

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

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2713**

TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 16<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER, 2025

**CONVERSION OF AGRICULTURAL LAND INTO COMMERCIAL LAND**

2713. SHRI BHUMARE SANDIPANRAO ASARAM:

SHRI GYANESHWAR PATIL:

SMT. DELKAR KALABEN MOHANBHAI:

SHRI NILESH DNYANDEV LANKE:

DR. SHIVAJI BANDAPPA KALGE:

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

- (a) the details of loss of agricultural land due to land acquisition for infrastructure and industrial projects across the various States of the country during the last five years, State-wise and particularly in Dadra and Nagar Haveli;
- (b) the criteria for compensating farmers against the loss of agricultural land;
- (c) whether the Government is aware of the impact of conversion of agricultural land into commercial land on long term food security in the country; 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. As per the latest report on 'Land Use Statistics-at a Glance 2023-24', the Gross Cropped Area has expanded significantly, rising from 201.3 million hectares in 2013-14 to 217.8 million hectares in 2023-24. 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. These government initiatives and technological advancements have contributed to a continuous rise in cropping intensity. Cropping intensity increased from 142.5% in 2013-14 to 156.8% in 2023-24, reflecting a positive shift toward multiple cropping practices, highlighting farmers' enhanced ability to cultivate the same land more than once annually. The food grain production has risen significantly, from 265.05 million tonnes in 2013-14 to 357.73 million tonnes in 2024-25. Horticulture production has also increased from 277.35 million tonnes in 2013-14 to 369.05 million tonnes in 2024-25 (third advanced estimates).

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