

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF FISHERIES, ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING
DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3334
TO BE ANSWERED ON 21ST MARCH, 2023

CONSERVATION OF GRASSLANDS

3334. SHRI S. JAGATHRAKSHAKAN:

Will the Minister of FISHERIES, ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING
मत्स्यपालन, पशुपालन और डेयरी मंत्री
be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it has come to the notice of the Government that Grassland degradation has become a serious global issue, especially in semi-arid regions, where it is causing land degradation and impeding crop and livestock production; and
(b) if so, the details of the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government for conservation and rejuvenation of grasslands and rangelands in the country keeping in view the fact that our people rely heavily on grasslands for food and forage production?

ANSWER
THE MINISTER FOR FISHERIES, ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING
(SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA)

- (a) Yes, Sir. As per the Desertification and Land Degradation Atlas of India June 2021 prepared by Space Applications Centre, the area of degraded land in Semi Arid regions was estimated at 34.85, 35.40 and 36.02 Million ha in 2003-05, 2011-13 and 2018-19 respectively.
- (b) Conservation of Grasslands is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments/UTs. The Central Government supplements the efforts taken by the State Governments under its various schemes. The Union Government is implementing following schemes/programmes to restore degraded land by 2030.
- i. National Mission for Green India (GIM)
 - ii. National Afforestation Programme (NAP) implemented by National Afforestation and Eco-Development Board (NAEB).
 - iii. National Mission on Himalayan Studies (NMHS)
 - iv. The Department of Land Resources (DoLR) has been mandated to implement erstwhile Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP), now called Watershed Development Component of Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (WDC-PMKSY) which primarily focuses on development of rainfed/ degraded lands.

The Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying had also been implementing a component on Fodder production from Non-forest wasteland/ rangeland/ grassland/non-arable land during 2014 to June 2021.
