

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
AGRICULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:61  
ANSWERED ON:09.11.2010  
SOIL EROSION  
Argal Shri Ashok

**Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Yamuna and Chambal rivers are causing soil erosion;
- (b) if so, the areas affected by the above rivers due to soil erosion during each of the last three years;
- (c) whether the agricultural land is being converted into ravine due to soil erosion;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether steps are being taken to check soil erosion; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS)

(a) & (b): Yes, Madam. Soil erosion is a natural process occurring in the catchment area of the river systems. River-wise soil erosion and land degradation study has not been conducted. However, as per available estimates (2005), out of total geographical area of 328.73 million ha., about 93.68 million ha. (28.5%) is subjected to soil erosion due to water across the country including the catchment areas of Yamuna and Chambal rivers.

(c) & (d): The ravines are extensive system of Gullies developed along the river courses and are formed as a result of localized surface runoff in all categories of lands viz. Agricultural land, Wastelands and Forest lands. As per Wastelands Atlas published by Ministry of Rural Development, the Gullied/Ravinous land has marginally decreased from 2.05 million ha. in 2000 to 1.90 million has in 2003 in the country.

(e) & (f): With a view to prevent soil erosion and land degradation, Government of India, Ministry of Agriculture is implementing various Watershed Development Programmes, namely; National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas (NWDPR), Soil Conservation in the Catchments of River Valley Project and Flood Prone River (RVP & FPR), Reclamation and Development of Alkali & Acid Soils (RADAS) and Watershed Development Project in Shifting Cultivation Areas (WDPSCA) across the country. Ministry of Rural Development is also implementing a major Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) for restoring ecological balance by harnessing, conserving and developing degraded lands in the country.