

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT OF LAND RESOURCES

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 879
TO BE ANSWERED ON 28.04.2016

Development of Barren Land

879. SHRI RAGHAV LAKHANPAL:
SHRI PRATAPRAO JADHAV:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the extent of barren land in the country at present, State-wise;
- (b) whether the Government has implemented any scheme for the conversion of barren land into cultivable land and if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the quantum of barren land converted into cultivable land under the said scheme during the last three years?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT
(SHRI SUDARSHAN BHAGAT)

(a): As per the information received from Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, the State /UT-wise details of barren and unculturable land are given at **Annexure** .

(b) and (c): There is no scheme/ programme exclusively to convert barren land into cultivable land. However, the Department of Land Resources, Ministry of Rural Development had been implementing an area development programme namely the Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) with effect from 2009-10 for development of rainfed/degraded areas including wastelands in the country. The major activities taken up under IWMP inter alia include ridge area treatment, drainage line treatment, soil and moisture conservation, rain water harvesting, nursery raising, afforestation, horticulture, pasture development, livelihoods for assetless persons, etc. So far 8214 projects covering an area of 39.07 million ha have been sanctioned and an amount of Rs 12520.03 crore has been released as Central Share to the States till 2015-16 since inception. The IWMP has been converted as the Watershed Development Component of the 'Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana' (PMKSY) from 2015-16. As per the Common Guidelines for Watershed Development Projects-2008 (Revised Edition-2011), the period for completing PMKSY (WDC) projects is between 4-7 years. These projects are in different stages of implementation.

**Annexure referred to in reply to part (a) of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 879 due for
reply on 28.04.2016**

State-wise/UT wise details of barren and unculturable land in the Country

(Thousand hectare)

S.No.	STATE/UT	Area of Barren and Unculturable Land*
1	ANDHRA PRADESH	1959
2	ARUNACHAL PRADESH	38
3	ASSAM	1408
4	BIHAR	432
5	CHHATTISGARH	290
6	GOA	NA
7	GUJARAT	2552
8	HARYANA	101
9	HIMACHAL PRADESH	779
10	JAMMU & KASHMIR	306
11	JHARKHAND	572
12	KARNATAKA	787
13	KERALA	16
14	MADHYA PRADESH	1387
15	MAHARASHTRA	1722
16	MANIPUR	1
17	MEGHALAYA	132
18	MIZORAM	8
19	NAGALAND	2
20	ODISHA	1104
21	PUNJAB	51
22	RAJASTHAN	2411
23	SIKKIM	NA
24	TAMIL NADU	489
25	TRIPURA	NA
26	UTTARAKHAND	228
27	UTTAR PRADESH	479
28	WEST BENGAL	13
29	ANDAMAN & NICOBAR ISLANDS	2
30	CHANDIGARH	NA
31	DADRA & NAGAR HAVELI	0
32	DAMAN & DIU	NA
33	DELHI	16
34	LAKSHADWEEP	NA
35	PUDUCHERRY	0
	ALL INDIA	17284

Note:'0' relates to the area below 500 Hectares

*As in year 2012-13

NA: Not Available

Source: Directorate of Economics & Statistics, Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare