

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:344
ANSWERED ON:19.08.2004
ALLOTMENT OF WASTELAND TO LANDLESS POOR
Goel Shri Surendra Prakash

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the extent of total area of wasteland arid/semi arid in the country, State-wise break-up thereof;
- (b) the measure taken/proposed to be taken to make such potential land productive;
- (c) whether the Government propose to give such land to the landless poor in order to empower them; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof, State-wise?

Answer

MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH)

(a) to (d): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (8) TO (d) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION No.344 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 19.8.2004

(a) The Wastelands Atlas of India- (2000) brought out by the Ministry of Rural Development in collaboration with the National Remote Sensing Agency (NRSA), Hyderabad, estimated the extent of wastelands in the country as 638518.31 sq. lans. (63.85 million hectares). For the development of semi-arid and arid areas, the Drought Prone Areas Programme (DP AP) and the Desert Development Programme (DDP) are being implemented. A Technical Committee set up by the Ministry in 1994, reviewed these Programmes and identified 745914 sq. lans. (74.59 million hectares) in 182 districts as semi-arid (drought prone area) and 457949 sq. lans. (45.79 million hectares) in 40 districts as arid (desert areas). The State-wise details of these wastelands, arid and semi-arid areas are at Annexures I & II.

(b) For overall development of these identified wastelands, semi-arid and arid areas, the Ministry is implementing three specific area development programmes namely, the Integrated Wastelands Development Programme (IWDP), the Drought Prone Areas Programme (DP AP) and the Desert Development Programme (DDP). At the village level, these Programmes are being executed through the Gram Panchayats on a watershed basis with main focus on activities relating to land development, soilmoisture conservation, water resources development and afforestation/pasture development in the watershed area. The actual watershed works and activities to be taken up are decided by the local community after taking into consideration the local needs and aspirations as reflected by the requirements of the User Groups and Self Help Groups.

(c) & (d) Land is a State subject and the State Governments are distributing Government wastelands to landless poor. The extent of such land distributed as on March 2003, State-wise, is at Annexure-III.

ANNEXURE - I

Annexure referred to in reply to part (a) of the Lok Sabha Starred Question number 344 due for answer on 19th August 2004.

STATE-WISE WASTELANDS OF INDIA

(Area in Sq.Kms)
Number Total Total % of
Sl.No. State of geographic wastelands wastelands to
Districts aI area of area in total
Covered districts districts geographical
covered covered Area

1. Andhra Pradesh 23 275068.00 51750.19 18.81

2. Arunachal Pr. 13 83743.00 18326.25 21.88

3. Assam 23 78438.00 20019.17 25.52

4. Bihar 55 173877.00 20997.55 12.08

5. Goa	02	3702.00	613.27	16.57
6. Gujarat	25	196024.00	43021.28	21.95
7 Haryana	19	44212.00	3733.98	8.45
8. Himachal Pr.	12	55673.00	31659.00	56.87
9. J&K	14	222236.00	65444.24	64.55
10. Kamataka	27	191791.00	20839.28	10.87
11. Kerala	14	38863.00	1448.18	3.73
12. M.P.	62	443446.00	69713.75	15.72
13. Maharashtra	32	307690.00	53489.08	17.38
14. Manipur	09	22327.00	12948.62	58.00
15. Meghalaya	07	22429.00	9904.38	44.16
16. Mizoram	03	21081.00	4071.68	19.31
17. Nagaland	07	16579.00	8404.10	50.69
18. Orissa	30	155707.00	21341.71	13.71
19. Punjab	17	50362.00	2228.40	4.42
20. Rajasthan	32	342239.00	105639.11	30.87
21. Sikkirn	04	7096.00	3569.58	50.30
22. Tripura	04	10486.00	1276.03	12.17
23. Tamil Nadu	29	130058.00	23013.90	17.70
24. Uttar Pradesh	83	294411.00	38772.80	13.17
25. West Bengal	18	88752.00	5718.48	6.44
26. U.Ts	20	10973.00	574.30	5.23
TOTAL	584	3287263.00	638518.31	20.17

Note: 1,20,849 sq. kms. in Jammu & Kashmir is not mapped and hence not considered for calculating the percentage.

ANNEXURE-II

Annexure referred to in reply to part (a) of the Lok Sabha Starred Question number 344 due for answer on 19th August 2004.
EXTENT OF STATE-WISE SEMI-ARID (DROUGHT PRONE) AND ARID (DESERT) AREAS

Sl.No. State Area in Sq. Kms.

SEMI-ARID ARID
(Drought Prone) (Desert)

1. Andhra Pradesh	99218	19136
2. Bihar	9533	-
3. Chattisgarh	21801	-
4. Guiarat	43938	55424
5. Haryana	-	20542
6. Himachal Pradesh	3319	35107
7 Jammu & Kashmir	14705	96701
8. Iharkhand	34843	-
9. Karnataka	84332	32295
10. Madhya Pradesh	89101	-
11. Maharashtara	194473	-
12. Orissa	26178	-
13. Rajasthan	31969	198744
14. Tamil Nadu	29416	-

15. Uttar Pradesh 35698 -
16. Uttaranchal 15796 -
17. West Bengal 11594 -

Total 745914 457949

Annexure-III

Annexure referred to in reply to parts (c) & (d) of the Lok Sabha Starred Question No.344 due for answer on 19th August 2004.

Distribution of Government Wastelands as on March,2003

Sl.No. Name of State/UT Area Distributed in Lakh Hectares

1. Andhra Pradesh 16.81
2. Assam 2.36
3. Bihar ## 5.28
4. Gujarat 5.52
5. Haryana 0
6. Himachal Pradesh 0.07
- 7 Kamataka 5.49
8. Kerala 1.83
9. Madhya Pradesh # 0.32
10. Maharashtra 4.09
11. Manipur 0.13
12. Punjab 0.44
13. Orissa 2.90
14. Tamil Nadu 0.83
15. Tripura 0.53
16. Uttar Pradesh @ 9.96
17. West Bengal 1.73
18. Goa 0.02
19. Mizoram 0.30
20. Rajasthan 0.37
21. Delhi 0.02

Total 59.00

- ## Including Tharkhand
Including Chhattisgarh
@ Including Uttaranchal