

Use of agricultural land for non-agricultural purposes

625. DR. VIKAS MAHATME: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) the agricultural land in hectares that has been utilised for purposes other than agriculture during the last three years;
- (b) the State-wise data of the above; and
- (c) the factors responsible for this and whether any steps are being taken to utilize agricultural land for the right purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT): (a) and (b) Land and its management falls under the exclusive legislative and administrative jurisdiction of the States as provided in Entry No. 18 of List II (State List) of the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution. Conversion of agricultural land for non-agricultural purposes is done by the State Governments/UT Administrations concerned. However, as per report on Land Use Statistics for 2014-15 (latest available), State-wise details of 'arable/agricultural land' for the years from 2012-13 to 2014-15 are given in Statement (*See below*).

(c) The reduction in per centage of agricultural land has been mainly due to diversion of land for non-agricultural purposes such as urbanization, roads, industries, housing etc. While there is shift in agricultural land for non agricultural purposes, non-agricultural land is also being brought under agricultural uses.

As per the Seventh Schedule of Constitution of India, land comes under the purview of State Governments and, therefore, it is for them to take suitable steps to check conversion of agricultural land for non-agricultural purposes. However, Government of India supplements the efforts of States, through appropriate policy measures and budgetary support.

In order to check decline in the cultivable area in the country, under the National Policy for Farmers-2007 (NPF-2007), 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, 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 and acquisition of irrigated, multi-cropped agricultural land for non-agricultural uses may be kept to the minimum and avoided, to the extent possible. Further, Ministry of Rural Development is implementing an

Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) for development of rainfed/degraded areas. The IWMP has been converted to the Watershed Component of the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) from the financial year 2015-16.

With a view to prevent soil erosion, land degradation and also to maintain balance in various types of land uses across the country, Government of India is implementing National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA). Under this mission, all types of land including wasteland/barren land are developed with suitable need based soil and water conservation measures and parts of such degraded lands developed are put to agricultural practices, leading to net sown area remaining largely unchanged around 141 million hectares in the last two decades.

Statement

*State-wise details of arable/agricultural land in the country from
2012-13 to 2014-15 (latest available)*

States/Uts	(Thousand Hectares)		
	Arable Land/Agricultural Land		
	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15
1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh	15930	8879	9047
Arunachal Pradesh	424	424	423
Assam	3356	3357	3364
Bihar	6582	6578	6579
Chhattisgarh	5552	5550	5558
Goa	197	197	197
Gujarat	12661	12661	12661
Haryana	3664	3645	3656
Himachal Pradesh	812	812	812
Jammu and Kashmir	1070	1070	1075
Jharkhand	4336	4343	4343
Karnataka	12846	12840	12827
Kerala	2280	2279	2266
Madhya Pradesh	17264	17267	17252
Maharashtra	21129	21127	21099
Manipur	316	384	390

1	2	3	4
Meghalaya	1056	1056	1056
Mizoram	408	402	367
Nagaland	694	693	694
Odisha	6743	6797	6784
Punjab	4286	4219	4285
Rajasthan	25548	25542	25511
Sikkim	97	97	97
Tamil Nadu	8126	8120	8112
Telangana	State was constituted in June, 2014	6929	6877
Tripura	274	273	272
Uttarakhand	1547	1550	1549
Uttar Pradesh	19075	18955	18939
West Bengal	5673	5662	5655
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	28	28	28
Chandigarh	1	1	1
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	24	24	24
Daman and Diu	3	3	3
Delhi	53	53	53
Lakshadweep	2	2	2
Puducherry	30	30	29
ALL INDIA	182085	181850	181886

Source: Directorate of Economics And Statistics, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare.

Destruction of crops by abandoned cows and bulls

626. SHRIMATI SHANTA CHHETRI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that abandoned cows and bulls are destroying crops and is becoming a menace;

(b) if so, whether Government is taking any steps to secure and rescue these abandoned lots and provide them shelter; and

(c) if so, the measures taken so far along with the details thereof?