

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4427

ANSWERED ON:25.04.2005

SOIL SURVEY AND LAND DEGRADATION

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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is scientific survey available in the country which identifies the extent and nature of land degradation correctly and periodically;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to conduct soil survey and land degradation mapping of the entire country;
- (d) whether there is any proposal to encourage States to launch an ambitious programme for the utilization of degraded and under utilized lands;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA):

(a) to (c) Yes, Sir. There are various Government agencies, who are involved in soil/land degradation survey in the country. The names of such organizations and nature and extent of survey work done by them is as follows:

(i) All India Soil and Land Use Survey (AISLUS) has so far conducted Rapid Reconnaissance Survey (RRS) of about 190 million hectares of land on 1:50,000 scale to identify very high and high degraded lands for priority treatment. AISLUS has also conducted Detailed Soil Survey of about 13 million hectares on 1:15,000 scale, of lands identified for priority treatment during RRS. IN addition, AISLUS has also conducted Land Degradation Mapping of 64 districts on 1:50,000 scale to generate realistic and scientific information base on degraded lands for development at district/taluka level.

(ii) The National Remote Sensing Agency, Department of Space, Government of India, Hyderabad has brought out Wastelands Atlas of India in May, 2000 identifying 63.85 million hectares of wasteland in the country in 13 different categories. The report covers 584 districts in 25 States/UTs. on 1:50,000 scale.

(iii) The National Bureau of Soil Survey and Land Use Planning (NBSS & LUP) of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has conducted soil survey on 1:250,000 scale in the country and identified 150 million hectares of degraded lands.

(d) to (f) The Government of India is implementing, through the State Governments, the following programmes for the development/utilization of degraded lands including wastelands in the country Department of Agriculture and Cooperation;

(i) National Watershed Development Projects in Rainfed Areas.

(ii) Soil Conservation in the Catchments of River Valley Project and Flood Prone Rivers.

(iii) Reclamation of Alkali Soils.

(iv) Watershed Development Projects in Shifting Cultivation Areas. Department of Land Resources.

(v) integrated Wasteland Development Programme.

(vi) Drought Prone Areas Programmes.

(vii) Desert Development Programme.

The above programmes are being continued to be implemented in the Xth Plan.