

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT OF LAND RESOURCES

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 4569
TO BE ANSWERED ON 23.03.2021

Reclamation of Degraded Lands

**4569. SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO:
SHRI RAJVEER SINGH (RAJU BAAIYA):
SHRI VINOD KUMAR SONKAR:
DR. JAYANTA KUMAR ROY:
DR. SUKANTA MAJUMDAR:
SHRI BHOLA SINGH:
SHRI NISITH PRAMANIK:
SHRI RAJA AMARESHWARA NAIK:**

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether 35 per cent of the country's land is degraded/eroded due to deforestation, unsustainable agricultural practices and excessive ground water extraction etc.;
- (b) if so, the details of the extent of degraded lands and the corrective measures taken by the Government in this regard, State/UT-wise;
- (c) whether the Ministry has any plan/scheme for the treatment/reclamation of degraded lands;
- (d) if so, the details thereof including funds sanctioned and the work done during the last three years and the current year, State/UT-wise;
- (e) whether the country is committed to land degradation neutrality by 2030 as part of the Sustainable Development Goals;
- (f) if so, the details thereof; and
- (g) the other corrective steps taken/being taken by the Union Government in this regard?

ANSWER

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

- (a) to (g): As per information of Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), around 120.4 million ha of total geographical area of the country is affected by various kinds of land degradation comprising of water erosion (82.6 million ha), wind erosion (12.0 million ha), chemical degradation (24.8 million ha) and physical degradation (1.0 million ha).

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 and reclamation technology for problem soils in the country.