

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:216

ANSWERED ON:06.03.2006

AGRICULTURAL LAND FOR RESIDENTIAL AND INDUSTRIAL PURPOSES

Adhalrao Patil Shri Shivaji;Singh Shri Rakesh

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the agricultural land in the country is gradually shrinking due to exploitation of agricultural land for residential and industrial purposes;
- (b) if so, whether agricultural land is being used for other purposes apart from industrial and commercial in the country;
- (c) if so, the area of agricultural land decreased during the last five years;
- (d) whether the Government are considering bringing any legislation to prevent conversion of agricultural land for any purposes; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof, State-wise/Union Territory-wise?

Answer

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR)

(a) to (e): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 216 DUE FOR REPLY ON 6TH MARCH, 2006.

(a) to (e): There is a marginal decline in agricultural land in the last 5 years from 183.63 million ha. in 1998-99 to 182.92 million ha. in 2002-03; during the same period, land under non- agricultural use has increased from 22.80 million ha. to 24.25 million ha. indicating that much of the increase in non agricultural land appears to have been achieved by utilizing uncultivable land.

Land is a State subject and, therefore, it is for the States to bring about suitable legislation regarding regulation of conversion of cultivable land for any other purpose. Arunachal Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Tripura, Goa and Union Territory of Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Pondicherry have legislations for checking diversion of agricultural land for non-agricultural purposes. State Governments of Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Assam have issued rules and executive orders to check the diversion of good agricultural land for non- agricultural purposes.