

**Wastelands**

\*335. SHRI MUKUL WASNIK : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be please to State:

(a) The total land demarcated as wastelands at the inception of the Department of Wastelands Development, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government have been able to develop appropriate technologies for increasing productivity of wastelands in sustainable ways; and

(c) If so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL) : (a) Various agencies have estimated area of wastelands affected by soil erosion and land degradation ranging from 38.4 M.ha. to 187 M.ha. The National Waste-

lands Development Board (NWDB) launched in 1985 and the Department of Wastelands Development (DOWD) set up in July, 1992 had commissioned a study entitled National Wastelands Identification Project with the collaboration of National Remote Sensing Agency (NRSA), Department of Space (DOS), Hyderabad, to identify the extent of various categories of wastelands in the country, on a scientific basis using Remote Sensing Satellite Imageries at 1 : 50,000 scale. NRSA has, so far, completed District level Mapping for 241 districts. Total area of wastelands in 241 districts is 35.65 M.ha. and the State-wise extent is given in the Statement-I enclosed.

(b) and (c) Research Institutions/Organizations under Central and State Governments, and State Agricultural Universities have developed technologies for improving the soil health and land productivity. The statement showing technologies for some of the problem lands is given in the Statement-II enclosed.

**Statement-I***Extent of Wastelands for 241 district covered by NRSA Hyderabad*

(Area in m.ha.)

| Sr. No.      | State             | No. of distt. covered | Total Geographical area of distt. covered | Total Wastelands | Percentage of total geographical area |
|--------------|-------------------|-----------------------|---|------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1.           | Andhra Pradesh    | 19                    | 24.677                                    | 4.88             | 19.78                                 |
| 2.           | Arunachal Pradesh | 1                     | 0.722                                     | 0.162            | 22.43                                 |
| 3.           | Assam             | 2                     | 1.522                                     | 0.868            | 57.02                                 |
| 4.           | Bihar             | 16                    | 10.687                                    | 1.622            | 15.16                                 |
| 5.           | Goa               | 2                     | 0.037                                     | 0.006            | 16.75                                 |
| 6.           | Gujarat           | 13                    | 11.887                                    | 2.099            | 17.66                                 |
| 7.           | Haryana           | 10                    | 3.258                                     | 0.254            | 7.81                                  |
| 8.           | Himachal Pradesh  | 3                     | 1.338                                     | 0.505            | 37.72                                 |
| 9.           | Jammu & Kashmir   | 3                     | 2.035                                     | 0.983            | 48.32                                 |
| 10.          | Karnataka         | 14                    | 14.337                                    | 1.712            | 11.94                                 |
| 11.          | Kerala            | 6                     | 1.969                                     | 0.098            | 4.95                                  |
| 12.          | Madhya Pradesh    | 45                    | 44.344                                    | 6.971            | 15.72                                 |
| 13.          | Maharashtra       | 17                    | 19.533                                    | 3.832            | 19.62                                 |
| 14.          | Manipur           | 6                     | 1.419                                     | 0.535            | 37.40                                 |
| 15.          | Nagaland          | 4                     | 0.854                                     | 0.462            | 54.08                                 |
| 16.          | Orissa            | 13                    | 15.568                                    | 2.134            | 13.71                                 |
| 17.          | Punjab            | 6                     | 2.387                                     | 0.103            | 4.31                                  |
| 18.          | Rajasthan         | 20                    | 20.587                                    | 5.184            | 25.18                                 |
| 19.          | Tamil Nadu        | 10                    | 9.410                                     | 1.481            | 15.73                                 |
| 20.          | Uttar Pradesh     | 28                    | 14.232                                    | 1.490            | 10.47                                 |
| 21.          | West Bengal       | 3                     | 2.722                                     | 0.211            | 7.76                                  |
| <b>Total</b> |                   | <b>241</b>            | <b>203.857</b>                            | <b>35.65</b>     | <b>17.49</b>                          |

**Statement-II**

Keeping in view the geo-location and type of wastelands, various Research Institutions viz. Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR), State Agricultural Universities (SAUs) and other organisations under State/Central Governments have developed suitable technologies to improve the soil health and land productivity of various types of degraded wastelands. Technologies for some of the categories of wastelands are given below :

1. *Sandy/Desert area :*

Stabilisation of the problem area by wind breaks and shelter belts, stubble mulching, Strip cropping, Agro-Forestry Systems etc.

2. *Land with or without Scrub/Sheet erosion Area :*

Diversion bunds, contour /graded terracing and trenching, check dams, conservation structures of erosion control, water harvesting and storage including biological measures, agro-forestry systems, etc.

3. *Shifting Cultivation :*

Agricultural crops on the lower slopes, horticultural plantations on mid-slopes and grasses & forest plantations on the top, Contour/graded bunds, bench terracing, half moon terraces, grassed water ways, Silt detention tanks/storage structures etc.

4. *Salt Affected Soils :*

- (a) **Alkali Soil :** Bunding and levelling flooding/irrigation using good quality of water, surface drainage, gypsum and pyrite application followed by leaching, green manuring and crop production.
- (b) **Saline Soils :** Land levelling and grading, surface drainage, green manuring, crop management and auger hole technique for plantation of trees.
- (c) **Acid Soils :** Addition of lime, green manuring and crop management.

5. *Waterlogged Area :*

Surface and Sub-Surface drainage systems, bio-drainage and agro-management practices including raising of suitable Silvi-Horti-Grass Species.

6. *Gullied/Ravinous Area :*

Mechanical measures include land levelling/terracing contour/graded bunding, gully head control structures loose bolder structures, gabion structures, spurs, drop

structures mulching etc. The biological measures include contour wattling, Silvi-Horti-plantations etc.

[Translation]

**Transportation of Coal**

\*336. SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR :  
SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Railways have decided to transport the coal from the Coal Mines upto Thermal Power Plants on the basis of Advance Transportation Tariff ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) the total outstanding amount of the Railways against the National Thermal Power Corporation, Delhi Vidyut Board, State Electricity Boards and private power stations separately; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Railways to recover these outstanding dues ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR):  
(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Indian Railways are implementing the decision for prepayment of freight for coal consigned to Power Houses and State Electricity Boards w.e.f. 1.10.1996 with the exception of Badarpur Thermal Power Station (of National Thermal Power Corporation) in whose case it has been implemented w.e.f. 1.1.1997.

The prepayment of freight is arranged by either of the following options :

- (i) payment of freight at the booking station/ Railway;
- (ii) "Weight Only" system at the booking Railway;
- (iii) Advance payment of freight at the destination station;

Adjustment of railway freight bills with electric traction bills is also permitted.

(c) Details of outstanding as on 31.3.1998 are given in the Statement enclosed

- (b) (i) Outstanding dues are closely monitored by the Zonal Railways and regular meetings are held with the senior officials of the State Electricity Boards and Power Houses to persuade them to pay the Railway dues.