

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 718
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 7th FEBRUARY, 2023

CONVERSION OF FERTILE LAND INTO INDUSTRIAL AREAS

718. SHRI GNANATHIRAVIAM S:

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

(a) whether the Government is aware that conversion of fertile land into industrial areas is resulting in migration of people from rural areas and decline in agricultural production; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to regulate it in accordance with the decision taken therefor?;

ANSWER

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

(a) and (b): As per the latest Land Use Statistics-at a glance, the details of arable land in the country for the year 2015-16 to 2019-20 is given below:

Year	Arable Land (in Thousand Hectare)
2015-16	1,81,371
2016-17	1,80,923
2017-18	1,80,817
2018-19	1,80,624
2019-20	1,79,993

The agriculture production has shown an increasing trend over the years. The Foodgrain Production has increased from 275.11 MT in 2016-17 to 310.74 MT in 2020-21.

As per the Seventh Schedule of Constitution of India, land comes under the purview of State Governments. Therefore, State government are to take suitable steps to check diversion of arable land for commercial non agricultural purposes. However, Government of India supplements the efforts of States, through appropriate policy measures and budgetary support. 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. 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 and acquisition of irrigated, multi-cropped agricultural land for non-agricultural uses may be kept to the minimum or avoided, to the extent possible.
