

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6775
ANSWERED ON:17.05.2012
RECLAMATION OF LAND
Nagar Shri Surendra Singh

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the total area of barren land in the country, State-wise;
- (b) the area of land reclaimed during the last three years and the current year, State-wise;
- (c) the amount sanctioned and expenditure incurred by the Government for barren land reclamation during this period, State-wise; and
- (d) the sources of funds for the same?

Answer

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

(a) As per 'Wastelands Atlas of India - 2011' prepared by NRSC, Hyderabad, the total waste lands in the country are estimated at 46.70 million hectare (ha). This includes 11.77 million hectare of unculturable barren/rocky/steep slopes/snow covered areas. The State-wise area of barren land, as per 'Wastelands Atlas of India ? 2011', is at Annexure-I.

(b) to (d) The Department is not implementing any scheme specifically for the reclamation of barren land. However, the Department has been implementing three area development schemes viz., Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP), Desert Development Programme (DDP) and Integrated Wastelands Development Programme (IWDP) on watershed basis since 1995-96 which have been integrated and consolidated into a single modified programme called Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) with effect from 26.02.2009 being implemented under the Common Guidelines for Watershed Development Projects, 2008. The main aims of IWMP are harnessing, conserving and developing degraded natural resources such as soil, vegetative cover and water; prevention of soil run-off; rain water harvesting and recharging of the ground water table; increasing the productivity of crops; introduction of multi-cropping and diverse agro-based activities; promoting sustainable livelihoods and increasing the household incomes. Under the modified programme of IWMP, watershed projects are implemented on rainfed/ degraded lands in the country.

The details of State-wise central funds released and area covered under the DPAP, DDP & IWDP during last three years is at Annexure-II and details of State-wise projects sanctioned, area covered and central funds released under IWMP is at Annexure-III.