

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
AGRICULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2325  
ANSWERED ON:13.03.2006  
UNCULTIVABLE LAND  
Bose Shri Subrata

**Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:**

- (a) the details of uncultivable land in the country at present, State-wise, particularly in West Bengal;
- (b) whether the Government is formulating any scheme to bring such land under cultivation;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the amount likely to be allocated for this purpose in the country, State-wise?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA)

(a) to (d): As per Wastelands Atlas of India (2005) published by Ministry of Rural Deveopment, an area of 55.27 million ha. is wastelands including 0.44 million ha. falling in the State of West Bengal. The State – wise details are annexed. The Wasteland is described as `degraded land which can be brought under vegetative cover with reasonably effort and which is currently under-utilized`. Government of India is implementing various schemes/programmes on watershed development, namely,

- (i) National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas(NWDPPRA),
- (ii) Soil Conservation for Enhancing Productivity of Degraded Lands in the Catchments of River Valley Project and Flood Prone River(RVP & FPR),
- (iii) Reclamation of Alkali Soil(RAS),
- (iv) Watershed Development Project in Shifting Cultivation Areas(WDPSCA)
- (v) Externally Aided Projects(EAPs) on Watershed Development
- (vi) Drought Prone Area Programme(DPAP),
- (vii) Desert Development Programmes(DDP)
- (viii) Integrated Waste-land Development Programme(IMDP) and
- (ix) National Afforestation & Eco-Development Project Schemes(NAEPS) for increasing the productivity of degraded lands including wastelands in the country. Under these programmes upto March 2005, about 28.50 million ha, wastelands have been developed with expenditure of Rs.14577.00 crore.

STATE-WISE WASTELANDS OF INDIA (Wasteland Atlas – 2005, MoRD)

Annexure to Unstarred Question 2325 regarding Uncultivable Land due for 13.3.2006

(Area in Sq. Km.)

Sl. No. State Name No. of Distt. TGA Total WL % To TGA

1.	Andhra Pradesh	23	275068	45267.15	16.46
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	16	83743	18175.95	21.70
3.	Assam	23	78438	14034.08	17.89
4.	Bihar	37	94171	5443.68	5.78
5.	Chhatisgarh	16	135194	7584.15	5.61
6.	Goa	2	3702	531.29	14.35
7	Gujarat	25	196024	20377.74	10.40

8. Haryana	19	44212	3266.45	7.39
9. Himachal Pradesh	12	55673	28336.80	50.90
10. Jammu & Kashmir		14	101387	70201.99 69.24
11. Jharkhand	19	79706	11165.26	14.01
12. Karnataka	27	191791	13536.58	7.06
13. Kerala	14	38863	1788.80	4.60
14. Madhya Pradesh	49	308252	57134.03	18.53
15. Maharashtra	33	307690	49275.41	16.01
16. Manipur	9	22327	13174.74	59.01
17. Meghalaya	7	22429	3411.41	15.21
18. Mizoram	8	21081	4469.88	21.20
19. Nagaland	7	16579	3709.40	22.37
20. Orissa	30	155707	18952.74	12.17
21. Punjab	17	50362	1172.84	2.33
22. Rajasthan	32	342239	101453.86	29.64
23. Sikkim	4	7096	3808.21	53.67
24. Tripura	4	10486	1322.97	12.62
25. Tamil Nadu	29	130058	17303.29	13.30
26. Uttranchal	13	53483	16097.46	30.10
27. Uttar Pradesh	70	240928	16984.16	7.50
28. West Bengal	18	88752	4397.56	4.95
29. Union Territory	20	10973	314.38	2.87
Total	597	3166414	552692.25	17.45
Total (Mha.)		316.64		55.27

Unsurveyed Areas (J&K) 120849.00

Total Geographical Area (TGA) = 3287263 Sq. Km = 328.7 Mha.

**SOURCE: 1:50,000 Wasteland Maps-2003 prepared based on IRS-LISS III Data**