

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.3668
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 10TH DECEMBER, 2019

USE OF CULTIVABLE WASTE LAND

3668. SHRI PRATHAP SIMHA:

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

- (a) whether a large chunk of cultivable land is lying as a wasteland in various parts of the country including Karnataka;
- (b) if so, the details thereof indicating the area of such land and the reasons therefor, State-wise;
- (c) whether the Government in consultation with the States has formulated any policy to convert the wasteland into a cultivable land; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

(a) & (b): Agricultural land/ Cultivable land consists of net area sown, current fallows, fallow lands other than current fallows, culturable wasteland and land under miscellaneous tree crops. As per the latest data available on land use statistics, State wise details of cultivable land and culturable wasteland including Karnataka for the year 2014-15 is at **annexure-I**.

(c) & (d): As per Seventh Schedule of Constitution of India, land comes under the purview of State Government. Therefore, the State Governments are to take suitable steps to check diversion of agricultural land for non-agricultural purposes. However, 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 developmental 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. Acquisition of irrigated, multi-cropped agricultural land for non-agricultural uses may be kept to the minimum and avoided, to the extent possible.

Ministry of Rural Development is implementing an Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) for development of rainfed / degraded areas. The IWMP has been converted to the Watershed Development 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 asset less persons etc.

In order to bring waste/degraded land into cultivation, Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has developed several location specific bio-engineering measures to check soil erosion due to run-off of rain water, sand dune stabilization and shelter belt technology to check wind erosion, reclamation technology for saline, sodic, waterlogged and acid soils in the country. Agro forestry intervention has also been suggested. The ICAR also imparts training, organises Frontline Demonstrations (FLDs) etc. to educate farmers on all these aspects.

Annexure 1

State-wise details of Agricultural Land/ Cultiavble Land and Culturable Waste Land for the year 2014-15 (latest available)

STATES/Uts	(Thousand hectares)	
	Agricultural Land/ Cultiavble Land	Culturable Waste Land
ANDHRA PRADESH	9047	391
ARUNACHAL PRADESH	423	62
ASSAM	3364	142
BIHAR	6579	45
CHHATTISGARH	5558	351
GOA	197	53
GUJARAT	12661	1960
HARYANA	3656	17
HIMACHAL PRADESH	812	122
JAMMU & KASHMIR	1075	139
JHARKHAND	4343	353
KARNATAKA	12827	409
KERALA	2266	101
MADHYA PRADESH	17252	1010
MAHARASHTRA	21099	919
MANIPUR	390	1
MEGHALAYA	1056	390
MIZORAM	367	7
NAGALAND	694	68
ODISHA	6784	550
PUNJAB	4285	69
RAJASTHAN	25511	4038
SIKKIM	97	4
TAMIL NADU	8112	325
TELANGANA	6877	183
TRIPURA	272	3
UTTARAKHAND	1549	317
UTTAR PRADESH	18939	405
WEST BENGAL	5655	17
ANDAMAN & NICOBAR ISLANDS	28	3
CHANDIGARH	1	
DADRA & NAGAR HAVELI	24	0
DAMAN & DIU	3	0
DELHI	53	10
LAKSHADWEEP	2	
PUDUCHERRY	29	5
ALL INDIA	181886	12469

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

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