

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**  
**MINISTRY OF FISHERIES, ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING**  
**DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING**  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1090**  
**TO BE ANSWERED ON 28<sup>TH</sup> JULY, 2023**

**FODDER PRODUCTION**

1090 **DR.PRASHANTA NANDA :**

Will the Minister of FISHERIES, ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware of the rapidly declining grassland cover, especially in the semi-arid regions of India, and its impact on livestock sector;
- (b) if so, whether initiative has been taken to study the components of fodder production in the last five years, and if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the top three States in terms of recovery tactics/afforestation measures for this declining cover?

**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 of June 2021 prepared by Space Applications Centre, the area of degraded land in Semi Arid regions was estimated at 34.85 Million ha, 35.40 Million ha and 36.02 Million ha in 2003-05, 2011-13 and 2018-19 respectively, as a result, the availability of fodder for livestock is being affected.
- (b) The Development Monitoring and Evaluation Office of NITI Aayog Government of India has submitted its sectoral report on Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries sector in July 2021. The report covers the study on the component of fodder production implemented by this department and has made recommendations.
- (c) As per the Desertification and Land Degradation Atlas of India June 2021 prepared by Space Applications Centre around 23.79% (2018-19), 23.63% (2011-13) and 23.34% (2003-05) of the area undergoing desertification/land degradation with respect to Total Geographical Area (TGA) of the country is contributed by Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Karnataka, Ladakh UT, Jharkhand, Odisha, Madhya Pradesh and Telangana (in descending order). All other remaining States are contributing less than 1% (individually) w.r.t country TGA.

\*\*\*\*\*