

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT  
DEPARTMENT OF LAND RESOURCES

LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2256  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 08.03.2018

**Development of Desert Land**

**2256. SHRI KAPIL MORESHWAR PATIL**

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the area of desert land is continuously increasing and the area of fertile land is decreasing;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State/ UT-wise;
- (c) the details of the schemes being implemented for the development of desert land, State/UT-wise; and
- (d) the details of the funds allocated, released and spent for the developmental schemes regarding desert land during each of the last three years and the current year, State/UT-wise?

**ANSWER**

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

- (a) to (d): Data on area under desert land and fertile land in 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 estimated area under wastelands including desert land during 2005-06 and during 2008-09. The estimated area under categories of wastelands pertaining to desert land in the country was 32,095.90 square km during 2005-06 and 27,487.58 square km during 2008-09. The details of the desert land in the country are 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).

At present, there is no specific scheme exclusively for development of desert land in the Department of Land Resources. The Department has been implementing Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) with effect from 26.02.2009. One of the criteria which has been adopted for the allocation of area under IWMP among the States for taking up new watershed projects is "identified Desert Prone Areas / Drought Prone Areas in the State as percentage of total Desert Prone Areas and Drought Prone Areas in the country". From 2015-16, the IWMP is amalgamated as the Watershed Development Component of the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (WDC-PMKSY).

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 ha under WDC-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 Central share released during the last three years and the current year (upto 28<sup>th</sup> February 2018) under IWMP/WDC-PMKSY 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.

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**Annexure referred to in reply to parts (a) to (d) of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No.  
2256 for answer on 08.03.2018**

State / UT-wise details of the desert land in the country\*

Sr. No.	State	Area (in square km)	
		Desert land#	
		2005-06	2008-09
1	Andhra Pradesh	3.76	4.69
2	Haryana	41.19	22.76
3	Jammu & Kashmir	226.07	209.51
4	Punjab	394.35	322.57
5	Rajasthan	31430.53	26928.05
	Total	32095.90	27487.58

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

# Category 17 – Sands – Desert Sand, Category 18 – Sands – Semi-stabilized to stabilized (>40m) dune & Category 19 – Sands – Semi-stabilized to stabilized moderately high (15-40m) dune.

**Annexure referred to in reply to parts (a) to (d) of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 2256 for answer on 08.03.2018**

State-wise details of number of projects sanctioned, area of the projects and funds released for the projects in the last 3 years and the current year

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

Sr. No.	State	No. of Projects	Sanctioned area of the Projects	Central Share Released			
				2014-15 <sup>@</sup>	2015-16 <sup>#</sup>	2016-17 <sup>#</sup>	2017-18 <sup>#</sup> (upto 28.02.2018)
1	Andhra Pradesh	432	1.810	163.28	86.73	120.96	123.35
2	Arunachal Pradesh	156	0.467	0.00	18.00	23.12	0.00
3	Assam	372	1.577	6.99	45.00	0.00	26.80
4	Bihar	123	0.612	21.47	5.00	28.26	19.21
5	Chhattisgarh	263	1.195	10.00	20.00	34.96	33.45
6	Gujarat	610	3.103	72.34	100.00	115.04	87.51
7	Haryana	88	0.362	26.97	6.91	12.82	10.94
8	Himachal Pradesh	163	0.840	0.00	20.00	35.40	26.83
9	Jammu & Kashmir	159	0.652	51.43	0.00	25.59	2.91
10	Jharkhand	171	0.911	0.00	20.00	17.68	0.00
11	Karnataka	571	2.569	125.43	125.00	145.72	175.69
12	Kerala	83	0.423	15.16	20.00	16.62	11.53
13	Madhya Pradesh	517	2.937	303.98	150.00	129.44	134.84
14	Maharashtra	1186	5.128	197.91	250.00	186.95	279.21
15	Manipur	102	0.491	11.10	9.00	11.29	13.84
16	Meghalaya	96	0.236	37.16	18.00	11.56	8.95
17	Mizoram	89	0.373	75.81	8.87	16.06	10.00
18	Nagaland	111	0.476	95.09	27.00	60.84	32.08
19	Odisha	310	1.700	248.79	67.50	91.99	94.48
20	Punjab	67	0.314	0.00	7.95	0.00	0.00
21	Rajasthan	1025	5.764	403.08	200.00	199.35	157.47
22	Sikkim	15	0.066	0.00	6.30	0.00	1.40
23	Tamil Nadu	270	1.368	124.02	75.00	62.36	82.75
24	Telangana	330	1.399	124.58	70.00	0.00	51.14
25	Tripura	65	0.213	19.04	20.89	27.12	9.99
26	Uttarakhand	65	0.346	49.77	25.68	16.15	9.97
27	Uttar Pradesh	612	3.045	75.39	75.00	58.38	63.93
28	West Bengal	163	0.693	25.85	10.00	24.06	15.48
	<b>Total</b>	<b>8214</b>	<b>39.07</b>	<b>2284.63</b>	<b>1487.83</b>	<b>1471.72</b>	<b>1483.75</b>

<sup>@</sup> Released under the erstwhile Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP), which was amalgamated as the Watershed Development Component (WDC) of the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) from 2015-16

<sup>#</sup>Released under the Watershed Development Component (WDC) of the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY)

Note: 1) WDC-PMKSY is not operational in Union Territories.  
2) There is no sanctioned project in Goa.