

Title: Need to take steps to prevent conversion of cultivable land into waste land.

DR. K.S. MANOJ (ALLEPPEY): Sir, not only in my State but also in other parts of the country, hectares and hectares of cultivable land including paddy fields is being converted into barren land. The cultivable land is being levelled and is being used for constructing buildings and also for other purposes.

In my own State, four years back, we had about 8.8 million hectares of cultivable land. But now, as per the statistics, only 2.8 million hectares of cultivable land is available. It has been reduced to almost one-fourth of the total cultivable land which we used to have four years back. If this trend continues, we will reach a stage where there will not be any cultivable land in our country.

Therefore, I humbly urge upon the Central Government to conserve the cultivable land that is available and also take necessary steps to prevent the levelling of cultivable land for construction purposes. If necessary, some legislation must be enacted to conserve this cultivable land (Paddy fields) in our country.

MR. SPEAKER: I do not know what the Central Government can do in this regard.