

State	Environmental compensation collected by the States (₹ in lakhs)			
	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
Punjab	Nil	73.22	133.94	167.58
Haryana	Nil	19.38	52.78	61.72
Uttar Pradesh	Nil	Nil	Nil	28.60

Conversion of agricultural zones into industrial zones

17. SHRIT.K.S. ELANGO VAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering to announce Special Agricultural Zones throughout the country to protect the agricultural zones from being converted into unchecked urban/industrial zones;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the steps taken by Government to protect the agricultural zones from being converted into urban/industrial zones?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Land use management comes in the domain of the State Government.

(c) The Government of India has taken following steps to protect the agricultural land from being converted for non-agricultural use:

(i) The National Policy for Farmers, 2007 (4.2.2 of Chapter-4) relating to asset reforms to empower farmers states that the Prime farmland must 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/wasteland elsewhere. For non-agricultural purposes, as far as possible land with low biological potential for farming would be earmarked and allocated.

(ii) Section 10 of Chapter-III of the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013 lays down "Special Provision to Safeguard Food Security" stipulating *inter-alia* that save

as otherwise provided in sub-section (2), no irrigated multi-cropped land shall be acquired under this Act subject to certain conditions.

Insurance cover for betel cultivation

18. SHRI G. C. CHANDRASHEKHAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that almost 10 million people in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Karnataka depend on betel cultivation;

(b) if so, whether the betel growing farmers are not getting benefit of the crop insurance scheme as the cultivation of betel has not been accorded the status of agriculture;

(c) if so, whether Government is planning to accord the status of agriculture to betel cultivation, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the other welfare measures taken by Government for the communities depending on betel cultivation in the country?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR): (a) There is no official estimate of the number of people depending on betel cultivation or the area and production of Betelvine in the country.

(b) and (c) All food, oilseed and commercial/Horticultural crops are covered under crop insurance schemes of the Government *viz.* yield based Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) and weather index based Restructured Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme (RWBCIS).

Betelvine is a Horticultural crop. For availing the benefit of the crop insurance scheme, States have to notify the crop. Karnataka and West Bengal have notified it under RWBCIS. In Bihar, the Department of Disaster Management is providing compensation for this crop, if any damage takes place due to unforeseen circumstances.

(d) Developmental programmes for promotion of Betelvine are being implemented by Central as well as State Governments.

- In Uttar Pradesh, the State Government is promoting Betelvine cultivation under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) and their own scheme. Under RKVY, 50% subsidy (upto ₹ 25,226) is given for Bareja construction cost upto 500 square