

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:917
ANSWERED ON:27.11.2014
AGRICULTURAL LAND
Simha Shri Prathap

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the agricultural land in the country, State-wise;
- (b) the details of the cultivable waste land in the country, State-wise;
- (c) whether Government has taken any steps to convert cultivable waste land into agricultural land and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the details of the cultivable waste land converted into agricultural land, State-wise during each of the last three years State-wise?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUDARSHAN BHAGAT)

(a) & (b): The details of agricultural land and cultivable waste land in the country State-wise are given at Annexure.

(c) & (d): To prevent soil erosion, land degradation & also to maintain balance in various type of land uses, Government of India, Ministry of Agriculture was implementing various programmes, namely; National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas (NWDPR), Soil Conservation in the Catchments of River Valley Project and Flood Prone River (RVP & FPR), Reclamation and Development of Alkali & Acid Soils (RADAS) and Watershed Development Project in Shifting Cultivation Areas (WDPSCA) across the country. Further, the Department of Land Resources, Ministry of Rural Development has been implementing Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) w.e.f. 26.02.2009 for development of rainfed / degraded areas including Wastelands. In order to understand the dynamics of wastelands through comparison of spatial statistics, a project on Wasteland Change Analysis between 2005-06 and 2008-09 was given by the Department of Land Resources, Ministry of Rural Development to National Remote Sensing Centre, Hyderabad. The findings of the project have been published as Wastelands Atlas of India 2011. As per this Atlas, 19661.22 square kilometers of different categories of wastelands have been converted into crop land (including fallow land) between 2005-06 and 2008-09.