

Wastelands in Gujarat

2554. SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the status of wastelands in Gujarat with details of barren lands, lands with salinity and other types of wastelands; district-wise;
- (b) whether Government have any plans to develop these wastelands in the State by starting afforestation and other works; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL): (a) As per the 'Wastelands Atlas of India, 2000' the total extent of wastelands in Gujarat is 4.30 m.ha. Details of district-wise wastelands including barren land and saline land in Gujarat is given in the Annexure [See Appendix 194 Annexure No. 21]

(b) and (c) The main programmes and schemes of the Central Government for the treatment of wastelands/degraded lands having components to develop/reclaim such lands by checking land degradation and putting such lands to productive use are given in the Annexure, [see Appendix 194 Annexure No. 22]

National Advisory Panel for "Water for All"

2555. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government propose to set up a National Advisory Panel to guide the Ministry its schemes for "Water for AH";
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) by when, it is likely to be set up; and
- (d) what would be the functions of the Panel?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL): (a) No Sir. No scheme named "Water for AH" is being implemented. As