

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT OF LAND RESOURCES

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2198
TO BE ANSWERED ON 08.03.2018

Conversion of Infertile and Barren Land into Fertile Land

2198. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR:

SHRI HARISH CHANDRA ALIAS HARISH DWIVEDI:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the total area of infertile and barren land across the country, State-wise;
- (b) the details of the schemes to convert existing infertile and barren land into fertile land in near future;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to distribute the said land amongst the landless poor people and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government is implementing any scheme at present to control the problem of increasing barren land; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

- (a) to (e): As per the information received from Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, the State / UT-wise details of barren and unculturable land are given in **Annexure I**.

There is no specific scheme / programme exclusively to convert existing infertile and barren land into fertile land. However, 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.

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 funds released as Central share [from 2009-10 to 2017-18 (upto 28th February 2018)] are given in **Annexure II**.

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.

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 amongst the landless poor people falls in the jurisdiction of the States.

Annexure referred to in reply to parts (a) to (e) of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 2198 for answer on 08.03.2018

State/ UT-wise details of barren and unculturable land in the country

(Area in thousand hectare)		
Sr. No.	State / UT	Area of barren and unculturable land*
1	ANDHRA PRADESH	1351
2	ARUNACHAL PRADESH	37
3	ASSAM	1190
4	BIHAR	432
5	CHHATTISGARH	288
6	GOA	
7	GUJARAT	2552
8	HARYANA	119
9	HIMACHAL PRADESH	777
10	JAMMU & KASHMIR	305
11	JHARKHAND	568
12	KARNATAKA	787
13	KERALA	13
14	MADHYA PRADESH	1357
15	MAHARASHTRA	1727
16	MANIPUR	1
17	MEGHALAYA	129
18	MIZORAM	6
19	NAGALAND	2
20	ODISHA	1078
21	PUNJAB	58
22	RAJASTHAN	2403
23	SIKKIM	
24	TAMIL NADU	489
25	TELANGANA	607
26	TRIPURA	
27	UTTARAKHAND	228
28	UTTAR PRADESH	462
29	WEST BENGAL	11
30	ANDAMAN & NICOBAR ISLANDS	2
31	CHANDIGARH	
32	DADRA & NAGAR HAVELI	0
33	DAMAN & DIU	
34	DELHI	18
35	LAKSHADWEEP	
36	PUDUCHERRY	0
	ALL INDIA	16996

* As in year 2014-15

Note: '0' relates to the area below 500 Hectares

Source: 'LAND USE STATISTICS AT A GLANCE 2005-06 TO 2014-15' (June 2017)

Directorate of Economics & Statistics, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.

Annexure referred to in reply to parts (a) to (e) of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 2198 for answer on 08.03.2018

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	848.77
2	Arunachal Pradesh	156	0.467	215.54
3	Assam	372	1.577	349.24
4	Bihar	123	0.612	104.54
5	Chhattisgarh	263	1.195	250.85
6	Gujarat	610	3.103	1136.80
7	Haryana	88	0.362	88.70
8	Himachal Pradesh	163	0.840	259.54
9	Jammu & Kashmir	159	0.652	118.20
10	Jharkhand	171	0.911	162.69
11	Karnataka	571	2.569	1771.87
12	Kerala	83	0.423	89.94
13	Madhya Pradesh	517	2.937	1247.46
14	Maharashtra	1186	5.128	2250.62
15	Manipur	102	0.491	134.96
16	Meghalaya	96	0.236	166.34
17	Mizoram	89	0.373	224.40
18	Nagaland	111	0.476	460.79
19	Odisha	310	1.700	902.14
20	Punjab	67	0.314	52.46
21	Rajasthan	1025	5.764	2030.15
22	Sikkim	15	0.066	22.08
23	Tamil Nadu	270	1.368	834.35
24	Telangana	330	1.399	511.08
25	Tripura	65	0.213	177.65
26	Uttarakhand	65	0.346	124.10
27	Uttar Pradesh	612	3.045	808.49
28	West Bengal	163	0.693	131.76
	Total	8214	39.07	15475.51

[@] 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 28.02.2018, 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.
