

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2271

ANSWERED ON:10.03.2015

ARABLE LAND

Charitra Shri Ram;Dwivedi Shri Harish;Kothapalli Smt. Geetha;Maadam Smt. Poonamben Hematbhai;Mondal Shri Sunil Kumar;Nishank Dr. Ramesh Pokhriyal;Patel Shri Devji Mansingram;Patel Shri Dilip;Patel Shri Prahlad Singh

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of cultivable, irrigated, unirrigated, degraded and barren land in the country, State-wise;
- (b) whether a large tracts of cultivable land has become unsuitable for agricultural practices in various parts of the country during each of the last three years and the current year;
- (c) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and the reasons therefor;
- (d) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to check conversion of cultivable land into uncultivable/barren and make such land suitable for agricultural practices in the country; and
- (e) whether the Government is contemplating to give right to panchayat for using leftover arable land in the country; if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MOHANBHAI KUNDARIA)

(a) to (c): As per the latest available Land Use Statistics data, State-wise details of cultivable land, irrigated, unirrigated area in the country are at Annexure-I and Statewise details of barren and unculturable land and cultivable/culturable waste land in the country during each of the last three years and the current year are at Annexure-II.

Wastelands result from various constraints such as location, environment chemical and physical properties of the soil, financial or management constraints, availability/affordability of field labour, etc.

(d): As per the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India, land and its management comes under the purview of State Governments and therefore, it is for the State Governments to take suitable steps to check conversion of cultivable land. However, to supplement the efforts of the State Governments; Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India is implementing a major Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) to prevent soil erosion and land degradation across the country. Besides, all Centrally Sponsored Schemes/Missions related to agriculture of Ministry of Agriculture emphasize on resource conservation practices in arable lands for sustaining agricultural production across the country.

(e): Government of India (in M/o Panchayati Raj) has not initiated any proposal contemplating to give right to Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) for using leftover arable land. However, the subject 'Land improvement, implementation of land reforms, and land consolidation and soil conservation' is listed at serial number 2 of the Eleventh Schedule of the Constitution of India, which is an illustrative list of subjects which may be considered by States for transfer to PRIs.