

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3179
ANSWERED ON:29.08.2013
CONVERSION OF BARREN LAND
Choudhary Shri Harish;Singh Rajkumari Ratna

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the extent to which the target fixed for converting barren land into arable land have been achieved;
- (b) the reasons for slippages, if any;
- (c) the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (d) whether the Government has formulated any strategy to convert barren land into arable land in the 12th Five Year Plan; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI LALCHAND KATARIA)

(a) There is no specific scheme for converting barren land into arable land. Therefore no such target for converting barren land into arable land has been fixed by the Department of Land Resources, Ministry of Rural Development.

(b)& (c) Does not arise

(d) & (e) There is no specific scheme/ programme to convert barren land into arable land. 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 Programme (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 in the country. 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. The Department of Land Resources has fixed a target for sanction of new projects covering an area of 25 million hectares @ 5 million hectares per year during 12th Five Year Plan.