

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4502
ANSWERED ON:07.12.2010
SOIL EROSION
Rao Shri Kavuri Samba Siva

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has made any assessment with regard to the extent of soil erosion caused by the recent floods in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to check the soil erosion;
- (d) whether the Government has assessed the loss caused therefrom; and
- (e) 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): No, Madam. However, as per study conducted by Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), out of total geographical area of 328.73 million ha., about 146.82 million ha. (45%) area is subjected to various kinds of land degradation, of which 93.68 million ha. (28.5%) is due to water erosion across the country. The State-wise details of various kind of land degradation are annexed.

(c): 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 conserving and developing degraded lands in the country.

(d) & (e): As per study conducted by Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) about 1 millimeter of top soil is being lost each year due to soil erosion.