

श्रीमती कहकशां परवीन: माननीय सभापति महोदय, मैं आपके माध्यम से माननीय मंत्री जी से यह जानना चाहती हूँ कि पिछले पांच सालों में गांवों में बीएसएनएल और एमटीएनएल के उपभोक्ताओं की संख्या बढ़ी है या घटी है? इसके साथ ही मैं यह भी जानना चाहती हूँ कि इन दो सालों में कितने गांवों में स्पीड हाई-फाई नेटवर्क लगाए गए हैं?

श्री रवि शंकर प्रसाद: सर, इस विभाग को अब मैं हैंडल नहीं कर रहा हूँ और यह प्रश्न इस प्रश्न से संबंधित नहीं है, लेकिन फिर भी अपने अनुभव के आधार पर मैं उनको बताना चाहूंगा कि आज कल बीएसएनएल 20 लाख कस्टमर्स प्रति महीने ऐड कर रहा है और वह इस क्षेत्र में देश में चौथे नंबर पर आ गया है, जब कि पहले इनकी संख्या 5 या 6 लाख में हुआ करती थी। इस विकास के लिए उनका सम्मान तो होना चाहिए और वह गांवों में भी बहुत काम कर रहा है। सभापति जी, चूंकि माननीय सदस्या ने स्पेसिफिक संख्या मांगी है, इसलिए मैं विभाग को कहूंगा और वहां से लेकर हम उनको प्रोवाइड करा देंगे।

एक बात हमें अवश्य कहनी चाहिए, वह यह है कि भारत में जो तकनीकी बदलाव हो रहा है, उसके मद्देनजर मैं देख रहा हूँ कि विस्तार से नई-नई सेवाएं शुरू होंगी और बीएसएनएल भी उनको काफी इंप्रूव करेगा, एमटीएनएल दिल्ली में लगभग हजार नए बीटीएस लगाने की योजना बना रहा है, मुम्बई में वह काफी काम कर रहा है। इस प्रकार से हम मिल कर काम करेंगे, निजी क्षेत्र भी काम करेंगे और पीएसयूज भी काम करेंगे। ऐसे मिल कर देश को सशक्त करेंगे।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Question No. 22.

Conversion of agricultural land for other purposes

*22. SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the problems being faced due to the conversion and diversion of agricultural land towards non-agricultural uses, which has led to a shrinkage in the agricultural output;

(b) the details of agricultural land that has been converted for non-agricultural uses in the country in the last two years and the current year; and

(c) whether any policy/law has been implemented by Government to contain such conversion of agricultural land, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) The Government is aware of the problems of the conversion and diversion of agricultural land towards non-agricultural uses. While there is a shift

in agricultural land for non-agricultural purposes, non-agricultural land is also being brought under agricultural uses. In the present system of reporting of land utilization in the country, the details of agricultural land put to non-agricultural uses are not available separately. However, as per report of Land Use Statistics for 2013-14 (latest available), during the period of three years, there has been marginal decline in the agricultural land and similar increase in the area put to non-agricultural uses as per details given below:

(Million Hectares)

Year	Agricultural land	Area put to non-agricultural uses
2010-11	182.01	26.40
2013-14	181.85	26.91
Increase (+)/Decrease (-)	(-) 0.16	0.51

Despite marginal decline in the agricultural land various initiatives taken by the Government have led to increase in the agricultural production in the country except in the years of drought, flood, etc.

(c) As per Seventh Schedule of Constitution of India, land comes under the purview of State Government. Therefore, the State Governments are to take suitable steps as required 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 earmarked lands with 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.

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Sir, this is a very important question that needs to be dealt with at length, but, this being the Question Hour, I would like to make it concise. I would request you to permit a separate discussion on this subject.

Sir, India is basically an agricultural country and our population is increasing enormously. And sooner or later, we are going to surpass even China in population, whereas, the area of India is only one-third of China. In this situation, when the requirement for food is increasing, the cultivable agricultural lands are being converted for non-agricultural purposes. Sir, the statistics show very clearly that in the year 2013-14, 26.91 million hectares of agricultural land have been converted for non-agricultural purposes, that is, 2 crore 70 lakh hectares of agricultural land.

When the population is increasing and when the food requirement is increasing, it is diminishing or decreasing to this very, very alarming situation, what are the steps the Government is keeping in mind? They may say that it is a State issue, but, when the Central Government can issue directions to the State Government how to acquire lands and all, there must be a stringent law that agricultural lands should not be converted for non-agricultural purposes. I would like to know whether the Ministry is having such an intention.

