

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT OF LAND RESOURCES

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 2353
TO BE ANSWERED ON 03.12.2019

Reclamation of Wasteland

2353. SHRI SUBRAT PATHAK:
SHRI REBATI TRIPURA:
SHRI VIJAY KUMAR DUBEY:
SHRI SELVAM G.:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Department of Land Resources in collaboration with the National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC) has released Wastelands Atlases of India editions, 2019;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the salient features and advantages of conducting such an exercise;
- (c) the details of fallow and barren/ wasteland in terms of percentage and total area in the country along with the per capita availability of the agricultural land in India, State/UT-wise;
- (d) the details of the projects implemented and areas of wasteland brought under cultivation along with the methods used to turn the wasteland into arable land and to prevent the land from becoming barren and the extent of success achieved therefrom;
- (e) the details of funds sanctioned/ released and expenditure incurred under the programme for reclamation of wasteland particularly in the tribal areas of the country, State/UT-wise; and
- (f) the agencies through which these programmes have been/are being implemented and the steps taken/being taken by the Government to make the said programme successful?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
(SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

- (a) & (b) Yes Sir. An assessment study was commissioned by the Department of Land Resources namely "Wastelands Atlas of India (Change Analysis Based on Temporal Satellite Data of 2008-09 and 2015-16)". This study was conducted by National Remote Sensing Centre, Hyderabad. The outcome has been published

as "Wastelands Atlas of India 2019" and released on 4th November, 2019 which *inter alia* contains district-wise estimated area under wastelands in 2008-09 and in 2015-16.

The salient features of this Atlas are (i) updation wastelands maps of 2008-09 with 2015-16 Resourcesat-2 data and generation of wastelands map of 2015-16, (ii) areas with major wastelands change between 2008-09 and 2015-16 are identified and depicted, (iii) creation of wastelands geospatial database and dissemination through Bhuvan geo-portal; and (iv) preparation of category-wise spatial change statistics and summation in the form of wastelands atlas.

The wastelands atlas provides inputs to identify specific areas for further reducing their extent and is helpful in identifying areas for productive use / greening, new infrastructure projects and potential solar farms for renewable energy and so on. For planning the development of rainfed areas and culturable wastelands, the State Governments practically consult such credible references invariably.

- (c) As per information received from Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, the State / UT-wise details of fallow and barren / waste land (in percentage) are given at **Annexure I**.
- (d) There is no scheme / programme exclusively to convert waste land into arable land. However, the Department of Land Resources, Ministry of Rural Development has been implementing a scheme called Watershed Development Component of Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (WDC-PMKSY) for development of rainfed areas and culturable wastelands in the country since 2015-16. Before this, the scheme was known as Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) which was in operation from 2009-10 to 2014-15. The major activities carried out under the scheme are ridge area treatment, drainage line treatment, soil and moisture conservation, rain water harvesting, nursery raising, afforestation, horticulture, pasture development, livelihoods for assetless persons, etc.

The Department has sanctioned 8214 watershed development projects in States / UTs from 2009-10 to 2014-15 covering an area of about 39.07 million hectare under IWMP. Out of 8214 sanctioned projects, 345 uninitiated projects and 1487

projects in Preparatory Phase (Total 1832) had been transferred to States to be taken up under their respective State's budget.

As per the information received from the States under the scheme, between 2014-15 to 2019-20 (upto Sept. 2019), about 6.08 lakh water harvesting structures were created / rejuvenated, an additional area of about 13.47 lakh ha has been brought under protective irrigation and about 27.25 lakh farmers have been benefitted.

In addition, as per the information received, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme "National Afforestation Programme (NAP)" for regeneration of degraded forests and adjoining areas through people's participation. Under this scheme an amount of Rs. 234.74 crore has been released to States to treat an area of 57,292 hectares during the last three years (i.e. 2016-17 to 2018-19).

- (e) The State / UT - wise details of funds released as Central share [from 2009-10 to 2019-20 (up to 28.11.2019)] and funds utilized under IWMP/ WDC-PMKSY projects for reclamation rainfed areas and culturable wastelands including tribal areas in the country are given at **Annexure II**.
- (f) For implementation of the programme, agencies/ institutional structures at the State, District and project levels have been constituted. The Department has, *inter alia*, taken a number of steps for effective implementation of the programme such as insistence of public participation through the formation of the village Watershed Committee which implements the programme; dedicated implementing structures; Bhuwan IWMP portal; Drishti mobile app; field visits and regular review meetings etc.

