

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT  
DEPARTMENT OF LAND RESOURCES  
**LOK SABHA**  
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 4046  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 10.08.2017

**Reclamation of Wasteland**

4046. COL. SONARAM CHOUDHARY:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has formulated schemes for reclaiming the wasteland in the country and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the progress made in reclaiming the wasteland during the last three years, State-wise;
- (c) whether large tracts of wasteland are yet to be reclaimed in hilly and far flung desert areas particularly desert districts of Western Rajasthan like Barmer and Jaisalmer and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether any action plan has been chalked out for utilizing such wasteland for productive purposes and if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

**ANSWER**

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

- (a) to (e): Data on area under wastelands in the country, including hilly and far flung desert areas of the country, is not centrally maintained in Department of Land Resources.

An assessment study commissioned by Department of Land Resources, which was conducted by National Remote Sensing Centre, namely "Wastelands Atlas of India - Change Analysis Based on Temporal Satellite Data of 2005-06 and 2008-09" (2011), *inter alia* contains district-wise estimated area under wastelands during 2005-06 and during 2008-09.

The estimated area under wastelands in the country was 47.22 million hectare during 2005-06 and 46.70 million hectare during 2008-09. The estimated area under wastelands, including hilly and far flung desert areas, in Rajasthan was 9.36 million hectare during 2005-06 and 8.49 million hectare during 2008-09. State-wise details of area under wastelands during 2005-06 vis-à-vis 2008-09 is given in **Annexure I**.

The "Wastelands Atlas of India - Change Analysis Based on Temporal Satellite Data of 2005-06 and 2008-09" (2011) is available in the public domain, including on the official website of the Department of Land Resources at [http://dolr.nic.in/dolr/wasteland\\_atlas.asp](http://dolr.nic.in/dolr/wasteland_atlas.asp).

Department of Land Resources has sanctioned 8214 watershed development projects in 28 States (except Goa) [during the period 2009-10 to 2014-15] covering an area of about 39.07 million hectare under the Watershed Development Component of Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (WDC-PMKSY) principally for development of rainfed portions of net cultivated area and culturable wastelands.

The major activities under 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, livelihood activities for the asset-less persons.

State-wise details of number of sanctioned projects, area covered by the projects and funds released as Central share [from 2009-10 to 2017-18 (upto 31<sup>st</sup> July 2017)] are given in **Annexure II**.

1025 watershed projects have been sanctioned in Rajasthan covering an area of 5.76 million hectare (during 2009-10 to 2014-15) and an amount of Rs.1872.68 crore has been released as Central share [from 2009-10 to 2017-18 (upto 31.07.2017)]. District-wise details of sanctioned projects and area covered by the projects are given in **Annexure III**.

The projects are at various stages of implementation. Priority is being given to qualitative and timely completion of the on-going projects. Administrative reports of completion of 674 projects have been received from 10 States from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2017 onwards (upto 23.07.2017). The details are given in **Annexure IV**.

As a systemic improvement, a protocol on formal completion and closure of WDC-PMKSY projects has been formulated by the Department of Land Resources in consultation with Ministry of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation and NITI Aayog. The protocol *inter alia* envisages to ensure (i) the due completion of unfinished works (if any), (ii) maintenance, (iii) security and (iv) sustainability of the watershed development projects. Before the projects are formally treated as closed by the Department of Land Resources, the completion and closure protocol has to be duly adopted by the States in respect of the projects administratively reported to have been completed. All States (except Goa) have been accordingly requested on 12<sup>th</sup> July 2017.

In addition to the WDC-PMKSY being implemented by Department of Land Resources, other Central Ministries / Departments like Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare are also 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.

Further, under the National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA), being implemented to *inter alia* prevent soil erosion and land degradation, all types of lands including wastelands are being developed with suitable need-based soil and water conservation measures and partly put to agricultural uses.

Also, the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare has launched Reclamation of Problem Soil (RPS) as a sub-scheme of Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) during 2016-17 for reclamation of problem soils (Alkalinity/ Salinity and Acidity) on pilot basis in the States having higher extent of problem soil area.

In addition, National Afforestation & Eco-Development Board in the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme "National Afforestation Programme" for regeneration of degraded forests and adjoining areas through peoples' participation in the country.

\*\*\*\*

## Annexure I

Annexure referred to in reply to parts (a) to (e) of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 4046 for answer on 10.08.2017

State-wise area under wastelands during 2005-06 vis-a-vis 2008-09

(Hectare)

Sl. No.	State	Area under wastelands	
		2005-06	2008-09
1	Andhra Pradesh*	3878822	3729662
2	Arunachal Pradesh	574383	1489524
3	Assam	877802	845386
4	Bihar	684109	960101
5	Chhattisgarh	1181782	1148218
6	Delhi	8334	9021
7	Goa	49627	48908
8	Gujarat	2135038	2010806
9	Haryana	234705	214598
10	Himachal Pradesh	2247005	2234788
11	Jammu & Kashmir	7375438	7543577
12	Jharkhand	1167014	1101738
13	Karnataka	1443812	1303062
14	Kerala	245869	244562
15	Madhya Pradesh	4004298	4011327
16	Maharashtra	3826281	3783082
17	Manipur	702747	564853
18	Meghalaya	386576	412743
19	Mizoram	602114	495864
20	Nagaland	481518	526672
21	Odisha	1664827	1642576
22	Punjab	101950	93683
23	Rajasthan	9368947	8492910
24	Sikkim	328088	327315
25	Tamil Nadu	912556	872179
26	Tripura	131517	96464
27	Uttarakhand	1279006	1285953
28	Uttar Pradesh	1098859	988124
29	West Bengal	199441	192920
30	Union Territory	33730	31500
	<b>Total</b>	<b>47226194</b>	<b>46702116</b>

