

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

**LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 350  
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 5<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2023

**CONVERSION OF BARREN LAND INTO FERTILE LAND**

350. SHRI BLAKNATH:

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware of area of barren land in the country and if so, the measures taken by the Government to convert the barren land into the fertile land in the country including Rajasthan;
- (b) the State-wise rate of success in this regard across the country including Rajasthan; and
- (c) the strategy and the action plan prepared by the Government to convert the barren and into agricultural land?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE  
कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

(a) to (c): As per the latest Land Use Statistics-at a Glance 2012-13 to 2021-22, the area of barren land in the country for the year 2021-22 is 16515 thousand hectare including 2366 thousand hectare area of Rajasthan.

The Government of India has proposed to transform barren land into agriculture land through the implementation of various programs aimed at restoring soil health, expanding crop cultivation areas and encouraging water conservation in agriculture. To achieve these aims, several schemes such as Reclamation of Problem Soil (a sub-scheme of Rashtriya Krishi VikasYojana), Soil Health Card, Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana (PMKSY), Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH), National Food Security Mission (NFSM), National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA), etc. are operational in the country including Rajasthan.

The Indian Council of Agriculture Research (ICAR) has also developed location specific bio-engineering soil & water conservation measures, land management techniques, soil reclamation measures for saline, alkali, waterlogged and acid soils, sub-surface drainage, bio-drainage and selection of suitable crops including agroforestry interventions to reclaim and develop barren land. ICAR has also developed sand dune stabilization and shelter belt technology to check wind erosion. The ICAR also imparts training, organises Front Line Demonstrations (FLDs) etc. to educate farmers on all these aspects.

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