

services to women farmers has become urgent. Joint pattas for both homestead and agricultural land are essential for empowering women to access credit and other services.

- (ii) The Land Acquisition Act has been reviewed with particular reference to the assessment of compensation. It is further stipulated that prime farmland would be conserved for agriculture except under exceptional circumstances, provided that the agencies that are provided with agricultural land for non-agricultural projects should compensate for treatment and full development of equivalent degraded/wastelands elsewhere. For non-agricultural purposes, as far as possible, land with low biological potential for farming would be earmarked and allocated.

Accordingly State Governments have been advised to earmark lands with low biological potential, such as uncultivable land, land affected by salinity, acidity etc. for non-agricultural development activities, industrial and construction activities.

Government of India, Ministry of Rural Development has also formulated a revised National Rehabilitation and Resettlement Policy, 2007 (NRRP, 2007) which was approved by the Cabinet on 11th October, 2007. NRRP, 2007, *inter-alia*, envisages that as far as possible industrial project may be set up on wastelands, degraded land or un-irrigated land and acquisition of agricultural land for non-agricultural uses in such project should be kept to the minimum; and multi cropped land should be avoided to the extent possible.

Jatropha plantation in wasteland

2291. SHRI A. ELAVARASAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has decided to discourage jatropha plantation through seeds which can be used to produce environment friendly bio-fuels;
- (b) if so, the reasons for such proposal by Government;
- (c) whether Government has taken initiatives to cultivate jatropha in wasteland in the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (e) The National Oilseeds and Vegetable Oils Development (NOVOD) Board, a statutory body set up in terms of the NOVOD Board Act, 1983 under the Ministry of Agriculture is entrusted with the task of Implementation of Integrated Development of Tree borne Oilseeds, the main components of which are Jatropha and Karanja which are not known to have any harmful impact on the environment. The Board has initiated a programme for creating a model plantation of Jatropha as a seed source and has undertaken R&D Programmes through a National network of 73 institutions for development of high yielding varieties of Jatropha and Karanja in the country. As a

policy the Government encourages these bio-fuel plantations only on wasteland. The Board has already undertaken model plantation of Jatropha over an area of 12678 ha up to 2008-09 on wasteland through Government and semi Government organizations in various States of the country.

Effect of global warming on crops

2292. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the status of various crops this year including those that have arrived in the market;

(b) whether they have been affected in any manner or are likely to be affected by global warming; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (c) This is the season for sowing of Kharif crops, which will be harvested during the months of Oct-Nov and will reach market thereafter. As reported by the India Meteorological Department (IMD), during South-West Monsoon, 2009 (1.6.2009 to 15.7.2009), the country as a whole received 220.5 mm of rainfall against normal average rainfall of 300.8 mm, with 369 out of 533 meteorological districts of the country receiving less than normal rainfall. Due to deficit rainfall there is shortage of moisture, which has affected sowing in kharif season. The area coverage during Kharif-2009 under major crops is 432.26 lakh ha., which is 52.11 lakh ha. less than the corresponding area coverage during Kharif 2008 in the country, as per crop -wise details given below:—

Name of the major crops	Area coverage in corresponding period in Kharif 2008 (Lakh ha.)	Area coverage in Kharif 2009 (Lakh ha.)
Rice	145.21	114.63
Jowar	17.16	16.57
Bajara	46.01	34.67
Maize	47.41	46.18
Total coarse cereals	116.05	101.90
Cotton	61.68	68.92
Sugarcane	43.79	42.50
Jute	7.06	6.89
TOTAL	484.37	432.26