

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE  
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, COOPERATION AND FARMERS WELFARE

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5155**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 27<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2018

**UNUTILISED ARABLE LAND**

5155. SHRI RAM CHARAN BOHRA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a major part of arable land is lying unutilised/barren in various parts of the country including Rajasthan;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, Statewise;
- (c) whether the Government has formulated any policy in consultation with the States to convert barren land into arable land;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT)

(a) & (b): As per the Report on Land Use Statistics for 2014-15 (latest available), the agricultural land consists of (i) net area sown, (ii) current fallow land (iii) fallow land other than current fallow land (iv) culturable wasteland (v) land under misc. tree, crops and groves not included in net area sown. The details of area under arable (agricultural) land and arable (agricultural) land lying unutilised (culturable waste land and Fallow land other than current fallow) or barren in various parts of the country including Rajasthan is given at **Annexure**.

The area of agricultural land lying unused or barren may be either fallow or covered with shrubs and jungles, which are not put to any use. They may be accessible or inaccessible and may lie in isolated blocks or within cultivated holdings.

(c) to (e): As per Seventh Schedule of Constitution of India, land comes under the purview of State Government and, therefore, it is for the State Governments to take suitable steps to convert barren land into arable land.

However, National Rehabilitation and Resettlement Policy – 2007 (NRRP-2007) has recommended that as far as possible, projects may be set up on waste land, degraded land or un-irrigated land. Acquisition of irrigated, multi-cropped agricultural land for non-agricultural uses may be kept to the minimum and avoided, to the extent possible. Further, Ministry of

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Rural Development is implementing an Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) for development of rainfed/ degraded areas. The IWMP has been converted to the Watershed Component of the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) from the financial year 2015-16 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.

Government of India is also implementing National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA) with a view to prevent soil erosion, land degradation and also to maintain balance in various types of land uses across the country. Under this mission all types of land including wastelands/barren land are developed with suitable need based soil and water conservation measures and parts of such degraded lands developed are put to agricultural practices, leading to net sown area remaining largely unchanged around 141 million ha. in last two decades.

Further, under the National Policy for Farmers – 2007 (NPF-2007), State Governments have been advised to earmark lands with low biological potential such as uncultivable land, land affected by salinity, acidity, etc., for non-agricultural development activities, including industrial and construction activities.

**Annexure referred in reply to part (a) of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 5155 due for answer on 27.03.2018**

State-wise details of arable (agricultural) land and arable (agricultural) land lying unutilised (culturable waste land and fallow land other than current fallow) or barren for the year 2014-15 (latest available)

(thousand hectares)

STATES/UTs	Agricultural Land	Land under misc. tree crops & groves (not incl. in net area sown)	Culturable waste land	Fallow lands other than current fallows	Current fallows	Net Area Sown	Arable (agricultural) land lying unutilised or barren
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)=col (4) + col (5)
ANDHRA PRADESH	9047	159	391	858	1401	6236	1250
ARUNACHAL PRADESH	423	35	62	65	36	225	127
ASSAM	3364	220	142	87	87	2827	229
BIHAR	6579	248	45	119	889	5278	164
CHHATTISGARH	5558	1	351	258	267	4681	609
GOA	197	1	53		15	129	53
GUJARAT	12661	4	1960	16	379	10302	1976
HARYANA	3656	9	17	22	86	3522	39
HIMACHAL PRADESH	812	64	122	22	54	550	144
JAMMU & KASHMIR	1075	57	139	15	106	758	154
JHARKHAND	4343	98	353	1122	1386	1385	1475
KARNATAKA	12827	277	409	525	1572	10044	935
KERALA	2266	3	101	55	65	2043	155
MADHYA PRADESH	17252	20	1010	483	388	15351	1493
MAHARASHTRA	21099	249	919	1188	1399	17345	2107
MANIPUR	390	6	1	0	0	383	1
MEGHALAYA	1056	165	390	155	60	286	545
MIZORAM	367	41	7	127	47	145	135
NAGALAND	694	92	68	99	50	384	167
ODISHA	6784	211	550	631	918	4474	1181
PUNJAB	4285	8	69	6	83	4119	75
RAJASTHAN	25511	26	4038	2069	1856	17521	6107
SIKKIM	97	4	4	5	7	77	9
TAMIL NADU	8112	236	325	1734	998	4819	2059
TELANGANA	6877	112	183	805	1401	4377	988
TRIPURA	272	11	3	2	1	255	5
UTTARAKHAND	1549	388	317	86	57	700	403
UTTAR PRADESH	18939	305	405	509	1122	16598	915
WEST BENGAL	5655	49	17	11	339	5238	28
ANDAMAN & NICOBAR ISLANDS	28	4	3	3	3	15	6
CHANDIGARH	1	0		0	0	1	0
DADRA & NAGAR HAVELI	24		0	2	2	19	3
DAMAN & DIU	3	0	0	0	0	3	0
DELHI	53	1	10	8	12	22	18
LAKSHADWEEP	2					2	
PUDUCHERRY	29	1	5	3	5	16	7
ALL INDIA	181886	3104	12469	11092	15091	140130	23561

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

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

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