

1	2	3	4	5
30.	Andaman and Nicobar	0.08	0.06	0.08
31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.00	0.00	0.00
32.	Daman and Diu	0.00	0.00	0.00
33.	Lakshadweep	0.00	0.00	0.00
34.	Puducherry	0.27	0.30	0.29
	TOTAL	312.22	363.70	390.34

Source: www.nrega.nic.in

Survey of wastelands

271. DR. R. LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is not maintaining centralized data regarding extent of wastelands across the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government will now come forward to make efforts to assess the extent of wastelands spread across the country so that they can be reclaimed in a scientific and holistic manner; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV): (a) to (d) Data on extent of wastelands in the country is not centrally maintained in Department of Land Resources.

However, assessment studies of wastelands are commissioned by Department of Land Resources, which are conducted through National Remote Sensing Centre. Reports of these studies are 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 the "Wastelands Atlas of India - Change Analysis Based on Temporal Satellite Data of 2005-06 and 2008-09" (2011), estimated area under wastelands in the country was 472261.94 square km during 2005-06 and 467021.16 square km during 2008-09.

Another assessment study "Wastelands Change Analysis in India (Temporal Analysis between 2008-09 and 2015-16" commissioned during 2015-16 is under progress.

Conversion of barren land into arable land

†272. SHRI MEGHRAJ JAIN: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any new plan to convert barren land in the country into arable land and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government has directed the State Government to maintain statistics of barren land situated in their States under this scheme and if so, details thereof, State-wise; and

(c) whether Government has been implementing any plan to convert barren land into arable land in previous years also and if so, the details of converted arable land during the last three years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV): (a) to (c) 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.

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.

State-wise details of number of sanctioned projects, area covered by the projects and Central share released during the last three years and the current year (upto 30th November 2017) are given in the Statement-I (*See below*).

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 1131 projects have been received from 12 States from 1st April 2017 onwards (upto 13.12.2017). The details are given in the Statement-II (*See below*).

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.