

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT OF LAND RESOURCES

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3518
TO BE ANSWERED ON 17.12.2024

National Wasteland Atlas of India

3518. Shri Pradyut Bordoloi:

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

- (a) the details of the next edition of the Wasteland Atlas of India will be published and the time period it will cover;
- (b) the ecological criteria behind declaring certain habitats as wastelands;
- (c) whether ecologists, conservationists and local communities were consulted while framing these criteria, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) whether the Government has any plan to conduct a review of the definition of wastelands as employed by the Wasteland Atlas, if so, the details thereof ?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
(Dr. CHANDRA SEKHAR PEMMASANI)

(a) Wasteland Atlas of India has been brought out in the years 2000, 2005, 2010, 2011 and 2019. The date and time period of next edition of Wasteland Atlas has not been decided.

(b) & (c) Criteria used to define the Wastelands under Wastelands Atlas of India are based on definition adopted by the Technical Task Group established by the Planning Commission (1987), which is as follows:

"Wastelands are defined as degraded lands that can be brought under vegetative cover with reasonable effort and which is currently under- utilised and is deteriorating due to lack of appropriate water and soil management or on account of natural causes."

(d) As of now, there is no proposal to change the definition of wastelands.