

## Information Under section 4(1)(b) of the Right to Information Act, 2005

### 4. (1) b (i) The Particulars of the Organization functions and duties

Uttar Pradesh Bhumi Sudhar Nigam is an Uttar Pradesh Government enterprise established in 1978 as company under Company Act 1956 with a mandate to carry out land development programme along with allied activities related to the uplift of agrarian economy. In its initial years the UPBSN was involved in implementing various schemes of Agriculture Department of the Government of Uttar Pradesh. The horizon and operational area of the Nigam expanded in 1993 with the World Bank funded "U P Sodic Lands Reclamation Project" (Pilot Project) which was implemented with initial target of 45000 ha of sodic lands to reclaim over a span of seven years in ten districts of the state. Parallel to that project, the European Union aided project on sodic lands reclamation started in five other districts of the state. During the Mid Term Review Mission of Pilot Project World Bank agreed to fund another "U P Sodic Lands Reclamation II Project" to reclaim 150,000 ha of sodic lands in 12 districts which later also included five other districts had been under European Union project. All the projects were implemented efficiently and effectively.

Successful completion of the above projects established that sodic lands are also potential productive lands. In Uttar Pradesh even today, approximately 500 thousand ha sodic lands spreading over 48 districts have not been brought under cultivation as these degraded lands belong to resource less poor people. In view of the ever increasing population of the State leading to increasing food demand and as a measure towards food security of poorest people to whom such sodic lands belong, UPBSN is planning to initiate the UPSLR IIP with a target to reclaim 130,000 ha of sodic lands and diversify into the field of ravine lands reclamation with a pilot project for 5,000 ha area. UPSLR IIP was completed as on 29<sup>th</sup> December 2018.

A new Project Arable Wasteland Reclamation has been currently submitted to the state Government of U.P. The necessary steps will be followed once the approval from the Government (UP) is awarded to UPBSN.