

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
AGRICULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4279  
ANSWERED ON:04.08.2009  
BARREN LAND  
Reddy Shri Anantha Venkatarami

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

- (a) whether any survey has been conducted to identify desert and barren land in the country including Andhra Pradesh; and  
(b) if so, the details thereof, 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) & (b): According to the concepts & definitions of land uses, barren land includes all land covered by mountains, deserts, etc. As per Land Use Statistics at a Glance (2006-07), Ministry of Agriculture, Department of Agriculture & Cooperation, Government of India, total barren lands in the country including Andhra Pradesh is 17.44 million ha., as per the State-wise details annexed.

Most of the desert lands are suffering from complex problems of the land degradation. These lands cannot be brought under cultivation except at an exorbitant cost and is classified as un-culturable land located in isolated blocks or within cultivated holding, and therefore, there is no comprehensive scheme/programme for the development of barren land.

Various schemes/programmes of Watershed Development are being implemented to develop the degraded lands with the objective of preventing soil erosion, land degradation, maintaining balance in different types of land uses, increasing moisture and groundwater recharge, sustaining productivity etc. It is because of these programmes that the Net Sown Area across the country has remained approximately the same i.e. 141 million ha. despite increase in area under non-agricultural uses over last two decades.