

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

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1220

TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 30TH JULY, 2024

SEIZING OF AGRICULTURAL LAND

1220. SHRI RAMASAHAYAM RAGHURAM REDDY:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that trees and agricultural crops are increasingly being uprooted to create land for developmental activities, destroying the livelihoods of farmers;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken to ensure that development does not come at the cost of farmers;
- (c) whether it is a fact that Government authorities often cut down the trees and crops without prior intimation to the farmers who are not even able to transplant them;
- (d) if so, the details thereof, along with the measures taken to curb this and action taken against the wrongdoers;
- (e) whether any special steps have been taken to ensure that compensation for land seized for developmental activities is commensurate with current rates; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण राज्य मंत्री

(SHRI RAMNATH THAKUR)

(a) to (f): As per the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India, land comes under the purview of State Governments, and therefore, it is for the State governments to take suitable steps to check diversion of arable land for 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 developmental activities, including industrial and construction activities. The National Rehabilitation and Resettlement Policy–2007 (NRRP2007) 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 or avoided to the extent possible.

Protection and management of trees is primarily the responsibility of State/ Union Territory. There are strong legal frame works for protection and management of tree resources of the country which include the National Forest Policy,1988, Indian Forest Act, 1927, Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 and State Forest Acts/State Specific Tree Preservation Acts and Rules etc. The State /UT Government take appropriate actions to protect forests and regulate felling of trees in accordance with the provisions made under these Acts/ Rules. The permission for tree cutting is accorded by the respective State Governments/ Union Territory Administrations under the provisions of various Acts, Rules, Guidelines and the directions of Hon'ble Courts.

Further, the compensation of land is decided as per the provisions of the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013 which is 2 to 4 times of the determined market value of the land.
