

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
AGRICULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2226

ANSWERED ON:21.07.2009

CENTRAL ASSISTANCE FOR PREVENTION OF SOIL EROSION AND WATER LOGGING

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

(a) the details of the Central assistance sought by different States including Bihar for prevention of soil erosion and water logging during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise;

(b) the details of funds released by the Union Government for the purpose during the said period; and

(c) the details of funds utilized thereon during the said period, State-wise?

**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) to (c): The soil formation and soil erosion is a natural process, occurring simultaneously to maintain the equilibrium in eco-system. As per the study conducted(2005) by National Bureau of Soil Survey and Land Use Planning (NBSS&LUP) - Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) Regional Center, Nagpur, out of country's total geographical area of 328.60 million ha, about 146.82 million ha. area (45%) is suffering from various kinds of land degradation as per break up given below:-

S.No. Type of Land Degradation Extent of Area in million ha.

1. Water Erosion 93.68

2. Wind Erosion 9.48

3. Water Logging 14.30

4. Salinity/Alkalinity 5.95

5. Soil Acidity 16.03

6. Complex Problem 7.38

Total 146.82

With a view to prevent soil erosion and land degradation, Government of India, Ministry of Agriculture is implementing various Watershed Development Programmes, namely,

(i) National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas (NWDPR),

(ii) Soil Conservation for Enhancing the Productivity of Degraded Lands in the Catchments of River Valley Project and Flood Prone River (RVP & FPR),

(iii) Reclamation and Development of Alkali & Acid Soils (RADAS),

(iv) Watershed Development Projects in Shifting Cultivation Areas (WDPSCA) in the country including Bihar. Under these programmes, in last three years (2006-07 to 2008-09) an amount of Rs.1839.85 crore was allocated, against which Rs.1737.38 crore has been utilized by the States and during current year (2009-10), an amount of Rs.490.48 crore has been allocated. The State-wise details of amount allocated in last three years, amount utilized and fund allocated for 2009-10 are annexed.