

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1801
ANSWERED ON:22.07.2014
BARREN UNCULTIVABLE LAND
Kumar Dr. Arun

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a vast track of fertile land in the country has turned into barren land and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (b) whether the Government has assessed the extent of barren and uncultivable land in the country and if so, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to develop these barren land and turn them into fertile land and if so, the details thereof along with the funds allocated and utilised for the purpose during the last three years and the current year; and
- (d) the corrective measures taken/being taken by the Government to address the issue?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN)

(a) & (b): No, Madam. As per available estimates, total barren and unculturable land has marginally decreased from 17.29 million hectare (2006-07) to 17.23 million hectare (2011-12) across the country. State-wise details of extent of barren and unculturable land are annexed.

(c) & (d): According to the definition of land uses, barren land includes all lands covered by mountains, deserts, etc. which cannot be brought under cultivation except at an exorbitant cost. As such, there is no comprehensive scheme/programme for development of barren land into cultivable land. However, the Department of Land Resources, Ministry of Rural Development has been implementing a major Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) for development of rainfed/degraded areas including wastelands across the country.