

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

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.4548**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 8<sup>th</sup> JANUARY, 2019

**CONVERSION OF AGRI-LANDS**

4548. SHRI MANSUKHBHAI DHANJIBHAI VASAVA:

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

- (a) the details of the barren land converted into arable land during the last three years, State-wise;
- (b) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the increasing cases of conversion of agricultural land for non-agricultural purposes;
- (c) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to lay down any policy to check conversion of agricultural land for other purposes in the country; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

**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): Barren & Unculturable land includes all land covered by mountains, deserts etc., which cannot be brought under cultivation except at an exorbitant cost. Hence, the details of barren land converted into arable/ agricultural land are not maintained separately. However, as per the latest data available on land use statistics in India, State-wise details of 'arable/ agricultural land' and 'barren and unculturable land' for the years from 2012-13 to 2014-15 is given at **Annexure**.

(b) to (e): As per the Seventh Schedule of Constitution of India, land comes under the purview of State Governments and, therefore, it is for them to take suitable steps to check conversion of agricultural land for non-agricultural purposes. However, Government of India supplements the efforts of States, through appropriate policy measures and budgetary support.

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. National Rehabilitation and Resettlement Policy – 2007 (NRRP-2007) has also recommended that as far as possible, projects may be set up on waste land, degraded land or un-irrigated land. It was also envisaged that the acquisition of irrigated, multi-cropped agricultural land for non-agricultural uses may be kept to the minimum and avoided to the extent possible. Further, Department of Land Resources under Ministry of Rural Development has been implementing Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) since 2009, principally for development of rainfed portions of net cultivated area and culturable wastelands. From the financial year 2015-16, IWMP has been amalgamated to the Watershed Development Component of the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY). 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 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 wasteland/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 hectares in the last two decades.

## Annexure referred in part (a) of Lok Sabha Unstarred Q. No. 4548 due for reply on 08/01/19

State-wise details of arable/agricultural land and barren & unculturable land in the country for the years from 2012-13 to 2014-15 (latest available)

(Thousand Hectares)

STATES/Uts	Arable Land/ Agricultural Land			Barren and Unculturable Land		
	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15
ANDHRA PRADESH	15930	8879	9047	1959	1341	1351
ARUNACHAL PRADESH	424	424	423	38	38	37
ASSAM	3356	3357	3364	1197	1192	1190
BIHAR	6582	6578	6579	432	432	432
CHHATTISGARH	5552	5550	5558	290	289	288
GOA	197	197	197	—	—	—
GUJARAT	12661	12661	12661	2552	2552	2552
HARYANA	3664	3645	3656	101	125	119
HIMACHAL PRADESH	812	812	812	777	777	777
JAMMU & KASHMIR	1070	1070	1075	306	306	305
JHARKHAND	4336	4343	4343	572	568	568
KARNATAKA	12846	12840	12827	787	787	787
KERALA	2280	2279	2266	16	14	13
MADHYA PRADESH	17264	17267	17252	1387	1346	1357
MAHARASHTRA	21129	21127	21099	1722	1724	1727
MANIPUR	316	384	390	1	1	1
MEGHALAYA	1056	1056	1056	132	131	129
MIZORAM	408	402	367	8	8	6
NAGALAND	694	693	694	2	2	2
ODISHA	6743	6797	6784	1104	1052	1078
PUNJAB	4286	4219	4285	51	52	58
RAJASTHAN	25548	25542	25511	2411	2385	2403
SIKKIM	97	97	97	—	—	—
TAMIL NADU	8126	8120	8112	489	488	489
TELANGANA		6929	6877	—	615	607
TRIPURA	274	273	272	—	—	—
UTTARAKHAND	1547	1550	1549	228	228	228
UTTAR PRADESH	19075	18955	18939	479	464	462
WEST BENGAL	5673	5662	5655	13	11	11
ANDAMAN & NICOBAR ISLANDS	28	28	28	2	2	2
CHANDIGARH	1	1	1	—	—	—
DADRA& N HAVELI	24	24	24	0	0	0
DAMAN & DIU	3	3	3	—	—	—
DELHI	53	53	53	18	18	18
LAKSHADWEEP	2	2	2	—	—	—
PUDUCHERRY	30	30	29	0	0	0
<b>ALL INDIA</b>	<b>182085</b>	<b>181850</b>	<b>181886</b>	<b>17072</b>	<b>16948</b>	<b>16996</b>

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

Source: Directorate of Economics And Statistics, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare