

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1985
ANSWERED ON:17.12.2013
BARREN LAND
Pandurang Shri Munde Gopinathrao

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether vast tract of fertile land in the country is turning into barren land;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has assessed the area of barren land across the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (e) whether the Government is working out any plan to develop barren land into fertile land; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR)

(a) to (d): No, Madam. As per available estimates, total barren and unculturable land has marginally decreased from 17.41 million hectare (2001-02) to 17.05 million hectare (2010-11) across the country. State-wise details of extent of barren and unculturable land are annexed.

(e) & (f): According to the definition of land uses, barren land includes all land covered by mountains, deserts, etc. which can not be brought under cultivation except at an exorbitant cost and is classified as unculturable land located in isolated blocks or within cultivated holdings. In view of this, there is no comprehensive scheme/programme for development of barren land into cultivable land. However, Ministry of Rural Development is implementing a major Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) for development of rainfed/degraded areas including wastelands in the country.