

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 846**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 27.07.2023

**Land degradation in Karnataka**

846. SHRI NARAYANA KORAGAPPA:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- whether it is a fact that nearly 70 lakh hectares of land in Karnataka is under degradation as per ISRO;
- if so, the details thereof, district-wise and reasons contributing such degradation in Karnataka; and
- the manner in which National Afforestation Programme, Green India Mission, Watershed Development Programme, etc., are helping to reclaim degraded land?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE  
(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)

- (a)&(b) As per Desertification and Land Degradation Atlas of India, 2016, by Space Application Centre (SAC), Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) Karnataka is observed with 69.51 lakh area under desertification/ land degradation for the period of 2011-13. The most significant process of desertification/ land degradation in the state is Water Erosion followed by Vegetation Degradation. The details of area under degradation due to various process of desertification /Land degradation as per the Atlas is as under:

Sl.No.	Process of Desertification / Land Degradation	Extent	
		Area (ha)	Area%
1	Vegetation Degradation	1712386	8.93
2	Water Erosion	5043041	26.29
3	Wind Erosion	2159	0.01
4	Salinity	86740	0.45
5	Manmade	20876	0.11
6	Barren/Rocky	3389	0.02
7	Settlement	824096	0.43
	<b>Total Area under Desertification</b>	<b>6951000</b>	<b>36.24</b>
	<b>No Apparent Degradation</b>	<b>11984329</b>	<b>62.49</b>

Karnataka state has stated that almost all the districts are affected by degradation, though Western Ghats districts appear least impacted.

- (c) National Afforestation Programme (NAP) has been the flagship afforestation scheme of the Ministry, implemented since year 2000 on pan India basis, for afforestation in identified degraded forest areas with people's participation and decentralized forest governance. National Mission for a Green India (GIM) aims at protecting, restoring and enhancing India's forest cover through plantation activities in forest and non-forest areas and the activities were started in 2015-16. These schemes support afforestation related activities such as plantation of saplings, maintenance of plantation including protection, soil moisture conservation measures etc., thereby improving the vegetative cover and reducing erosion.

Department of Land Resources is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS), Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) since 2009-10 with an objective to improve productive potential of rainfed / degraded land through integrated watershed management which was amalgamated as the Watershed Development Component of Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojna (WDC-PMKSY) in 2015-16. The activities like ridge area treatment, drainage line treatment, soil and moisture conservation, rainwater harvesting, nursery raising, pasture development etc. are taken up under Watershed Development Component of PMKSY which contribute towards reclaiming the degraded land.

Further, afforestation is a major activity under the Compensatory Afforestation Fund as per the provisions of the Compensatory Afforestation Fund Act, 2016 and the Rules made thereunder. Greening efforts for reclaiming the degraded land are also taken up by State/UTs through various schemes for promoting tree plantation activities under State/UT Plan budget.

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