

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:370
ANSWERED ON:18.12.2006
UTILIZATION OF AGRICULTURAL LAND
Rao Shri Kavuru Samba Siva

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) Whether the Union Government is aware of the increasing use of agricultural land for non-agricultural purposes in different States;
- (b) If so, the details thereof ;
- (c) Whether the Union Government proposes to initiate measures for maintaining a meaningful balance in the utilization of land for agricultural and non-agricultural purposes keeping in view the need for the overall development of the country;
- (d) If so, whether the Government proposes to enact a law to tackle all farmer related issues by shifting agriculture to Concurrent List; and
- (e) If so, the details thereof ?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY 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. 370 DUE FOR REPLY ON 18TH DECEMBER, 2006.

(a) to (e) : As per available estimates, the cultivable land has decreased from 185.09 million ha. in 1981 to 182.92 million ha. in 2002-03. The per capita availability of cultivable land has declined from 0.27 ha. in 1980 to 0.18 ha. in 2003 due to increase in population and diversion of agricultural land for non agricultural purposes such as urbanization, roads, industries etc. During the same period, land under non agricultural uses has increased from 19.66 million ha. to 24.25 million ha. The details are annexed.

Government of India is implementing various watershed programmes, namely,

- (i) National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas(NWDPR),
- (ii) Soil Conservation for Enhancing Productivity of Degraded Lands in the Catchments of River Valley Project and Flood Prone River(RVP & FPR),
- (iii) Watershed Development Project in Shifting Cultivation Areas(WDPSCA),
- (iv) Reclamation of Alkali Soil (RAS),
- (v) Externally Aided Projects (EAPs) on Watershed Development,
- (vi) Drought Prone Area Programme(DPAP),
- (vii) Desert Development Programmes and
- (viii) Integrated Waste-land Development Project (IWDP) for control of soil erosion and land degradation. Parts of such developed lands are also brought under cultivation to maintain balance in different types of land uses.

As per the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India, Land and Water falls under the purview of State Government, therefore, Government of India has no proposal for bringing agriculture into Concurrent List. Land is a State subject and, therefore, it is for the States to bring about suitable legislation regarding regulation of conversion of agricultural land for non- agricultural purposes. However, Government of India is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Programme of State Land Use Boards (SLUBs). Some of the States, through their SLUBs have issued instructions and executive orders to the line departments of their Government to ensure that prime agricultural land is not diverted for non-agricultural purposes, and if it becomes necessary to do so, then efforts may be made to provide equivalent land in lieu of diverted land.