

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT OF LAND RESOURCES

LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 70
TO BE ANSWERED ON 20.07.2017

Development of Wasteland

***70. SHRI KUNWAR PUSHPENDRA SINGH CHANDEL:**

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the area of wasteland is increasing in economically backward regions of the country particularly in Bundelkhand;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the details of the decline in cultivable land in the country including Bundelkhand during the last three years; and
- (d) the measures being taken by the Government for development of wasteland and increasing the quality and water retention capacity of the soil?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
(SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

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

**Statement referred to in reply to parts (a) to (d) of Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 70
for answer on 20.07.2017**

(a) to (d): Data on area under wastelands in the country, including in economically backward regions of the country, is not centrally maintained in Department of Land Resources.

An assessment study commissioned by Department of Land Resources, which was conducted by National Remote Sensing Centre, namely “Wastelands Atlas of India - Change Analysis Based on Temporal Satellite Data of 2005-06 and 2008-09” (2011), *inter alia* contains district-wise estimated area under wastelands during 2005-06 and during 2008-09.

The estimated area under wastelands in 13 districts of Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh comprising the Bundelkhand region was 7785.62 square km during 2005-06 and 7807.48 square km during 2008-09.

The estimated area under wastelands in the country, including Bundelkhand and economically backward regions of the country, was 472261.94 square km during 2005-06 and 467021.16 square km during 2008-09.

The “Wastelands Atlas of India - Change Analysis Based on Temporal Satellite Data of 2005-06 and 2008-09” (2011) is available in the public domain, including on the official website of the Department of Land Resources at http://dolr.nic.in/dolr/wasteland_atlas.asp.

As per information received from Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, details of estimated area under agricultural / cultivable land in the 13 districts of Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh comprising the Bundelkhand region as well as details of agricultural / cultivable land in the country during 2012-13, 2013-14 and 2014-15 are given in **Annexure I**.

Department of Land Resources has sanctioned 8214 watershed development projects in 28 States (except Goa) [during the period 2009-10 to 2014-15] covering an area of about 39.07 million hectare under the Watershed Development Component (WDC) of the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) principally for development of rainfed portions of net cultivated area and culturable wastelands.

State-wise details of number of sanctioned projects, area covered by the projects and funds released as Central share [from 2009-10 to 2017-18 (upto 30th June 2017)] are given in **Annexure II**.

Inter se distribution of funds (Central share plus State share) amongst the projects in a particular State is undertaken at the State level by the respective States.

Details of number of sanctioned projects in 13 districts of Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh comprising the Bundelkhand region and area covered by the projects are given in **Annexure III**.

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.

The projects are at various stages of implementation. Priority is being given to qualitative and timely completion of the on-going projects. Administrative reports of completion of 635 projects have been received from 10 States from 1st April 2017 onwards (upto 13.07.2017). The details are given in **Annexure IV**.

As a systemic improvement, a protocol on formal completion and closure of WDC-PMKSY projects has been formulated by the Department of Land Resources in consultation with Ministry of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation and NITI Aayog. The protocol *inter alia* envisages to ensure (i) the due completion of unfinished works (if any), (ii) maintenance, (iii) security and (iv) sustainability of the watershed development projects. Before the projects are formally treated as closed by the Department of Land Resources, the completion and closure protocol has to be duly adopted by the States in respect of the projects administratively reported to have been completed. All States (except Goa) have been accordingly requested on 12th July 2017.

In addition to the WDC-PMKSY being implemented by Department of Land Resources, other Central Ministries / Departments like Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare are also implementing schemes and programmes like the per Drop More Crop component of PMKSY which *inter alia* includes activities for water conservation, drought proofing, water harvesting, ground water recharge, etc. that complement and supplement interventions undertaken under the WDC-PMKSY.

Further, under the National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA), being implemented to *inter alia* prevent soil erosion and land degradation, all types of lands including wastelands are being developed with suitable need-based soil and water conservation measures and partly put to agricultural uses.

Also, the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare has launched Reclamation of Problem Soil (RPS) as a sub-scheme of Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) during 2016-17 for reclamation of problem soils (Alkalinity/ Salinity and Acidity) on pilot basis in the States having higher extent of problem soil area.

In addition, National Afforestation & Eco-Development Board in the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme "National Afforestation Programme" for regeneration of degraded forests and adjoining areas through peoples' participation in the country.

