

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT OF LAND RESOURCES

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 4569
TO BE ANSWERED ON 23.03.2021

Reclamation of Degraded Lands

**4569. SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO:
SHRI RAJVEER SINGH (RAJU BAAIYA):
SHRI VINOD KUMAR SONKAR:
DR. JAYANTA KUMAR ROY:
DR. SUKANTA MAJUMDAR:
SHRI BHOLA SINGH:
SHRI NISITH PRAMANIK:
SHRI RAJA AMARESHWARA NAIK:**

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether 35 per cent of the country's land is degraded/eroded due to deforestation, unsustainable agricultural practices and excessive ground water extraction etc.;
- (b) if so, the details of the extent of degraded lands and the corrective measures taken by the Government in this regard, State/UT-wise;
- (c) whether the Ministry has any plan/scheme for the treatment/reclamation of degraded lands;
- (d) if so, the details thereof including funds sanctioned and the work done during the last three years and the current year, State/UT-wise;
- (e) whether the country is committed to land degradation neutrality by 2030 as part of the Sustainable Development Goals;
- (f) if so, the details thereof; and
- (g) the other corrective steps taken/being taken by the Union Government in this regard?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
(SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)**

- (a) to (g): As per information of Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), around 120.4 million ha of total geographical area of the country is affected by various kinds of land degradation comprising of water erosion (82.6 million ha), wind erosion (12.0 million ha), chemical degradation (24.8 million ha) and physical degradation (1.0 million ha).

ICAR has developed several location specific bio-engineering measures to check soil erosion due to run-off of rain water, sand dune stabilization and shelter belt technology to check wind erosion and reclamation technology for problem soils in the country.

Department of Land Resources has sanctioned, 8214 watershed development projects covering an area of about 39.07 million hectare in 28 States (except Goa) [now 27 States and UTs of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh) during the period 2009-10 to 2014-15 under erstwhile Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP). Subsequently IWMP was amalgamated as a Watershed Development Component of Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (WDC-PMKSY) in 2015-16. A total number of 1832 projects (345 uninitiated and 1487 in preparatory stage) were transferred to various States in 2018 to implement them from their own budget. The focus of DoLR is to complete 6382 projects. Out of 6382 sanctioned projects being funded by Department of Land Resources, 4769 projects have been reported as completed, 409 projects are in Consolidation Phase and 1204 projects are in Work Phase (as on 28.02.2021).

The activities being undertaken through the watershed development projects *inter alia* include ridge area treatment, drainage line treatment, soil and moisture conservation, rain water harvesting, nursery raising, afforestation, horticulture, pasture development, livelihoods for assetless persons, etc.

State-wise details of number of sanctioned projects, area covered by the projects and Central share released during the last three years and the current year (upto 28.02.2021) are given in **Annexure I**.

In addition, other Central Ministries / Departments like Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare are implementing schemes and programmes like the Per Drop More Crop component of PMKSY which *inter alia* includes activities for water conservation, drought proofing, water harvesting, ground water recharge, etc. that complement and supplement interventions undertaken under the WDC-PMKSY.

National Afforestation & Eco-Development Board, Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change is implementing National Afforestation Programme (NAP) for ecological restoration of degraded forest area. The scheme is implemented through a decentralized mechanism of State Forest Development Agency (SFDA) at State level, Forest Development agency (FDA) at Forest Division level and Joint Forest Management Committees (JFMCs) at Village level. An amount of Rs. 237.80 crores has been released to the States to treat an area of 76957 hectares during the last three years and the current financial year. The State-wise / Year-wise details of approved area and fund released under NAP scheme during last three years and current financial year are given in **Annexure II**.

Further, Government of India has announced the commitment to work towards achieving Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) by 2030 with the cooperation and synchronized efforts of all the relevant Ministries / Departments.

Annexure referred to in reply to parts (a) to (g) of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 4569 for answer on 23.03.2021.

