

Survey of Barren Lands

1143. SHRI M. RAM GOPAL
REDDY :

SHRI RAM VILAS
PASWAN :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any survey in regard to the barren lands in the country has since been made;

(b) if so, the details of barren lands in each State; and

(c) whether Government propose to reclaim barren lands to boost the

production of foodgrains in the country and if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) :
(a) to (c) Land Use Statistics for the country are collected and reported in a 9-fold classification including barren and unculturable lands. The State-wise distribution of barren and unculturable land, as per land utilisation statistics available for the year 1980-81, is given in the Statement attached. Barren and unculturable lands cannot be economically brought under cultivation. Hence, there is no proposal to reclaim barren lands.

Statement

S. No.	Name of State/Union Territories	Area in '000 hectares
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2340
2.	Assam	1542
3.	Bihar	1011
4.	Gujarat	2503
5.	Haryana	65
6.	Himachal Pradesh	141
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	231
8.	Karnataka	844
9.	Kerala	86
10.	Madhya Pradesh	2322
11.	Maharashtra	1733
12.	Manipur	1419
13.	Meghalaya	231
14.	Nagaland	—
15.	Orissa	265
16.	Punjab	98
17.	Rajasthan	2917
18.	Sikkim	205
19.	Tamilnadu	577
20.	Tripura	120
21.	Uttar Pradesh	1141
22.	West Bengal	121

1	2	3
23.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	1
24.	Arunachal Pradesh	19
25.	Dadar & Nagar Haveli	—
26.	Chandigarh	Not available
27.	Delhi	18
28.	Goa, Daman & Diu	16
29.	Lakshadweep	—
30.	Mizoram	201
31.	Pondicherry	(a)
32.	All India	20167

(a) Below 500 hectares.

Putting Farmland to Non-Agricultural Use

1144. SHRI R. P. GAEKWAD :
Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE
be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the growing trend in various States in the country of putting farmland to non-agricultural use and thus allowing degradation of soil;

(b) whether Central Government have issued necessary guidelines to States to protect green land, forests and natural environment while planning for industrial and economic development; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN
THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE
(SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Government of India have been repeatedly stressing to all the States and Union Territories that good agricultural land should not be diverted for other uses especially when less productive land is available. The increasing requirement of food on account of population increase and attendant developmental activities, make very essential

to conserve as much land as possible for agricultural production and not to permit its diversion to non-agricultural purposes, except when such diversion subserves an important public purposes. Even there, diversion is to be limited to the minimum. States and Union Territories have been further advised to have State Land Use Boards to look into this matter. The National Land Board which is represented by a Minister each, from the States and Union Territories in its first meeting held on 7th March, 1984 recommended that the States and Union Territories will ensure by all possible means that good agricultural lands are not diverted for non-agricultural purpose. In the tenancy laws of a majority of the States, restrictions have been imposed on diversion of agricultural land to non-agricultural use. Laws of some States, however, provide for such diversion under certain circumstances with the permission of the competent authority.

The Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 provides that prior approval of the Central Government is necessary before any reserved forest land is dereserved or any forest land is diverted to any non-forest purpose by any State Government or