

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION No. 163
TO BE ANSWERED ON 30.07.2021

Combating Land Degradation and Desertification

*163 SHRI P.V. MIDHUN REDDY
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Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has taken any measures towards achieving the national commitments of Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) and restoration of 26 million hectares of degraded land by 2030 with focus on sustainable and optimum utilization of land resources;
- (b) if so, the details thereof?
- (c) whether in order to reverse land degradation, there is a need to revive the watershed management programme which includes afforestation and schemes aimed at conserving soil and water to check erosion, improve soil and increase recharge and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government has released the latest version of “Desertification and Land Degradation Atlas of India’ and if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the other measures taken by the Government to combat land degradation and desertification in the country?

ANSWER

MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI BHUPENDER YADAV)

(a) to (e): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (A) TO (E) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 163 FOR ANSWER ON 30/07//21 REGARDING “COMBATING LAND DEGRADATION AND DESERTIFICATION” RAISED BY SHRI P.V. MIDHUN REDDY AND SHRI MAGUNTA SREENIVASULU REDDY

- (a) to (c) The Government has launched several schemes/programmes which include inter - alia the National Afforestation Program, Green India Mission, Watershed Development Component of Pradhan Mantri Krishi SinchayeeYojna (PMKSY) which contribute to the target of restoration of 26 million hectares of degraded land and achievement of land degradation neutrality with focus on sustainable and optimum utilization of land resources.

An Inter-Ministerial Committee of nodal officers of concerned line Ministries/Departments has been constituted regarding restoration of 26 million hectares of degraded land and achievement of land degradation neutrality.

The Watershed Development Component(WDC) of Pradhan Mantri Krishi SinchayeeYojana was launched in 2015. It contributes towards restoration of land through its various interventions which include inter-alia building of water harvesting structures, area brought under protective irrigation, area brought under plantation (afforestation / horticulture etc.).

- (d) and (e) Space Application Centre (SAC), Ahmedabad released the latest version of the ‘Desertification and Land Degradation Atlas of India’ on 17 June 2021. The Government has undertaken a number of measures to combat land degradation and desertification in the country. These are as follows:

- (i) A Desertification and Land Degradation Atlas has been prepared by SAC. It provides state-wise area of degraded land. It would help in planning and implementation of schemes aimed at restoration of land by providing important data and technical inputs.
- (ii) An online portal has been developed with the help of Space Application Center(SAC), Ahmedabad for visualization of degraded area of land with the processes causing degradation.
- (iii) A Centre of Excellence has been envisaged at the Indian Council for Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE) Dehradun for enhanced South-South Cooperation. It aims at knowledge sharing, promotion of best practices, sharing of India’s experiences with cost-effective and sustainable land management strategies, developing ideas for transformative projects and programs and capacity building.