State-wise details of number of WDC-PMKSY projects sanctioned, area covered by the projects and funds released as Central share during the last three years and the current year

(Area in million ha, Amount in Rs. crore)

Sl. No.	State	Sanctioned (from 2009-10 to 2014-15) [@]		Central share released			
		Total no. of Projects	Area of the projects	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21 (as on 28.02.2021)
1	Andhra Pradesh	432	1.810	123.35	139.15	144.39	43.89
2	Arunachal Pradesh	156	0.467	9.62	19.17	55.71	5.80
3	Assam	372	1.577	65.09	66.55	49.03	169.26
4	Bihar	123	0.612	19.21	46.77	88.37	0.00
5	Chhattisgarh	263	1.195	33.45	57.03	47.07	0.00
6	Gujarat	610	3.103	87.51	151.84	77.93	0.00
7	Haryana	88	0.362	10.94	10.00	7.13	13.68
8	Himachal Pradesh	163	0.840	26.83	24.04	66.87	0.00
9	Jammu & Kashmir*	159	0.652	43.66	71.87	0.00	38.82
10	Jharkhand	171	0.911	0.00	28.83	36.77	0.00
11	Karnataka	571	2.569	175.69	101.07	21.76	6.16
12	Kerala	83	0.423	17.83	13.06	48.77	0.00
13	Madhya Pradesh	517	2.937	134.84	162.41	221.28	84.90
14	Maharashtra	1186	5.128	279.21	163.33	103.00	0.00
15	Manipur	102	0.491	13.84	14.14	1.46	0.00
16	Meghalaya	96	0.236	8.95	6.69	1.19	0.00
17	Mizoram	89	0.373	22.35	23.14	22.27	0.00
18	Nagaland	111	0.476	32.08	38.51	137.55	3.53
19	Odisha	310	1.700	94.48	102.17	83.11	1.75
20	Punjab	67	0.314	7.96	0.00	0.00	0.00
21	Rajasthan	1025	5.764	243.59	299.00	119.43	449.90
22	Sikkim	15	0.066	1.40	0.00	2.13	0.00
23	Tamil Nadu	270	1.368	82.75	90.59	0.00	0.00
24	Telangana	330	1.399	51.14	81.93	33.50	60.34
25	Tripura	65	0.213	16.66	15.89	10.75	11.74
26	Uttarakhand	65	0.346	9.97	6.98	0.00	0.00
27	Uttar Pradesh	612	3.045	63.93	0.00	0.00	0.00
28	West Bengal	163	0.693	15.48	46.39	92.87	0.00
	Total	8214	39.07	1691.81	1780.55	1472.33	889.77

[@] Sanctioned under the erstwhile Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP), which has been amalgamated as the Watershed Development Component (WDC) of the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) with effect from 2015-16.

*Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh have been created as UTs recently

Note: There is no sanctioned project in Goa.

Annexure referred to in reply to parts (a) to (g) of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 4569 for answer on 23.03.2021

State-wise details of number of funds released and Approved Advance Work area under National Afforestation Programme (NAP)

(Area in ha &Rs. in crore)

Sr. No.	State	Amount Released				Approved Advance Work Area			
		2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
1	Andhra Pradesh	3.36	6.38			1487	1480		
2	Arunachal Pradesh	0.86				1010			
3	Assam		0.58				373		
4	Bihar	4.23		1.18	0.80	2450	1550	1935	
5	Chhattisgarh	10.86	7.82	5.71	9.88	2983	2000	3500	
6	Goa								
7	Gujarat								
8	Haryana	2.71							
9	Himachal Pradesh	1.73	2.92	0.52	0.57	2139		45	
10	Jammu & Kashmir	7.20				2128			
11	Jharkhand								
12	Karnataka	3.24	10.99			2095	6085		
13	Kerala								
14	Madhya Pradesh	8.74	7.78		0.57	5255			
15	Maharashtra	6.73	15.33			4150			
16	Manipur	3.20	4.38			1733			
17	Meghalaya	1.65	0.74						
18	Mizoram	5.80	7.79		7.40	1750	1960		
19	Nagaland	5.85	6.41	2.35	4.27	2085		6100	
20	Odisha	3.49	11.36	8.45	13.67	4565	3188	6335	
21	Punjab								
22	Rajasthan	1.40	1.95			1400			750
23	Sikkim		5.98		0.88				
24	Tamil Nadu		2.07						
25	Telangana								
26	Tripura	4.94		3.76	1.33	1835		1809	
27	Uttar Pradesh	0.67	0.32						
28	Uttarakhand	3.36	2.58		1.06	2782			
29	West Bengal								
	Total	80.02	95.38	21.97	40.43	39847	16636	19724	750

Source: National Afforestation & Eco-Development Board, Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change
