

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

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5424

TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 5TH APRIL, 2022

AGRICULTURAL CULTIVATION

5424. SHRI MANICKAM TAGORE B.:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that the area of agricultural cultivation in the country is getting reduced year after year although we may have produced more food grains as compared to previous years and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether it is also true that a vast area of agricultural land is being converted for commercial and other purposes;
- (c) if so, the present details of such records;
- (d) whether the Government is considering to come out with a legislation to restrict the conversion of farm land into other purposes; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

(a): As per report on Land Use Statistics for 2018-19 (latest available), agricultural land/ cultivable land in the country for the last ten years are given in **Annexure I**. Although there has been a marginal decline in the cultivable land during the last ten years, but due to technological advances and various initiatives / schemes of the Government, the production of foodgrains has been showing an increasing trend. The production of foodgrains from 2009-10 to 2021-22 is at **Annexure -II**.

(b) to (e): The decline in 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.

As per the Seventh Schedule of Constitution of India, land comes under the purview of State Governments and, therefore, it is for them to take suitable steps to tackle the problems of conversion of agricultural land for other purposes. However, Government of India supplements the all 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 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 and acquisition of irrigated, multi-cropped agricultural land for non-agricultural uses may be kept to the minimum and avoided, to the extent possible.

Annexure I

Annexure referred in reply to part (a) of Lok Sabha Un-Starred Q. No. 5424 due for answer on 05/04/2022

Details of Agricultural Land in the country from 2009-10 to 2018-19 (latest available)

(in thousand Hectare)

Year	Agricultural land
2009-10	182179
2010-11	182010
2011-12	181955
2012-13	182086
2013-14	181849
2014-15	181829
2015-16	181603
2016-17	181133
2017-18	181064
2018-19	180888

Source: Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare

Annexure II

Annexure referred in reply to part (a) of Lok Sabha Un-starred Q. No. 5424 due for answer on 05/04/2022

Details of Agricultural land/ Cultivable Land from the year 2009-10 to 2021-22

(Million Tonnes)

Year	Food Grains
2009-10	218.11
2010-11	244.49
2011-12	259.29
2012-13	257.12
2013-14	265.05
2014-15	252.02
2015-16	251.54
2016-17	275.11
2017-18	285.01
2018-19	285.21
2019-20	297.50
2020-21	310.75
2021-22*	316.06

Note:* As per the Second Advance Estimates of Production of Food Grains for 2021-22
Source: Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare
