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Title : Need to check the move to acquire agricultural land for setting up of Industrial projects in Karnataka.

SHRI R. DHIRUVANARAYANA (CHAMRAJANAGAR): With land turning into gold, many unscrupulous elements are grabbing prime industrial land in Karnataka. Of late, the Karnataka Industrial Areas Development Board (KIADB) in particular, has come under severe criticism for acquisition of land in the name of industrial development and it is in this context, that the amendment Bill of the Land Acquisition Act 1894 gains credence.

Under the circumstances, there is a need to review the whole process and procedure of land acquisition for development activities duly recognizing the food security issues.

Unprecedented growth and the economic boom in recent India have created a multiplier effect on the development activities such as infrastructure like roads, ports, airports, housing, etc. Added to this, the SEZ Act 2005 and the notified rule in February 2006, has triggered a sort of mad rush for land.

The Karnataka Government's latest move to acquire 2,100 acres of land for the proposed center sponsored IT Investment Region (ITIR) new Bangaluru International Airport has sparked a controversy. The Karnataka Industry Areas Development Board (KIADB) is acquiring fertile agricultural land, both in contravention of the guidelines of the Centre and the State Level Empowered Committee for the ITIR project headed by the Chief Minister. The Union Government's gazette notification on ITIR projects issued on May 28, 2008 has clearly said State Government should acquire preferably non-agricultural land for such projects.

The move by the KIADB to acquire 17,571 acres of agricultural land for integrated steel plants in Bellary district and 25,000 acres of land in Mysore district also in other areas in the State has attracted severe criticism.