

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT OF LAND RESOURCES

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 2435
TO BE ANSWERED ON 03.08.2021

Wasteland to Arable Land

2435. SHRIMATI RANJEETA KOLI:
SHRI MANSUKHBHAI DHANJIBHAI VASAVA:
SHRIMATI RAMA DEVI:

Will the Minister of **RURAL DEVELOPMENT** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether arable land in the country is decreasing year by year, if so, the details thereof during each of the last three years and the current year along with the steps taken by the Government to prevent the decline of arable land;
- (b) the total area of arid land in Bihar at present and its percentage share out of the total land;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to convert barren land into arable land, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?
- (d) the details of the schemes implemented by the Union Government to convert arid land/barren land into agricultural/arable land during the last three years particularly in Bihar;
- (e) the amount of fund allocated and utilized in this regard, year-wise;
- (f) the area of total arid land converted into agricultural land so far with the help of above mentioned works and funds allocated; and
- (g) whether the Union Government has been getting cooperation of the State Governments for converting wasteland into arable land, if so, the details thereof along with the details of the works carried out in this regard during the last three years, State-wise and if not, the action taken by the Union Government in this regard?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
(SHRI FAGGAN SINGH KULASTE)

- (a) The details of Arable land, as per the publication on Land Use Statistics for 2017-18 (latest available), provided by the Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare are given as **Annexure I**. As per this information, slight decrease in the arable land, has been observed from 2014-15 to 2017-18. The Government of India has been implementing, Per Drop More Crop, Har Khet Ko Pani, Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme and Watershed Development Component of PMKSY to prevent the decline of arable land.