

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2397
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 2ND JANUARY, 2018

LAND UNDER FARMING

2397. DR. P.K. BIJU:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the percentage of land under agriculture farming has declined since the independence;
- (b) whether there has been any change in land use from agriculture to non-agriculture purposes and if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) whether the change in land use was done by seeking proper permission from the authorities and if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government against those who have changed the land use without proper permission, thereby affecting the aggregate national crop production?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT)

(a) & (b): As per the latest data available on land use statistics, area under agriculture farming (Agricultural Land) in the country in 1950-51 was 66.70 percent of the reporting area and estimated to have declined to 59.09 percent in 2014-15. The reduction in percentage of agricultural land has been mainly due to diversion of land for non-agricultural purposes such as urbanization, roads, industries, housing etc. While there is shift in agricultural land for non-agricultural purposes, non-agricultural land is also being brought under agricultural uses.

(c): As per Seventh Schedule of 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 diversion of agricultural land for non-agricultural purposes. However, 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 also recommended that as far as possible, projects may be set up on waste land, degraded land or un-irrigated land. Acquisition of irrigated, multi-cropped agricultural land for non-agricultural uses may be kept to the minimum and avoided, to the extent possible. Further, Ministry of Rural Development is implementing an Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) for development of rainfed/ degraded areas. The IWMP has been converted to the Watershed Component of the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) from the financial year 2015-16.

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Further, Government of India is implementing National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA) with a view to prevent soil erosion, land degradation and also to maintain balance in various types of land uses across the country. Under this mission all types of land including wastelands/barren land are developed with suitable need based soil and water conservation measures and parts of such degraded lands developed are put to agricultural practices, leading to net sown area remaining largely unchanged around 141 million ha. in last two decades.
