

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:52
ANSWERED ON:22.11.2011
EROSION IN RIVER BASIN
Argal Shri Ashok

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether erosion is taking place in the Yamuna and the Chambal river basin;
- (b) if so, the areas affected due to such erosion;
- (c) whether the agricultural land is turning into ravines;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the efforts being taken to prevent the same?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIR
Shri (SHRI HARISH RAWAT)

(a) & (b): Yes, Madam. Soil erosion is a natural process. River basin-wise soil erosion assessment has not been conducted. However, as per available estimates (2005), about 93.68 million hectares (including catchments of Yamuna and Chambal rivers) is affected by soil erosion due to water across the country.

(c) & (d): As per Wastelands Atlas (2005), Gullied/Ravinous land has marginally decreased from 2.05 million hectares (1986-2000) to 1.90 million hectares across the country.

(e): With a view to prevent soil erosion, land degradation, maintain balance in various types of land uses and to improve productivity of degraded agricultural land, Government of India, Ministry of Agriculture is implementing various Watershed Development Programmes, namely, National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas (NWDPPRA), 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 across the country.