

Steps to make wasteland and arid/semi arid land productive

1585. SHRIMATI KAMLA MANHAR: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the extent of total area of wasteland arid/semi arid in the country with State-wise break-up thereof;

(b) the measures taken/proposed to be taken/to make such potential lands productive;

(c) whether Government propose to give such lands to the landless poor in order to empower them; and

(d) if so, the State-wise details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. NARENDRA): (a) The Wastelands Atlas of India (2000) brought out by the Ministry of Rural Development in collaboration with the National Remote Sensing Agency (NRSA), Hyderabad, estimated the extent of wastelands in the country as 638518.31 sq. kms. (63.85 million hectares). Similarly, the Technical Committee set up by the Ministry (1994) to review the Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP) and the Desert Development Programme (DDP), identified 745914 sq. kms. (74.59 million hectares) area in 182 districts as semi-arid (drought prone area) and 457949 sq. kms. (45.79 million hectares) area in 40 districts as arid (desert areas). The State-wise details of these wastelands, arid and semi-arid areas are at Statement-I and II (See below).

(b) For overall development of these identified wastelands, semi-arid and arid areas, the Ministry is implementing three specific area development programmes namely, the Integrated Wastelands Development Programme (IWDP), the Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP) and the Desert Development Programme (DDP). These Programmes are being implemented on a watershed basis with main focus on activities relating to land development, soil-moisture conservation, water resources development and afforestation/pasture development in the watershed area.

(c) and (d) No such proposal is under consideration.

Statement I**State-wise wastelands of India***(Area in Sq. Kms.)*

Sl. No.	State	Number of districts covered	Total geographical area of districts covered	Total wastelands area in districts covered	% of wastelands to total geographical area
1.	Andhra Pradesh	23	275068.00	51750.19	18.81
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	13	83743.00	18326.25	21.88
3.	Assam	23	78438.00	20019.17	25.52
4.	Bihar	55	173877.00	20997.55	12.08
5.	Goa	02	3702.00	613.27	16.57
6.	Gujarat	25	196024.00	43021.28	21.95
7.	Haryana	19	44212.00	3733.98	8.45
8.	Himachal Pradesh	12	55673.00	31659.00	56.87
9.	J & K	14	222236.00	65444.24	64.55
10.	Karnataka	27	191791.00	20839.28	10.87
11.	Kerala	14	38863.00	1448.18	3.73
12.	Madhya Pradesh	62	443446.00	69713.75	15.72
13.	Maharashtra	32	307690.00	53489.08	17.38
14.	Manipur	09	22327.00	12948.62	58.00
15.	Meghalaya	07	22429.00	9904.38	44.16
16.	Mizoram	03	21081.00	4071.68	19.31
17.	Nagaland	07	16579.00	8404.10	50.69
18.	Orissa	30	155707.00	21341.71	13.71
19.	Punjab	17	50362.00	2228.40	4.42
20.	Rajasthan	32	342239.00	105639.11	30.87
21.	Sikkim	04	7096.00	3569.58	50.30
22.	Tripura	04	10486.00	1276.03	12.17

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1	2	3	4	5	6
23.	Tamil Nadu	29	130058.00	23013.90	17.70
24.	Uttar Pradesh	83	294411.00	38772.80	13.17
25.	West Bengal	18	88752.00	5718.48	6.44
26.	Union Territories	20	10973.00	574.30	5.23
Total		584	3287263.00	638518.31	20.17

Note: 1,20,849 sq. kms. in Jammu & Kashmir is not mapped and hence not considered for calculating the percentage.

Statement-II

Extent of State-wise semi-arid (Drought Prone) and arid (Desert) areas

Area in Sq. Kms.			
Sl. No.	State	Semi-Arid (Drought Prone)	Arid (Desert)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	99218	19138
2.	Bihar	9533	—
3.	Chhattisgarh	21801	—
4.	Gujarat	43938	55424
5.	Haryana	-	20542
6.	Himachal Pradesh	3319	35107
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	14705	96701
8.	Jharkhand	34843	-
9.	Karnataka	84332	32295
10.	Madhya Pradesh	89101	-
11.	Maharashtra	194473	-
12.	Orissa	26178	-
13.	Rajasthan	31969	198744
14.	Tamil Nadu	29416	-
15.	Uttar Pradesh	35698	-
16.	Uttaranchal	15796	-
17.	West Bengal	11594	-
TOTAL		745914	457949