

Unutilization of arable land in Rajasthan

†649. SHRI RAM NARAIN DUDI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of agricultural land and the unutilized arable land in Rajasthan; and

(b) whether Central Government has taken any steps to convert unutilized arable land into agricultural land in Rajasthan, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJIBHAI KUNDARIYA): (a) As per the information received from Government of Rajasthan (latest available), the details of agricultural land and the unutilized arable land (culturable waste land including fallow lands) in Rajasthan are given as under:

Year	Thousand Hectare	
	Arable land	Unutilized arable land
2014-15	25511	7963

(b) As per Seventh Schedule of Constitution of India, land comes under the purview of State Government and, therefore, it is for the State Governments to take suitable steps to convert unutilized arable land into agricultural land. However, in order to extend irrigation facilities to bring more and more land under agriculture, the Government of India has launched Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY).

PMKSY aims at providing end-to-end solutions in irrigation supply chain, viz. water sources, and distribution network and farm level applications. PMKSY not only focuses on creating sources for assured irrigation, but also creating protective irrigation by harnessing rain water at micro level through 'Jal Sanchay' and 'Jal Sinchan'. PMKSY adopts State level planning and projectised execution that allows States to draw up their own irrigation development based on District Irrigation Plans and State Irrigation Plans. Micro irrigation will be popularised to ensure 'Per drop-More crop'.

Further, Ministry of Rural Development is also implementing an Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) for development of rainfed/ degraded areas. From 2015-16, the IWMP has been converted as the Watershed Component of the PMKSY.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.