

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT OF LAND RESOURCES
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 694
TO BE ANSWERED ON 20.07.2017

Conversion of Wasteland into Cultivable

694 SHRI DUSHYANT CHAUTALA:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has instructed States to maintain data of wasteland and initiated any plan to convert them into cultivable and if so, the details thereof, State/UT-wise;
- (b) whether the Government has also been implementing any plan or programme for conversion of waste land into cultivable and if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the total area of land converted into cultivable along with the financial implications met by the Government in this regard, State/UT-wise?

ANSWER

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

- (a) to (c): Data on area under wastelands in the country is not centrally maintained in Department of Land Resources. States have not been asked to maintain data of wastelands.

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 (WDC) of the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) principally for development of rainfed portions of net cultivated area and culturable wastelands.

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 30th June 2017)] are given in **Annexure I**.

Inter se distribution of funds (Central share plus State share) amongst the projects in a particular State is undertaken at the State level by the respective States.

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.

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 635 projects have been received from 10 States from 1st April 2017 onwards (upto 13.07.2017). The details are given in **Annexure II**.

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 12th 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 referred to in reply to parts (a) to (c) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question
No. 694 for answer on 20.07.2017**

**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) [@]		Central share released (from 2009-10 to 2017-18 [#])
		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	214.40
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
	Total	8214	39.07	14403.51

[@] 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.

[#] Upto 30.06.2017, 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 II

Annexure referred to in reply to parts (a) to (c) of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 694 for answer on 20.07.2017

State-wise details of receipt of administrative reports on completion of WDC-PMKSY projects (01.04.2017 to 13.07.2017)

Sl. No.	State	No. of projects
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	50
10	Tripura	10
	Total	635