

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

such question of setting up of National Advisory Panel to guide the Ministry does not arise.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

Construction of Rural and Urban Housing Units in the country

2556. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of rural and urban housing units constructed during the last three years in the country, state-wise;

(b) whether the target set has been achieved;

(c) if not, the reasons for not achieving the targets;

(d) whether it is true that Government have decided to constitute a GOM to address the issues concerning rural and urban housing; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) to (c) The State-wise number of houses constructed in the rural areas under various Rural Housing Schemes during the last three years is given in the Statement-I (*See* below). In so far houses constructed in the urban areas, as per information received from the Ministry of Urban Development & Poverty Alleviation, Housing & Urban Development Corporation Limited (HUDCO) provides financial support to State government agencies for housing programme on a demand-driven basis. State-wise and year-wise performance of HUDCO financed urban dwelling units under 2 Million Housing Programme is given in the Statement-II. (*See* below) Targets under Rural Housing Schemes are constantly monitored, evaluated and timely action is initiated, as required, to accelerate the same to improve the implementation of the programme.

(d) and (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.