Annexure I

Annexure referred to in reply to parts (a) to (d) of Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 70
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Details of estimated area under Agricultural / Cultivable land in Bundelkhand region
and in the country

(square km)

Sl. No.	District	Agricultural / Cultivable Land*		
		2012-13	2013-14	2014-15
Madhya Pradesh				
1.	Chhatarpur	5355.05	5316.63	5312.86
2.	Damoh	3353.91	3351.31	3347.99
3.	Datia	2340.75	2374.58	2366.07
4.	Panna	3237.43	3257.25	3265.45
5.	Sagar	5770.18	5772.36	5771.70
6.	Tikamgarh	3233.94	3235.32	3233.96
Uttar Pradesh				
7.	Banda	3805.39	3811.29	3811.05
8.	Chitrakoot	2292.76	2274.50	2274.50
9.	Hamirpur	3241.54	3252.09	3251.22
10.	Jalaun	3765.48	3780.29	3783.69
11.	Jhansi	3995.90	3897.07	3896.48
12.	Lalitpur	3755.73	3749.54	3746.88
13.	Mahoba	2639.51	2641.99	2641.61
	Bundelkhand region	46787.57	46714.22	46703.46
	All India	1820851.11	1818499.14	1818860.66

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

**Annexure referred to in reply to parts (a) to (d) of Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 70
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**State-wise details of number of WDC-PMKSY projects sanctioned, area covered by the
projects and funds released as Central share**

(Area in million ha, Amount in Rs. crore)

Sl. No	State	Sanctioned (from 2009-10 to 2014-15) [@]		Central share released (from 2009-10 to 2017-18 [#])
		Total no. of Projects	Area of the projects	
1	Andhra Pradesh	432	1.810	725.42
2	Arunachal Pradesh	156	0.467	215.54
3	Assam	372	1.577	322.44
4	Bihar	123	0.612	85.33
5	Chhattisgarh	263	1.195	217.40
6	Gujarat	610	3.103	1049.29
7	Haryana	88	0.362	77.76
8	Himachal Pradesh	163	0.840	232.71
9	Jammu & Kashmir	159	0.652	115.29
10	Jharkhand	171	0.911	162.69
11	Karnataka	571	2.569	1690.74
12	Kerala	83	0.423	78.41
13	Madhya Pradesh	517	2.937	1193.52
14	Maharashtra	1186	5.128	2138.81
15	Manipur	102	0.491	121.12
16	Meghalaya	96	0.236	157.39
17	Mizoram	89	0.373	214.40
18	Nagaland	111	0.476	447.95
19	Odisha	310	1.700	807.66
20	Punjab	67	0.314	52.46
21	Rajasthan	1025	5.764	1872.68
22	Sikkim	15	0.066	20.68
23	Tamil Nadu	270	1.368	801.25
24	Telangana	330	1.399	459.94
25	Tripura	65	0.213	167.66
26	Uttarakhand	65	0.346	114.13
27	Uttar Pradesh	612	3.045	744.56
28	West Bengal	163	0.693	116.28
	Total	8214	39.07	14403.51

[@] Sanctioned under the erstwhile Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP), which has been amalgamated as the Watershed Development Component (WDC) of the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) with effect from 2015-16.

[#] Upto 30.06.2017, including releases under the erstwhile IWMP.

Note: 1) WDC-PMKSY is not operational in the Union Territories.

2) There is no sanctioned project in Goa.

**Annexure referred to in reply to parts (a) to (d) of Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 70
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**Details of number of WDC-PMKSY projects and area covered by the projects in
Bundelkhand region**

(Area in lakh ha)

Sl. No.	District	No. of Projects *	Area of the projects
Madhya Pradesh			
1.	Chhattarpur	21	1.17
2.	Damoh	18	0.96
3.	Datia	9	0.57
4.	Panna	11	0.62
5.	Sagar	26	1.71
6.	Tikamgarh	20	0.93
Uttar Pradesh			
7.	Banda	23	1.13
8.	Chitrakoot	14	0.75
9.	Hamirpur	26	1.28
10.	Jalaun	25	1.19
11.	Jhansi	23	1.21
12.	Lalitpur	25	1.13
13.	Mahoba	25	1.26
Bundelkhand region		266	13.91

* Sanctioned during 2009-10 to 2014-15 under the erstwhile Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP), which has been amalgamated as the Watershed Development Component (WDC) of the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) with effect from 2015-16.

Annexure IV

**Annexure referred to in reply to parts (a) to (d) of Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 70
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**State-wise details of receipt of administrative reports on completion of WDC-PMKSY
projects (01.04.2017 to 13.07.2017)**

Sl. No.	State	No. of projects
1	Andhra Pradesh	62
2	Karnataka	73
3	Madhya Pradesh	86
4	Maharashtra	239
5	Meghalaya	21
6	Mizoram	16
7	Nagaland	41
8	Rajasthan	37
9	Tamil Nadu	50
10	Tripura	10
	Total	635
