 (third advanced estimates). Horticulture production has also increased from 280.70 million tonnes in 2013-14 to 367.72 million tonnes in 2024-25 (second advanced estimates).

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