

1	2
Arunachal Pradesh	1,212
Nagaland	2,197
Manipur	2,393
Mizoram	981
Tripura	3,532
Meghalaya	2,560
Assam	29,814
West Bengal	87,839
Jharkhand	30,611
Orissa	40,025
Chhattisgarh	23,600
Madhya Pradesh	89,897
Gujarat	57,434
Daman and Diu	248
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	318
Maharashtra	109,553
Andhra Pradesh	83,178
Karnataka	58,181
Goa	1,655
Lakshadweep	75
Kerala	34,063
Tamil Nadu	68,586
Pondicherry	1,267
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	465

Need to formulate an Act to protect farm land

*318. SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR:
SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether an Agriculture Act, on the lines of the Forest (Conservation) Act of 1980, is being formulated so that States keep a fixed percentage of land exclusively for cultivation of food-related crops;

(b) if not, how it is proposed to protect farm land from rapid industrialization, especially in view of the fast depletion of fertile agricultural land; and

(c) whether Government fully appreciates the apprehension that industries alone cannot mitigate hunger and requisite agricultural inputs are indispensable?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) As per the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India, Agriculture, Water and Land fall under the purview of the State Governments and, therefore, it is for the State Governments to bring suitable Act/Legislation to protect use of agricultural land for non agricultural purposes including industries.

The Government is aware of the consequences of transfer of agricultural farm land for non-agricultural purposes. Land for setting up of industries including under the Special Economic Zones (SEZs) is procured as per the policy and procedures of the respective State Governments. The State Governments have been advised that in case of land acquisition for SEZs, first priority should be for acquisition of waste and barren land and if necessary single crop agricultural land could be acquired for SEZs. If perforce a portion of double cropped agricultural land has to be acquired to meet the minimum area requirements, especially for multi-product SEZs, the same should not exceed 10 percent of the total land required for the SEZ.

The Ministry of Rural Development formulated a revised National Rehabilitation and Re-settlement Policy, 2007 (NRRP-2007), which was approved by the Cabinet on 11th October, 2007. NRRP-2007, which *inter-alia*, envisages that as far as possible project may be set up on wasteland, degraded land or un-irrigated land. Acquisition of agricultural land for non-agricultural purposes in the project may be kept to the minimum; multi-cropped land may be avoided to the extent possible, and acquisition of irrigated land, if unavoidable may be kept to the minimum.

(c) The Government of India is fully aware of the need for taking measures to increase agricultural productivity and production to ensure food security in the country. Towards this end, the States are being incentivized for more public spending under agriculture and related sectors through programmes, such as the Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY). As per the Central Statistical Organisation (CSO), public investment on agriculture and allied sectors increased to Rs. 22,107 crores in 2007-08 from Rs. 10,805 crores in 2003-04.

Loss of foodgrains due to shortage of storage facilities

*319. SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that over Rs. 58,000 crore worth of foodgrain perishes, annually in the country due to lack of proper rules and storage facilities;

(b) if so, who is responsible for such loss;