

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE & FARMERS WELFARE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE & FARMERS WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1063

TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 13TH DECEMBER, 2022

CONVERSION OF BARREN LAND INTO ARABLE LAND

1063. SHRI BALAK NATH:
SHRI SUMEDHANAND SARASWATI:
SHRIMATI RANJEETA KOLI:
DR. MANOJ RAJORIA:

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

- (a) the total hectares of barren land in the country at present;
- (b) whether the Government has taken any measures to convert barren land into arable land across the country including Rajasthan;
- (c) if so, the details of success achieved in this regard in the country, State-wise including Rajasthan; and
- (d) the details of the strategy and action plan formulated by the Government to convert barren land into arable land?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

(a) to (d): As per the latest Land Use Statistics-at a glance, the State-wise / UT-wise details of barren and unculturable land in the country for the year 2018-19 is available at **Annexure-I.**

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. The Government of India supplements the efforts of State Government through various programmes. The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has developed location specific bio-engineering soil & water conservation measure, land management techniques, soil reclamation measures for saline, alkali, waterlogged and acid soils, and agroforestry interventions to convert barren land into arable land across the country including Rajasthan. While Indian Institute of Soil and Water Conservation (IISWC) has developed several location specific bio-engineering measures to check soil erosion due to run-off of rain water, Central Arid Zone Research Institute, Jodhpur has developed sand dune stabilization and shelter belt technology to check wind erosion. The Council through Central Soil Salinity Research Institute, Karnal and All India Coordinated Research Project (AICRP) on Salt Affected Soils has developed reclamation technology, sub-surface drainage, bio-drainage, agroforestry interventions and salt tolerant crop varieties to improve the productivity of saline, sodic and waterlogged soils in the country.

Further, the Watershed Management Division of Department of Land Resources (DoLR) implements a Centrally Sponsored Scheme namely Watershed Development Component of the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana for development of rainfed/degraded lands in the country. The selection of project areas under the scheme is based on well-defined criteria provided by the National Rainfed Area Authority. The activities undertaken, inter alia, include ridge area treatment, drainage line treatment, soil and moisture conservation, rainwater harvesting, nursery raising, pasture development, livelihoods for assetless persons etc. A total of 8214 watershed development projects were sanctioned during 2009-10 to 2014-15 (in six batches) in 28 States [now 27 States and UT of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh) involving an area of about 39.07 million hectare. Keeping focus on completion of all ongoing projects, no new projects under WDC-PMKSY 1.0 have been sanctioned from 2015-16 to 2020-21. The extended project period of WDC-PMKSY 1.0 got over on 31.03.2022. As per the information received from the States /UTs, under WDC-PMKSY 1.0, about 6.56 lakh water harvesting structures have been created / rejuvenated, an additional area of about 14.54 lakh hectare has been brought under protective irrigation, and about 31.94 lakh farmers have been benefitted from 2015-16 to 2021-22. Further, during 2018-19 to 2021-22, about 1.63 lakh hectare area has been brought under plantation (Horticulture / Afforestation), about 3.36 lakh hectare area of culturable wasteland has been treated in completed projects. Government of India has also approved continuation of WDC-PMKSY 2.0 with a physical target of 4.95 million hectare of rainfed / degraded areas in December, 2021. Department has already sanctioned 1110 watershed projects (145 projects in Rajasthan) for meeting the target area. The details of the amount released by DoLR to various States / UTs as Central share funds under WDC- PMSKY 1.0 & 2.0 during each of the last three years and current year including Rajasthan is given at **Annexure-II**.

Annexure -I

Annexure in reference to Reply to part (a) to part (d) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred No. 1063 due for reply on 13.12.2022

State-wise details of the barren and unculturable land (latest available) (in '000' hectare)

S.No.	STATES/Uts	2018-19
1	ANDHRA PRADESH	1345
2	ARUNACHAL PRADESH	37
3	ASSAM	1215
4	BIHAR	432
5	CHHATTISGARH	288
6	GOA	
7	GUJARAT	2552
8	HARYANA	289
9	HIMACHAL PRADESH	774
10	JAMMU & KASHMIR	308
11	JHARKHAND	579
12	KARNATAKA	769
13	KERALA	10
14	MADHYA PRADESH	1350
15	MAHARASHTRA	1849
16	MANIPUR	1
17	MEGHALAYA	129
18	MIZORAM	6
19	NAGALAND	2
20	ODISHA	1016
21	PUNJAB	41
22	RAJASTHAN	2383
23	SIKKIM	
24	TAMIL NADU	458
25	TELANGANA	607
26	TRIPURA	8
27	UTTARAKHAND	249
28	UTTAR PRADESH	442
29	WEST BENGAL	8
30	A&N ISLAND	2
31	CHANDIGARH	
32	D & N HAVELI	0
33	DAMAN & DIU	
34	DELHI	18
35	LAKSHADWEEP	
36	PUDUCHERRY	0
	ALL INDIA	17168

Note: '0' indicates area less than 500 hectares, while blank space denotes no reporting of data from the States/UTs.

Source: Directorate of Economics & Statistics, DA&FW.

Annexure-II

**Details of Central funds released during last three years and current under the
WDC-PMKSY**

**Annexure in reference to Reply to part (a) to part (d) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred No.
1063 due for reply on 13.12.2022**

Sl. No	State /UT	Central share released (Rs. in crore)			
		WDC-PMKSY 1.0		WDC-PMKSY 2.0	
		2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23 (upto 30.11.2022)
1	Andhra Pradesh	144.39	43.89	45.74	
2	Arunachal Pradesh	55.71	5.80	22.98	35.04
3	Assam	49.03	169.26	16.48	27.01
4	Bihar	88.37		112.94	
5	Chhattisgarh	47.07		23.012	40.285
6	Gujarat	77.93		25.79	
7	Goa*	-	-	2.098	
8	Haryana	7.13	13.68	3.022	
9	Himachal Pradesh	66.87		8.505	6.43
10	Jharkhand	36.77	41.91	27.27	
11	Karnataka	21.76	6.162	119.83	48.48
12	Kerala	48.77		13.24	
13	Madhya Pradesh	221.28	84.90	75.03	172.62
14	Maharashtra	103.00		50.08	
15	Manipur	1.46		9.24	
16	Meghalaya	1.19		60.799	
17	Mizoram	22.27		7.024	10.71
18	Nagaland	137.55	3.53	13.62	6.44
19	Odisha	83.11	1.75	123.18	
20	Punjab			3.031	
21	Rajasthan	119.43	449.896	282.56	
22	Sikkim	2.13		3.15	
23	Tamil Nadu			10.75	21.42
24	Telangana	33.50	60.34	27.60	
25	Tripura	10.75	11.74	20.30	
26	Uttarakhand			11.06	
27	Uttar Pradesh			21.77	
28	West Bengal	92.87		13.15	
29	UT of Jammu & Kashmir		91.21	11.87	
30	UT of Ladakh		6.147		
	Total	1472.33	990.22	1165.17	372.24

*No proposal received from State under WDC-PMKSY1.0
