

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, COOPERATION AND FARMERS WELFARE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2788
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 13TH MARCH, 2018

SOIL AND WATER RESOURCES FOR AGRICULTURE

2788. SHRI RAM MOHAN NAIDU KINJARAPU:

DR. NARAMALLI SIVA PRASAD:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there has been a comprehensive assessment of the state of natural resources that are necessary for agriculture and farm livelihoods; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the status of the soil and water resources related to agriculture and the programmes to promote soil restoration and water conservation?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA)

(a) & (b) As per available estimates of Agricultural Statistics at a Glance 2016, agricultural land is about 181.78 million hectare across the country. Details of various classes of land resources of India are at **Annexure**. Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR-2010) indicates that around 120.4 million hectare of total geographical area of the country is affected by various kinds of land degradation comprising of water erosion (82.6 million hectare), wind erosion (12.0 million ha), chemical degradation (24.8 million ha) and physical degradation (1.0 million ha).

Estimates available in State of Indian Agriculture 2015-16 indicates that annual precipitation in India is about 4000 BCM (billion cubic meters) out of which 690 BCM is utilizable surface water resource whereas 431 BCM utilizable water resources is from ground water. Due to various major, medium and minor irrigation projects, net irrigated area is about 68.10 million hectare (2013-14) out of 140.71 million hectare of net area sown.

Aiming at soil and water conservation, a dedicated scheme of Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) has been launched during 2015-16. PMKSY has three components namely; (i) PMKSY- Har Khet Ko Pani, (ii) PMKSY- Per Drop More Crop and (iii) PMKSY- Watershed Development. PMKSY- Har Khet Ko Pani and PMKSY- Per Drop More Crop focus on creating sources for assured irrigation and creating protective irrigation through micro irrigation and drought proofing structures, whereas PMKSY-Watershed Development aims at prevention of soil erosion, regeneration of natural vegetation, rain water harvesting and recharging of the ground water table. For completion of 99 major and medium irrigation projects having potential of 76.03 lakh ha in phases by Dec., 2019, including command area development, a Long Term Irrigation Fund (LTIF) has been created in NABARD. Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare has launched Reclamation of Problem Soils (RPS) as a sub-scheme of Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) during 2016-17 for development of problem soils (Alkalinity, Salinity and Acidity) on pilot basis in 15 States having higher extent of problem soil area. The main objective of the scheme is to reclaim problem soils and to bring such land under cultivation so that further expansion of problem area is prevented and such land is put to continuous cultivation.

In addition to above, Government is also providing funds for soil and water conservation under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS). Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare is also promoting Soil Health Cards for giving information to farmers on nutrient status of their soil along with recommendations on appropriate dosage of nutrients to be applied for improving soil health and its fertility.

ANNEXURE

Status of Land Resources of India

(Area in million ha.)

Category	2013-14
Geographical Area	328.73
A) Forest	71.83
B) Area Not Available for Cultivation	
(i) area under non agricultural uses	26.91
(ii) barren & un-culturable land	16.95
Total B	43.86
C) Other uncultivable land excluding fallow land	
(i) Permanent pasture & other grazing land	10.26
(ii) Land under miscellaneous tree crops & groves not included in net area sown	3.18
(iii) Culturable waste land	12.39
Total C	25.83
D) Fallow Lands	
(i) Fallow land other than current fallows	11.31
(ii) Current Fallows	14.49
Total D	25.80
E) Net area sown	140.71
Agricultural Land – C(ii)+ C(iii)+ D(i)+D(ii)+E	181.78

(Source: Agricultural Statistics at a Glance - 2016)