Source: Wastelands Atlas of India - Change Analysis Based on Temporal Satellite Data of 2005-06 and 2008-09 (2011)

\*Includes Telangana

## Annexure II

Annexure referred to in reply to parts (a) to (e) of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 4046 for answer on 10.08.2017

State-wise details of number of WDC-PMKSY projects sanctioned, area covered by the projects and funds released as Central share

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

Sl. No	State	Sanctioned (from 2009-10 to 2014-15) <sup>@</sup>		Central share released (from 2009-10 to 2017-18 <sup>#</sup> )
		Total no. of projects	Area of the projects	
1	Andhra Pradesh	432	1.810	725.42
2	Arunachal Pradesh	156	0.467	215.54
3	Assam	372	1.577	322.44
4	Bihar	123	0.612	85.33
5	Chhattisgarh	263	1.195	217.40
6	Gujarat	610	3.103	1049.29
7	Haryana	88	0.362	77.76
8	Himachal Pradesh	163	0.840	232.71
9	Jammu & Kashmir	159	0.652	115.29
10	Jharkhand	171	0.911	162.69
11	Karnataka	571	2.569	1690.74
12	Kerala	83	0.423	78.41
13	Madhya Pradesh	517	2.937	1193.52
14	Maharashtra	1186	5.128	2138.81
15	Manipur	102	0.491	121.12
16	Meghalaya	96	0.236	157.39
17	Mizoram	89	0.373	224.40
18	Nagaland	111	0.476	447.95
19	Odisha	310	1.700	807.66
20	Punjab	67	0.314	52.46
21	Rajasthan	1025	5.764	1872.68
22	Sikkim	15	0.066	20.68
23	Tamil Nadu	270	1.368	801.25
24	Telangana	330	1.399	459.94
25	Tripura	65	0.213	167.66
26	Uttarakhand	65	0.346	114.13
27	Uttar Pradesh	612	3.045	744.56
28	West Bengal	163	0.693	116.28
	<b>Total</b>	<b>8214</b>	<b>39.07</b>	<b>14413.51</b>

<sup>@</sup> 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.

<sup>#</sup> Upto 31.07.2017, including releases under the erstwhile IWMP.

Note: 1) WDC-PMKSY is not operational in the Union Territories.

2) There is no sanctioned project in Goa.

## Annexure III

Annexure referred to in reply to parts (a) to (e) of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 4046 for answer on 10.08.2017

**Details of number of WDC-PMKSY projects and area covered by the projects in Rajasthan**

(Area in lakh ha)			
Sl. No.	District	No. of projects *	Area of the projects
1	Ajmer	32	1.86
2	Alwar	38	2.00
3	Banswara	4	0.24
4	Baran	27	1.48
5	Barmer	83	5.03
6	Bharatpur	12	0.68
7	Bhilwara	32	1.70
8	Bikaner	61	3.92
9	Bundi	11	0.56
10	Chittorgarh	35	1.59
11	Churu	46	2.71
12	Dausa	19	1.19
13	Dholpur	12	0.61
14	Dungarpur	22	1.23
15	Ganganagar	7	0.51
16	Hanumangarh	6	0.29
17	Jaipur	55	3.12
18	Jaisalmer	57	3.80
19	Jalore	33	2.14
20	Jhalawar	27	1.47
21	Jhunjhunu	23	1.22
22	Jodhpur	83	4.42
23	Karauli	15	0.83
24	Kota	14	0.76
25	Nagaur	55	3.22
26	Pali	39	1.96
27	Pratapgarh	24	1.14
28	Rajsamand	14	0.75
29	Sawai Madhopur	21	0.99
30	Sikar	33	1.79
31	Sirohi	15	0.85
32	Tonk	25	1.37
33	Udaipur	45	2.21
<b>Total</b>		<b>1025</b>	<b>57.64</b>

\* Sanctioned during 2009-10 to 2014-15 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.

**Annexure IV**

**Annexure referred to in reply to parts (a) to (e) of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 4046 for answer on 10.08.2017**

**State-wise details of receipt of administrative reports on completion of WDC-PMKSY projects (01.04.2017 to 23.07.2017)**

<b>Sl. No.</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>No. of projects</b>
1	Andhra Pradesh	62
2	Karnataka	73
3	Madhya Pradesh	86
4	Maharashtra	239
5	Meghalaya	21
6	Mizoram	16
7	Nagaland	41
8	Rajasthan	37
9	Tamil Nadu	89
10	Tripura	10
	<b>Total</b>	<b>674</b>

\*\*\*