

648. **Dhruva Narayana, V.V. 1988.** Mechanical measures in gully control. *Indian J. Soil Conserv.*, 15(3): 86-94.

India has about 4 m ha of ravine lands mainly along the banks of the rivers Yamuna, Chambal, Betwa, Mahi and Sabarmati in the States of Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat and Rajasthan. Studies at research centres on ravines have shown that contour and peripheral bunds of 0.93 m² cross-section with pipe outlets and stabilized with grasses are ideal for protecting tablelands. Gully plugs help in protecting the gully beds. Earthen gully plugs with provision for safe disposal of excess runoff are the most suitable. Properly designed composite check dams of earth and brick masonry (spillway) work are recommended for construction in larger catchments or at the confluence of the compound gullies. Small and medium gullies can be reclaimed to cultivation by clearing, minor levelling the wide beds and constructing a series of check dams. A combination of mechanical measures and good agricultural and vegetation management could make these ravines productive.