श्री परशोत्तम रूपाला: चेयरमैन सर, माननीय सांसद श्री तिरुची शिवा ने जो प्रश्न उठाया है कि एग्रीकल्चरल जमीन घट रही है और फूड सिक्योरिटी के बारे में चिंता जताई है, मैं आपके माध्यम से माननीय सदस्य और माननीय सदन के संज्ञान में लाना चाहता हूँ कि अगर आप तथ्यों पर गौर करें, 2010 से लेकर वर्तमान समय तक एग्रीकल्चर क्षेत्र में जो टोटल प्रोडक्शन की फिगर्स हैं, उनके अनुसार पहले 244 मिलियन टन से बढ़ कर, इस साल, अभी तक वर्ष 2015-16 की जो फिगर्स हैं और आने वाले वर्ष 2016-17 की फिगर्स हैं, हम 252 मिलियन टन तक पहुंचे हैं। इसी तरह अगर कन्टीन्यूटी में आप देखें, तो वर्ष 2013-14, वर्ष 2014-15 और वर्ष 2015-16 में, जब सूखे का समय था, उस समय भी देश में एग्रीकल्चर प्रोडक्शन कम नहीं हुआ है। इसका मतलब यह हुआ कि जमीन तो घट रही है, यह फैक्ट है, इसे नकारा नहीं जा सकता, लेकिन विकास के जितने काम हो रहे हैं, नई सड़कें बनेंगी, नई रेल लाइनें बनेंगी, नए रास्ते बनेंगे, नई आबादी के लिए घर बनेंगे, उसके लिए जमीन तो कटेगी, मगर इसके इलाज के लिए, खासकर माननीय सांसद ने जैसा अभी बताया कि हमारी आबादी बढ़ रही है और हम चीन से भी आगे निकल जाएंगे, उन्हें खाने की दिक्कत न हो, फूड सिक्योरिटी की दिक्कत न हो, इसके लिए भारत सरकार ने जो कदम उठाए हैं, उनके अंतर्गत इस साल में आज तक इतिहास का रिकॉर्ड उत्पादन इस देश का किसान करने जा रहा है, यह मैं आपके माध्यम से संसद के संज्ञान में लाना चाहता हूँ।

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Sir, the Minister's reply is justifying that the conversion of cultivable agricultural lands to non agricultural lands will not affect the food production. Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister one thing. When he says that food production has increased comparatively what it was, and what it is now, and whether it would meet the demand and supply situation. Agricultural sector is the largest sector which provides more employment, and production which he says nowadays is by way of modern technology. Non-conventional methods do not suit our soil, and it has already displaced too many numbers of agricultural workers, and introduction of genetically modified seeds would also encourage the farmers that they would get more yield. But, in that case, we have to stretch our hands to foreign countries even for our seeds, and our conventional agriculture would be totally erased. So, in that situation, statistics showing that food production has increased by non-conventional methods, will not suit us. We have to stick on to conventional methods. What I would urge the Minister is that kindly see to that no more agricultural land is converted for non-agricultural purpose.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

श्री परशोत्तम रूपाला: माननीय सभापति जी, मेरा कहना यह कतई नहीं था कि agricultural land का non-agricultural land में जो conversion हो रहा है, उससे हमें खुशी हो रही है या हम इसके पक्ष में हैं। ऐसी कोई बात नहीं है। भारत सरकार यह चाहती ही नहीं है कि agricultural land का non-agricultural land में conversion हो।

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am afraid, Question Hour is over. The House is adjourned till 2.30 p.m.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Productive and non-productive cows and bullocks in the country

*23. DR. KANWAR DEEP SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that 99.19 per cent of cows and 99 per cent of bullocks in the country are productive;
- (b) if so, the average value of production from them and expenditure thereon;
- (c) the agency that collected this data and when was this done; and
- (d) the basis of categorisation of productive and non-productive cows and bullocks?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH): (a) No, Sir. As per the 19th Livestock Census-2012, out of total no. of 122.98 million cows, 43.95 million cows are in-milk production (35.74%) and 46.88 million male cattle (69.03%) out of total population of 67.92 million are used for breeding and draught purposes.

(b) The total milk production from Cow/Bufferaloes etc. was 146.31 Million tonnes during the year 2014-15 and the average value of production was ₹ 33.65 per kg. The total expenditure on Dairy Development programmes by the Central Government during 2012-13 to 2015-16 was ₹ 1920.69 crores.

(c) The production estimate for milk is calculated annually based on the data collected under Integrated Sample Survey conducted by the State/UT Animal Husbandry Departments with the support of the Union Government and the value output of milk is calculated annually by Central Statistical Office.