

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
RURAL DEVELOPMENT  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:98  
ANSWERED ON:17.10.2008  
DEVELOPMENT OF BARREN LAND  
Jogi Shri Ajit;Nayak Shri Ananta

**Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:**

(a) the total area of barren land in the country, State-wise;

(b) the details of projects implemented and the area of such land brought under cultivation during each of the last three years and the current year, under various schemes, State-wise; and

(c) the amount of fund provision made therefor during the eleventh plan?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI C HANDRA SEKHAR SAHU)

(a) As per the Wastelands Atlas of India-2005 brought out by the Department of Land Resources, Ministry of Rural Development in collaboration with the National Remote Sensing Agency (NRSA), Hyderabad using satellite imagery data, an area of 552.69 lakh ha. in the country is estimated to be wastelands. The State-wise details on the extent of these wastelands are at Annexure-I

(b) With the objective of bringing the wastelands into productive use, the Department of Land Resources, Ministry of Rural Development has been implementing three area development programmes namely Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP), Desert Development programme (DDP) and Integrated Wastelands Development Programme (IWDP) on watershed basis. During the last three years, an area of 97.03 lakh ha. has been taken up for development under these programmes. The State-wise details of area taken up during the last three years and current year are given at Annexure-II

(c) An outlay of Rs. 15,359 Crores has been indicated by the Planning Commission for the watershed programmes of the department during the eleventh plan.