

**Conversion of agricultural land for
non-agricultural use**

681. DR. AMEE YAJNIK:
SHRI G. C. CHANDRASHEKHAR:
SHRI RAJMANI PATEL:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any measures have been taken by the Ministry to tackle the problems of conversion of agricultural land for non-agricultural usages including mining, residential and industrial purposes on a large scale, reduced income from farming and more people quitting farming and shortage of farm labour;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons for not taking measures in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR): (a) to (c) The reduction in percentage 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 tackle the problems of conversion of agricultural land for non agricultural uses. However, Government of India supplements the efforts of States, through appropriate policy measures and budgetary support.

In order to check decline in the arable 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 Development Component of the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) from the financial year 2015-16.

Further, Government has taken measures to retain farmers in agriculture and improve returns to farmers by enhancing institutional credit to farmers; promotion of scientific warehousing infrastructure for increasing shelf life of agricultural produce; improved access to irrigation through Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY); provision of Price Stabilization Fund (PSF) to mitigate price volatility in agricultural produce; Scheme for Soil Health Cards; setting up of Agri-tech Infrastructure Fund for making farming competitive and profitable; developing commercial organic farming in North East Region, etc.

**Committee for reforms in the
agriculture sector**

682. DR. AMEE YAJNIK:
SHRI RAJMANI PATEL:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether NITI Aayog has recently constituted any Task Force or Committee to suggest reforms in the agriculture sector, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the steps taken by Government to implement the reforms suggested by the Task Force or Committee?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR): (a) and (b) A High Powered Committee (Committee) of Chief Ministers for Transformation of Indian Agriculture was constituted by NITI Aayog in July, 2019. The Terms of Reference (ToR) of the Committee were as under:

- (i) to discuss measures for transformation of agriculture and raising farmers' income and suggest modalities for adoption and time bound implementation of following reforms by States/UTs.