

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
RURAL DEVELOPMENT  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2202

ANSWERED ON:22.08.2013

WASTELAND

Mahato Shri Narahari;Sinh Dr. Sanjay;Tirkey Shri Manohar

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

- (a) the total wasteland in the country, State/UT-wise;
- (b) whether a large tract of wasteland in the country can be developed;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the Scheme launched to develop wasteland in the country;
- (d) the amount required and sanctioned by the Government for the development of the wasteland;
- (e) whether the Government proposes to involve private/corporate sector for the purpose;
- (f) if so, the details thereof; and (g) the details of the wasteland developed during each of the last three years and the current year, State/UT-wise?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI LALCHAND KATARIA)

(a) As per Wastelands Atlas of India-2011-Change Analysis Based on Temporal Satellite Data of 2005-06 and 2008-09, brought out by Department of Land Resources in collaboration with National Remote Sensing Centre, Hyderabad, the extent of wastelands in the country is 467021.16 square kms. The State-wise details are given in the Annexure-I.

(b) to (d) Out of 467021.16 square km of wastelands, 349355.41 square kms can be developed for productive use. There is no scheme / programme exclusively meant for development of wastelands in the country. However, 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 Programmes (DPAP) and Desert Development Programme (DDP) since 1995-96 on watershed basis. The above three programmes have been integrated into a single modified programme called Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) with effect from 26.02.2009, for development of rainfed/ degraded areas including wastelands. The major activities taken up under IWMP inter alia include ridge area treatment, drainage line

treatment, soil and moisture conservation, rain water harvesting, nursery raising, afforestation, horticulture, pasture development etc. While selecting the area for implementation of watershed projects of the Department, due weightage is given to the extent of area under wastelands. Under IWMP, a total of 6153 projects covering an area of 29.21 million ha. have been sanctioned and central assistance of Rs.6584.76 crore has been released to States from 2009-10 to 2012-13.

(e) & (f) The guidelines of the programme provide for involvement of Voluntary Organizations (VOs), corporate bodies in implementation of the programme. VOs/corporates have been involved as Project Implementing Agencies for implementation of IWMP projects. In addition, VOs are also involved in capacity building and evaluation of projects.

(g). As per Wastelands Atlas of India-2011, the total area of wasteland that has been reduced and put to productive use from 2005-06 to 2008-09 is 5240.78 sq. kms. The State / UT wise details are at Annexure-II.