

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT OF LAND RESOURCES

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 615
TO BE ANSWERED ON 06.02.2024

Barren land

†615. **SHRIMATI RAMA DEVI:**

Will the Minister of **RURAL DEVELOPMENT** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether 1/6 part of the total geographical area of the country is barren land and the said barren land is expanding every year and if so, the reasons therefor;
- (b) whether any study has been conducted with regard to the expansion of barren land;
- (c) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (d) the measures taken by the Government to check the expansion of barren land;
- (e) whether any scheme is being already implemented or proposes to be implemented in this regard and if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the names of States where such area of barren land has decreased or increased as compared to the previous year?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
(SHRI FAGGAN SINGH KULASTE)

- (a) to (f) As per the information received from Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, the State/UT-wise details of barren land during 2017-18 to 2021-22, as per “Land Use Statistics-At a Glance 2012-13 to 2021-22 (latest)” compiled on the basis of information received from the States, are given at **Annexure**.

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 for transforming barren land into arable land. However, Government of India supplements the efforts of State Government through various programmes.

Department of Land Resources has been implementing Watershed Development Component of the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (WDC-PMKSY) erstwhile Integrated Watershed Management Programme for development of rainfed/ degraded areas.

The Department of Land Resources, Ministry of Rural Development had been implementing an area development programme, namely the Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) with effect from 2009-10 for development of rainfed/degraded areas including wastelands in the country. The major activities taken up under IWMP *inter alia* include ridge area treatment, drainage line treatment, soil and moisture conservation, rain water harvesting, nursery raising, afforestation,

horticulture, pasture development etc. The IWMP has been amalgamated as the Watershed Development Component of the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana (PMKSY) from 2015-16. As per information received from States/UTs, total 7.64 lakh Water Harvesting Structures have been created/ rejuvenated, 16.40 lakh ha of additional area brought under protective irrigation during 2014-15 to 2021-22. Further, 3.36 lakh ha area of culturable wasteland have been treated under WDC-PMKSY 1.0 during 2018-19 to 2021-22.

New generation of watershed scheme i.e. Watershed Development Component of Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana 2.0 (WDC-PMKSY 2.0) for the development of 4.95 million ha. of rainfed/ degraded areas has been approved by the Government on 15.12.2021 with an outlay of Rs. 8134.00 crore (Central Share) for a period of 2021-22 to 2025-26.

Under WDC-PMKSY2.0, total 1150 watershed projects covering an area of 50.55 lakh ha at a total project cost of Rs.12388.58 crore (Central share of Rs. 8073.85 crore) have been sanctioned in the country during FY 2021-22 and 2022-23. As per information received from States/UTs, total 78,756 Water Harvesting Structures have been created/ rejuvenated, 83,342 ha of additional area brought under protective irrigation and 2.90 lakh ha of degraded/rainfed area have been developed under WDC-PMKSY 2.0 during 2022-23 and 2023-24 (upto 2nd Qtr).

Annexure referred to in reply of part (a) to (f) of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 615 due for reply on 06.02.2024

State- wise details of barren land during 2017-18 to 2021-22

(area in thousand hectares)

S. No.	States/UTs	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
1	Andhra Pradesh	1345	1345	1336	1335	1335
2	Arunachal Pradesh	37	37	37	37	37
3	Assam	1216	1215	1217	1209	1180
4	Bihar	432	432	432	432	432
5	Chhattisgarh	287	288	287	288	294
6	Gujarat	2069	2077	2077	2087	2080
7	Haryana	117	289	199	171	171
8	Himachal Pradesh	777	774	767	766	771
9	Jharkhand	584	579	584	580	586
10	Karnataka	793	769	752	743	742
11	Kerala	11	10	11	10	10
12	Madhya Pradesh	1369	1350	1354	1314	1320
13	Maharashtra	1835	1849	1882	1951	1975
14	Manipur	1	1	1	1	1
15	Meghalaya	129	129	129	129	126
16	Mizoram	6	6	6	6	6
17	Nagaland	2	2	2	2	2
18	Odisha	976	1016	948	1109	978
19	Punjab	43	41	35	35	36
20	Rajasthan	2383	2383	2372	2367	2366
21	Tamil Nadu	458	458	457	457	457
22	Telangana	607	607	607	607	607
23	Tripura	8	8	8	8	8
24	Uttarakhand	250	249	249	249	250
25	Uttar Pradesh	444	442	438	438	392
26	West Bengal	9	8	8	8	8
27	A&N Island	2	2	2	2	2
28	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0	0	0	0	0
29	Delhi	18	18	18	18	18
30	Jammu & Kashmir	303	308	298	295	295
31	Ladakh	UT was constituted in October, 2019		28	28	28
32	Puducherry	0	0	0	0	0
	ALL INDIA	16510	16693	16542	16684	16515

Source: Economics Statistics and Evaluation Division, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare