

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
RURAL DEVELOPMENT  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3688  
ANSWERED ON:13.02.2014  
WASTE LAND DEVELOPMENT  
Mahendrasinh Shri Chauhan

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

- (a) the total area of waste land identified in the country along with the percentage thereof;
- (b) whether the Government has constituted any empowered committee to invite suggestions regarding land reforms and waste land development; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the criteria adopted for the selection of members of the said committee?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT  
(SHRI LAL CHAND 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 which is 14.75 % approximately of total Geographical area of the Country.

(b) & (c) A committee on State Agrarian Relations and the Unfinished Task in Land Reforms had been constituted under the Chairmanship of Minister of Rural Development vide Department of Land Resources (DoLR) Resolution dated 9th January 2008. The tenure of the committee was one year from its date of constitution. The Terms of Reference of the Committee were to examine issues relating to land ceiling programmes, Bhoodan land, tenancy, alienation of tribal lands, setting Up of Fast Track Courts and other related issues. The Committee has submitted its Report which is under consideration of National Council of Land Reforms under the chairmanship of Hon`ble Prime Minister. The team for this task was drawn from different field with substantial experience of administration, academics, social action and grassroots planning etc.