

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 315
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 15TH SEPTEMBER, 2020

BARREN LAND

315. SHRI KUNWAR PUSHPENDRA SINGH CHANDEL:

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

- (a): the details of barren land in the country including Bundelkhand, State-wise;
- (b): whether the Government is aware that agriculture is the main source of employment in economically backward Bundelkhand;
- (c): if so, whether the Government has resolved to run schemes in mission mode for development of barren land in Bundelkhand; and
- (d): if so, the area of barren land made cultivable in the country including Bundelkhand in the last five years?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

(a): As per the Land Use Statistics for the year 2015-16 (latest available), the state wise details of area of Barren and Uncultable land in the country including Bundelkhand region is at **Annexure I**.

(b) to (d): The economy of Bundelkhand is an agrarian economy and a large population of this region is dependent on agriculture. 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 development of barren land. However, Government of India supplements the efforts of State Government through various programmes.

Department of Land Resources (DoLR) in Ministry of Rural Development is implementing Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) primarily keeping at Center Stage the rainfed & degraded area development. DoLR has sanctioned 8214 watershed development projects in 28 States (except Goa) (now 27 States and UT of J & K and Ladakh), including Bundelkhand region from 2009-10 to 2014-15 covering an area of about 39.07 million hectare under Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP). IWMP was amalgamated as the Watershed Development Component (WDC) of Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) in 2015-16. 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.

As per the information received from the States, between 2014-15 to 2020-21 (upto 1st Quarter of FY2020-21), about 6.90 lakh water harvesting structures were created / rejuvenated, an additional area of about 14.67 lakh hectares has been brought under protective irrigation, and about 31.15 lakh farmers have been benefited during the said period.

Details of number of sanctioned WDC-PMKSY projects in 13 districts of Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh comprising the Bundelkhand region and area covered by the projects are given in **Annexure II**.

Apart from this, Indian Council of Agricultural Research has developed location specific bio-engineering soil & water conservation measure, land management techniques, soil reclamation measures for saline, alkali, waterlogged and acid soils, and selection of suitable crop including agroforestry interventions to reclaim and develop barren lands.

Annexure referred in reply to part (a) of Lok Sabha Unstarred Q. No. 315 due for answer on 15/09/20

State-wise details of barren & unculturable land in the country and in Bundelkhand region for the year 2015-16
(latest available)

(thousand hectares)

STATES/Uts	Barren and Unculturable land
ANDHRA PRADESH	1347
ARUNACHAL PRADESH	37
ASSAM	1200
BIHAR	432
CHHATTISGARH	288
GOA	
GUJARAT	2552
HARYANA	113
HIMACHAL PRADESH	774
JAMMU & KASHMIR	305
JHARKHAND	586
KARNATAKA	793
KERALA	13
MADHYA PRADESH	1360
MAHARASHTRA	1731
MANIPUR	1
MEGHALAYA	129
MIZORAM	6
NAGALAND	2
ODISHA	1054
PUNJAB	52
RAJASTHAN	2395
SIKKIM	
TAMIL NADU	458
TELANGANA	607
TRIPURA	
UTTARAKHAND	228
UTTAR PRADESH	453
WEST BENGAL	10
ANDAMAN & NICOBAR ISLANDS	2
CHANDIGARH	
DADRA & N HAVELI	0
DAMAN & DIU	
DELHI	18
LAKSHADWEEP	
PUDUCHERRY	0
ALL INDIA	16945
BUNDELKHAND REGION	247

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

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

Bundelkhand region consists of districts of Madhya Pradesh (Chhattarpur, Damoh, Datia, Panna, Sagar Tikamgarh) and Uttar Pradesh (Banda, Chitrakoot, Hamirpur, Jalaun, Jhansi, Lalitpur, Mahoba)

Annexure II

Annexure referred to in reply of part (b) to (d) of Lok Sabha Unstarred Q. No. 315 due for answer on 15/09/20

Details of number of WDC-PMKSY projects and area covered by the projects in Bundelkhand region

(Area in lakh ha)

Sl. No.	District	No. of Projects *	Area of the projects
Madhya Pradesh			
1.	Chhattarpur	21	1.17
2.	Damoh	18	0.96
3.	Datia	9	0.57
4.	Panna	11	0.62
5.	Sagar	26	1.71
6.	Tikamgarh	20	0.93
Uttar Pradesh			
7.	Banda	23	1.13
8.	Chitrakoot	14	0.75
9.	Hamirpur	26	1.28
10.	Jalaun	25	1.19
11.	Jhansi	23	1.21
12.	Lalitpur	25	1.13
13.	Mahoba	25	1.26
Bundelkhand region		266	13.91

Source: Department of Land Resources, Ministry of Rural Development

* Sanctioned during 2009-10 to 2014-15 under the erstwhile Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP), which has been amalgamated as the Watershed Development Component (WDC) of the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) with effect from 2015-16.
