

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1652

ANSWERED ON:10.12.2004

DEVELOPMENT OF WASTELAND

Barman Shri Hiten;Barman Shri Ranen;Chowdhury Shri Adhir Ranjan;Mahato Shri Sunil Kumar;Prasad Shri Hari Kewal;Purandeswari Smt. Daggubati;Renge Patil Shri Tukaram Ganpatrao;Singh Shri Dushyant

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the total waste land in the country, State-wise;
- (b) the steps taken to develop the waste land in those States during last three years;
- (c) the amount required and sanctioned by the Government for the development of the waste land;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to involve private/corporate sector for this objective;
- (e) if so, the details thereof;
- (f) whether the Government has launched Loknayak Jaiprakash Narayan national mission investment promotion scheme for the development of wasteland; and
- (g) if so, the details thereof alongwith the allocations made therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SMT. SURYAKANTA PATIL)

(a) As per the `Wastelands Atlas, 2000s published by the Department of Land Resources in collaboration with the National Remote Sensing Agency (NRSA), Hyderabad, the extent of total wastelands in the country is 63.85 million hectares. State-wise break up of wastelands is given in Annexure-I.

(b) Watershed development projects for treatment of wastelands/degraded lands in the country are sanctioned by the Department of Land Resources under the Ministry of Rural Development under 3 Area Development Programmes namely Integrated Wastelands Development Programme (IWDP), Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP) and Desert Development Programme (DDP) for a period of 5 years. The Department has released Rs. 198656.13 lakhs for various projects under the above programmes in the States during the last three years as per details given in Annexure-II. Under these programmes, various soil & moisture conservation activities, water harvesting, afforestation, pasture development etc. are carried out with the active participation of local inhabitants.

(c) Out of 63.85 million hectares of wastelands, 51.049 million hectares are treatable wastelands. Out of this, the Department of Land Resources is to treat 30.84 million hectares of wastelands (balance being treated by other Ministries). At the present cost norm of Rs. 6000 per hectare, the total cost for treatment comes to Rs. 18,503.28 crores. The Department of Land Resources has sanctioned an amount of Rs. 3456.48 crores w.e.f. 1.4.1995 till 31.03.2004 under IWDP, DPAP and DDP for treatment of 19.41 million hectares on watershed basis which also includes wastelands.

(d) & (e) Land is a State subject. Therefore, allotment of wastelands for development purposes is the responsibility of the concerned States.

(f) & (g) No such Mission has been launched by the Government.