

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT  
DEPARTMENT OF LAND RESOURCES

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5457**  
**TO BE ANSWERED ON 06.04.2017**

**Distribution of Barren Land to Poor People**

5457. DR. KULAMANI SAMAL:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the total area of barren land, dry/ wet land in the country, category-wise and State/UT-wise;
- (b) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to make these wastelands fertile;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to distribute these lands to the tribals or poor landless people of the country in order to provide them livelihood; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT**  
**(SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV)**

- (a) & (b): Area of barren and unculturable land in the country during 2013-14 as per 'LAND USE STATISTICS AT A GLANCE 2004-05 TO 2013-14' (2016) is about 16.95 million hectare. State / UT-wise details are given in **Annexure**.

Information on dry / wet land in the country is not centrally maintained.

Under the Watershed Development Component of the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (WDC-PMKSY) Department of Land Resources is implementing 8214 watershed development projects in 28 States (except Goa) covering an area of about 39.07 million hectare principally for development of rainfed portions of net cultivated area and culturable wastelands. The activities being undertaken *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.

In addition, other Central Ministries / Departments like Ministry of Agriculture & 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.

- (c) & (d): As per Entry 18 and Entry 45 of List II (State List) of the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution, the subject of 'Land' and its management including distribution of land to tribals and poor landless falls in the jurisdiction of the States.

\*\*\*\*\*

Annexure referred to in reply to parts (a) & (b) of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No.

5457 due for reply on 06.04.2017

State / UT-wise details of barren and unculturable land  
2013-14

STATE / UT	Barren and Unculturable Land (Thousand Hectare)
ANDHRA PRADESH	1341
ARUNACHAL PRADESH	38
ASSAM	1192
BIHAR	432
CHHATTISGARH	289
GOA	
GUJARAT	2552
HARYANA	125
HIMACHAL PRADESH	777
JAMMU & KASHMIR	306
JHARKHAND	568
KARNATAKA	787
KERALA	14
MADHYA PRADESH	1346
MAHARASHTRA	1724
MANIPUR	1
MEGHALAYA	131
MIZORAM	8
NAGALAND	2
ODISHA	1052
PUNJAB	52
RAJASTHAN	2385
SIKKIM	
TAMIL NADU	488
TELANGANA	615
TRIPURA	
UTTARAKHAND	228
UTTAR PRADESH	464
WEST BENGAL	11
A & N ISLANDS	2
CHANDIGARH	
DADRA & NAGAR HAVELI	0
DAMAN & DIU	
DELHI	18
LAKSHADWEEP	
PUDUCHERRY	0
ALL INDIA	16948

Note: '0' relates to area below 500 hectares

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