

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
AGRICULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3909

ANSWERED ON:18.02.2014

SURVEY ON SOIL EROSION

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**Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Government has periodically conducted any scientific survey/study to identify the extent and nature of soil erosion and land degradation across the country;
- (b) if so, the details and the findings thereof;
- (c) the details of cultivable area affected by soil erosion in the country during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise;
- (d) whether the Government has chalked out any programme for reclamation and development of such land in the country; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof along with the success achieved thereunder during the said period?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE FOR AGRICULTURE & FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT)

(a) & (b): The Council through National Bureau of Soil Survey and Land Use Planning, Nagpur conducted scientific soil survey time to time for assessing the extent and nature of soil erosion and land degradation across the country. The extent of Land degradation reported was 187.7 and 146.8 million ha during 1994 and 2004, respectively and more recently (2010) over 120 million ha based on the harmonized database comprising of 82.6 million ha under water erosion, 12.0 million ha under wind erosion, 24.7 million ha under chemical degradation and 1.0 million ha under physical degradation.

(c) Survey of area affected by soil erosion is not conducted every year. As per the latest report, the cultivable area affected by soil erosion is 92.39 million ha excluding the area eroded under open forest. The state wise details are annexed (Annexure-I).

(d) & (e): In order to prevent soil erosion and land degradation, Government of India, Ministry of Agriculture is implementing various watershed programmes, namely; National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas (NWDPRA), Soil Conservation in the Catchments of River Valley Project and Flood Prone River (RVP&FPR) and Reclamation and Development of Alkali & Acid Soils (RADAS) across the country. Ministry of Rural Development is also implementing Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) for the purpose. About 57.61 million ha area has been developed under various watershed development programmes of Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Rural Development since inception upto 2011-12. Besides, 1.5 million ha sodic land has been reclaimed using gypsum technology and 0.5 million ha saline land have been reclaimed using sub-surface drainage technology across the country.