Annexure referred to in reply of part (c) of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question. No. 2353 due
for reply on 03.12.2019

State/UT-wise details of Barren & Unculturable land, Culturable Wasteland & Fallow Land
with percentage (%) over geographical area in the State / UT

(Thousand hectares)

State / UT	Geographical Area	Barren and Unculturable land		Culturable wasteland		Fallow land other than current fallows		Current Fallows	
		area	%	area	%	area	%	area	%
ANDHRA PRADESH	16276	1351	8.30	391	2.40	858	5.27	1401	8.61
ARUNACHAL PRADESH	8374	37	0.45	62	0.75	65	0.77	36	0.43
ASSAM	7844	1190	15.17	142	1.81	87	1.11	87	1.11
BIHAR	9416	432	4.58	45	0.47	119	1.27	889	9.44
CHHATTISGARH	13519	288	2.13	351	2.59	258	1.91	267	1.98
GOA	370		0.00	53	14.20		0.00	15	4.01
GUJARAT	19602	2552	13.02	1960	10.00	16	0.08	379	1.93
HARYANA	4421	119	2.69	17	0.39	22	0.50	86	1.94
HIMACHAL PRADESH	5567	777	13.97	122	2.19	22	0.40	54	0.97
JAMMU & KASHMIR	22224	305	1.37	139	0.63	15	0.07	106	0.48
JHARKHAND	7972	568	7.13	353	4.43	1122	14.07	1386	17.38
KARNATAKA	19179	787	4.10	409	2.13	525	2.74	1572	8.19
KERALA	3886	13	0.33	101	2.59	55	1.41	65	1.68
MADHYA PRADESH	30825	1357	4.40	1010	3.28	483	1.57	388	1.26
MAHARASHTRA	30771	1727	5.61	919	2.99	1188	3.86	1399	4.55
MANIPUR	2233	1	0.04	1	0.03	0	0.00	0	0.01
MEGHALAYA	2243	129	5.76	390	17.37	155	6.91	60	2.69
MIZORAM	2108	6	0.30	7	0.35	127	6.04	47	2.21
NAGALAND	1658	2	0.15	68	4.13	99	5.97	50	3.04
ODISHA	15571	1078	6.92	550	3.53	631	4.05	918	5.90
PUNJAB	5036	58	1.15	69	1.37	6	0.11	83	1.65
RAJASTHAN	34224	2403	7.02	4038	11.80	2069	6.05	1856	5.42
SIKKIM	710		0.00	4	0.59	5	0.63	7	0.99
TAMIL NADU	13006	489	3.76	325	2.50	1734	13.33	998	7.68
TELANGANA	11231	607	5.41	183	1.63	805	7.17	1401	12.47
TRIPURA	1049		0.00	3	0.29	2	0.16	1	0.11
UTTARAKHAND	5348	228	4.27	317	5.93	86	1.61	57	1.07
UTTAR PRADESH	24093	462	1.92	405	1.68	509	2.11	1122	4.66
WEST BENGAL	8875	11	0.12	17	0.19	11	0.13	339	3.82
A&N ISLAND	825	2	0.20	3	0.37	3	0.40	3	0.32
CHANDIGARH	11		0.00		0.00	0	0.45	0	0.48
D & N HAVELI	49	0	0.17	0	0.94	2	4.37	2	4.71
DAMAN & DIU	11		0.00	0	0.51	0	0.07	0	1.05
DELHI	148	18	11.96	10	6.68	8	5.45	12	7.93
LAKSHADWEEP	3		0.00		0.00		0.00		0.00
PUDUCHERRY	48	0	0.15	5	9.49	3	5.98	5	9.91
ALL INDIA	328726	16996	5.17	12469	3.79	11092	3.37	15091	4.59

Source: Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare

Note: '0' relates to the area below 500 Hectares

Annexure referred to in reply of part (e) of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question. No. 2353 due
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State-wise details of funds released as Central share and funds utilized from 2009-10 to
2019-20 under WDC-PMKSY

(Rs in crore)

Sr. No.	State	Central share released [@]	Funds utilized [*]
1	Andhra Pradesh	1060.68	1739.38
2	Arunachal Pradesh	244.33	287.27
3	Assam	492.75	507.83
4	Bihar	151.31	201.31
5	Chhattisgarh	330.35	515.89
6	Gujarat	1288.64	1676.45
7	Haryana	101.94	120.61
8	Himachal Pradesh	283.58	294.35
9	Jammu & Kashmir [#]	230.82	226.81
10	Jharkhand	191.52	225.33
11	Karnataka	1894.70	2521.22
12	Kerala	128.69	163.66
13	Madhya Pradesh	1497.49	1951.81
14	Maharashtra	2413.95	3043.68
15	Manipur	149.10	160.74
16	Meghalaya	173.03	184.77
17	Mizoram	259.89	288.42
18	Nagaland	539.15	589.79
19	Odisha	1004.31	1289.81
20	Punjab	60.42	67.49
21	Rajasthan	2534.70	3576.81
22	Sikkim	22.08	26.71
23	Tamil Nadu	924.94	1191.46
24	Telangana	590.30	556.83
25	Tripura	210.96	234.03
26	Uttarakhand	131.08	134.77
27	Uttar Pradesh	808.49	959.07
28	West Bengal	197.08	261.14
	Total	17916.28	22997.44

Note: There is no sanctioned project in Goa

[@] Upto 28.11.2019, including releases under the erstwhile IWMP

^{*} Funds utilized reported by States is upto 30.09.2019 and funds utilization is subject to change after audit. Funds utilized include Central Share, State Share, interest & miscellaneous receipt. Funds utilized for the particular year also includes the backlog of previous year projects.

[#] Erstwhile Jammu & Kashmir