

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
AGRICULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2350

ANSWERED ON:13.03.2006

LAND AFFECTED DUE TO SALINITY , ALKALINITY AND RAINFED

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

(a) whether any survey has been conducted to know the hectares of land affected by salinity, alkalinity and rainfed areas degraded, available in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the measures undertaken by the Government to reclaim such waste lands?

**Answer**

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

(a) to (c): As per National Bureau of Soil Survey & Land Use Planning (NBSS&LUP), Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), out of total geographical area on 328.60, an area of 146.82 million ha. are suffering from various categories of land degradation including rainfed areas. The category – wise summary of the extent of degraded lands are as under:-

S.No. Category of Land Degradation Extent of Area in million ha.

1	Water erosion	93.68
2	Wind erosion	9.48
3	Water logging	14.30
4	Salinity/alkalinity	5.95
5	Soil acidity	16.03
6	Complex problem	7.38
	Total Degraded area	146.82

Government of India is implementing various schemes/programmes on watershed development, namely,

(i) National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Area (NWDPR),

(ii) Soil Conservation for Enhancing the 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 Area (WDPSCA)

(v) Externally Aided Projects (EAPs) on Watershed Development

(vi) Drought Prone Area Programme (DPAP),

(vii) Desert Development Programme (DDP),

(viii) Integrated Waste-land Development Programme (IWDP) 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. has been developed with expenditure of Rs. 14577.00 crore.