

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:411

ANSWERED ON:26.04.2016

Agricultural Land

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

- (a) the details of cultivable/agricultural land along with the percentage of such land in each State/UT in the country;
- (b) whether area under cultivation has significantly reduced due to conversion of agricultural land into barren land and their diversion for non-agricultural purposes in the country during the last three years;
- (c) if so, the details thereof, State/UTwise; and
- (d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to increase agricultural land and their productivity and to prevent the use of agricultural land for other purposes along with the outcome thereof?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

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(a): As per report on Land Use Statistics for 2012-13 (latest available), the State/UT wise details of cultivable/ agricultural land along with its percentage over the reporting area in the country are given in annexure-I.

(b) & (c): As per report on Land Use Statistics for 2012-13 (latest available), total cultivable land in the country has marginally declined from 182.01 million hectares in 2010-11 to 181.95 million hectares in 2012-13. The decline in agricultural land has been mainly due to diversion of land for non-agricultural purposes such as urbanisation, roads, industries, housing etc.

State/UT-wise details of area put to non-agricultural uses in the country during the last three years i.e from 2010-11 to 2012-13 are given in annexure-II.

(d): As per Seventh Schedule of Constitution of India, land comes under the purview of State Government and, therefore, it is for the State Governments to take suitable steps to check diversion of agricultural land for non-agricultural purposes. However, under the National Policy for Farmers – 2007 (NPF- 2007), State Governments have been advised to earmark lands with

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low biological potential such as uncultivable land, land affected by salinity, acidity, etc., for non-agricultural developmental 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. Acquisition of irrigated, multi-cropped agricultural land for non-agricultural uses may be kept to the minimum and avoided, to the extent possible. Further, Ministry of Rural Development is implementing an Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) for development of rainfed/ degraded areas. From 2015-16, the IWMP has been converted as the Watershed Component of the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY).

Government of India is also implementing National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA) with a view to prevent soil erosion, land degradation and also to maintain balance in various types of land uses across the country. Under this Mission, all type of land including wastelands/barren land are developed with suitable need based soil and water conservation measures and parts of such degraded lands developed are put to agricultural practices, with the result that the net sown area in last two decades in the country has largely remained unchanged at around 141 million ha.