

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT OF LAND RESOURCES

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 4494
TO BE ANSWERED ON 23.03.2021

Converting Barren Land to Arable Land

**4494. SHRIMATI POONAMBEN MAADAM:
SHRIMATI RANJEETA KOLI:**

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the area of barren land in hectares in the geographical areas of Rajasthan and Gujarat at present and its percentage and portion out of the total land in the said States;
- (b) the names of schemes implemented by the Union Government to convert barren land into agrarian land in Rajasthan and Gujarat during the last three years and the funds allocated /released/utilised for this purpose, year-wise; and
- (c) the area of barren land in hectares which has been converted into agrarian/arable land in Rajasthan and Gujarat along with the allocated/released funds under this scheme?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
(SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)**

- (a) to (c): According to Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, out of 342.24 lakh hectare geographical area of Rajasthan, 23.91 lakh hectare (6.98%) is barren and unculturable land. Similarly out of 196.02 lakh hectare geographical area of Gujarat, 25.52 lakh hectare (13.02%) is barren and unculturable land.

As per the nine-fold classification of land use, the barren and unculturable land includes all barren and unculturable land like mountains, deserts etc., which cannot be brought under cultivation except at an exorbitant cost. There is no scheme/ programme, as such, exclusively for converting barren land into cultivable land.

As per the Seventh Schedule of Constitution of India, 'land' falls 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 Governments through various programmes. The Department of Land Resources has been implementing Watershed Development Component of Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (WDC-PMKSY) erstwhile Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) for development of rainfed/ degraded areas. Under the scheme, year-wise details of funds released and utilized during the