

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
RURAL DEVELOPMENT  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3655

ANSWERED ON:26.04.2012

WASTELAND AREA

Rane Dr. Nilesh Narayan

**Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:**

- (a) the total area of wasteland in the country, State-wise;
- (b) the programmes/schemes formulated and under implementation to reclaim such wasteland;
- (c) the source of funding such programmes/schemes alongwith the investment already made in this regard upto the financial year 2011-12;
- (d) the details of employment generated during the last three years and the current year by way of developing wasteland; and
- (e) the steps proposed to be taken to further improve/expedite the process of reclamation of such land?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SISIR KUMAR ADHIKARI)

(a) As per the latest 'Wastelands Atlas of India-2010' published by the Department of Land Resources, Ministry of Rural Development and National Remote Sensing Centre, Hyderabad, the total wastelands in the country is 47.23 million hectare. The State-wise details are at Annexure-I

(b) The Department of Land Resources, Ministry of Rural Development has been implementing three area development programmes viz. Integrated Wastelands Development Programme (IWDP), Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP) and Desert Development Programme (DDP) since 1995 on watershed basis. The above three programmes have been merged into a single modified programme i.e. Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) w.e.f. 26.02.2009.

(c) These programmes are funded jointly by the State Governments and the Central Government. In respect of IWDP, DPAP, DDP and IWMP schemes, the central share is 92%, 75%, 75% and 90 %, respectively. The balance is the State share. The release of central share under these programmes from 1995-96 till 2011-12 is as follows:

Sl.No Programme Funds released(Rs. in crore)

- 1. IWDP 4326.52
- 2. DPAP 4215.69
- 3. DDP 3127.67
- 4. IWMP 3948.15

(d) As per the information received from the State Governments, employment generated during the period is 42.31 crore mandays.

(e) The steps taken to further improve/ expedite the process of development of rainfed areas including wastelands include the provision of treatment of micro-watersheds on cluster basis, reduced number of installments, delegation of power of sanction of projects to the States, dedicated institutions, capacity building of stakeholders, monitoring & evaluation, specific budget provision for detailed project report preparation and livelihood component.