

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4106

ANSWERED ON:07.08.2014

WASTELAND

Nimmala Shri Kristappa

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of total extent of wasteland and barren/desert land which can be developed and made cultivable, Statewise;
- (b) whether the Government has implemented any schemes/programmes for development of waste and barren/desert land in the country;
- (c) if so, the details thereof including the major activities taken under these schemes;
- (d) the funds/assistance provided to the States under those schemes during each of the last three years and the current year, State/UT-wise; and
- (e) the total area of wasteland which has been reduced and made cultivable/developed during the said period, State/UTwise?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI UPENDRA KUSHWAHA)

(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 total extent of wastelands in the country including barren/desert land is 467021.16 square km. Out of this, the land that can be developed for productive use is 349355.41 square km. The State/UT wise details are at Annexure-I.

(b) & (c) The Department of Land Resources, Ministry of Rural Development has been implementing three area development programmes viz. Integrated Wastelands Development Programme (IWDP), Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP) and Desert Development Programme (DDP) since 1995-96 on watershed basis. The above three programmes have been integrated into a single modified programme called Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) with effect from 26.02.2009, for development of rainfed/ degraded areas including wastelands. The major activities taken up under IWMP inter alia include ridge area treatment, drainage line treatment, soil and moisture conservation, rain water harvesting, nursery raising, afforestation, horticulture, pasture development, livelihoods for asset less persons.

(d) The details of the Central assistance provided to the States to implement various projects under Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) during each of the last three years and the current year, State/UT-wise is given at Annexure-II.

(e) As per the Wastelands Atlas of India-20 H, the total area of wasteland that has been reduced and put to productive use from 2005-06 to 2008-09 is 5240.78 square km. The State/ UT wise details are at Annexure-III.