O.I.H.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, COOPERATION & FARMERS WELFARE

LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 96
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 24TH JULY, 2018

CULTIVABLE LAND

*96. SHRI RAOSAHEB DANVE PATIL:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण ½ãâ¨ããè
be pleased to state:

(a) the total area of cultivable land and barren land in the country at present, State/ UT-wise;

(b) the details of measures taken by the Government to make the barren land fertile and the extent of success achieved in this regard; and

(c) the policy of the Government for using such unutilized land in the State of Maharashtra so that the farmers are directly benefited?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण ½ãâ¨ããè (SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 96 DUE FOR REPLY ON 24TH JULY, 2018.

(a): As per the latest data available on land use statistics in India, State-wise details of 'cultivable/agricultural land' and 'barren and unculturable land' for the year 2014-15 is given at **Annexure.**

(b) & (c): As per the Seventh Schedule of Constitution of India, land comes under the purview of State Governments and, therefore, it is for the them to take suitable steps to make barren land fertile. However, Government of India supplements the efforts of States, including the State of Maharashtra, through appropriate policy measures and budgetary support. Government of India is implementing National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA) with a view to prevent soil erosion, land degradation and also to maintain balance in various types of land uses across the country. Under this mission all types of land including wasteland/barren land are developed with suitable need based soil and water conservation measures and parts of such degraded lands developed are put to agricultural practices, leading to net sown area remaining largely unchanged around 141 million hectares in the last two decades.

Under the National Policy for Farmers – 2007 (NPF-2007), State Governments have been advised to earmark lands with low biological potential such as uncultivable land, land affected by salinity, acidity, etc., for non-agricultural development activities, including industrial and construction activities. National Rehabilitation and Resettlement Policy – 2007 (NRRP-2007) has also recommended that as far as possible, projects may be set up on waste land, degraded land or un-irrigated land. Acquisition of irrigated, multi-cropped agricultural land for non-agricultural uses may be kept to the minimum and avoided, to the extent possible. Further, Department of Land Resources

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under Ministry of Rural Development has been implementing Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) since 2009, principally for development of rainfed portions of net cultivated area and culturable wastelands,. From the financial year 2015-16, IWMP has been amalgamated with the Watershed Development Component of the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY). The activities being undertaken through the watershed development projects *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.

Government has also launched one of the largest universal Soil Health Card Schemes in the world to provide information about fertility of land to farmers based on testing soil samples for 12 parameters. As of 31.03.2018, approximately 10.64 crore Soil Health Cards have been distributed in the cycle-1 and 2.11 crore in Cycle-2.

Apart from this, the India Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has developed location specific bio-engineering soil & water conservation measure, land management techniques, soil reclamation measures for saline, alkali, waterlogged and acid soils, selection of suitable crop including agro forestry interventions and other practices like integrated nutrient management, supplementary/protective irrigation to make barren/waste lands fertile and cultivable. While Indian Institute of Soil and Water Conservation (IISWC) has developed several location specific bio-engineering measures to check soil erosion due to run-off of rain water, Central Arid Zone Research Institute, Jodhpur has developed sand dune stabilization and shelter belt technology to

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check: wind erosion. The Council through Central Soil Salinity Research Institute, Kamal and All India Coordinated Research Project (AICRP) on Salt Affected Soils has developed reclamation technology, sub-surface drainage, bio-drainage, agroforestry interventions and salt tolerant crop varieties to improve the productivity of saline, sodic and waterlogged soils in the country. The ICAR also imparts training, organises (Front Line Demonstrations) FLDs etc. to educate farmers on all the aspects.

Annexure

Annexure referred in part (a) of reply to Lok Sabha Starred Q. No. 96 due for reply on 24/07/18

State-wise details of cultivable/agricultural land and barren & unculturable land in the country for the year 2014-15 (latest available)

(Thousand Hectares)

STATES/UTs	Cultivable Land/ Agricultural Land	Barren and Unculturable Land
ANDHRA PRADESH	9047	1351
ARUNACHAL PRADESH	423	37
ASSAM	3364	1190
BIHAR	6579	432
CHHATTISGARH	5558	288
GOA	197	–
GUJARAT	12661	2552
HARYANA	3656	119
HIMACHAL PRADESH	812	777
JAMMU & KASHMIR	1075	305
JHARKHAND	4343	568
KARNATAKA	12827	787
KERALA	2266	13
MADHYA PRADESH	17252	1357
MAHARASHTRA	21099	1727
MANIPUR	390	1
MEGHALAYA	1056	129
MIZORAM	367	6
NAGALAND	694	2
ODISHA	6784	1078
PUNJAB	4285	58
RAJASTHAN	25511	2403
SIKKIM	97	–
TAMIL NADU	8112	489
TELANGANA	6877	607
TRIPURA	272	–
UTTARAKHAND	1549	228
UTTAR PRADESH	18939	462
WEST BENGAL	5655	11
A&N ISLAND	28	2
CHANDIGARH	1	–
D & N HAVELI	24	0
DAMAN & DIU	3	–
DELHI	53	18
LAKSHADWEEP	2	–
PUDUCHERRY	29	0
ALL INDIA	**181886**	**16996**

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

Source: Directorate of Economics And Statistics, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare

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