

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1958
ANSWERED ON:05.08.2005
CHECK ON EXTENSION OF DESERT LAND
Athawale Shri Ramdas

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) Whether the Government is aware that the area of the desert land is increasing day-by-day in the country;
- (b) If so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor, State-wise;
- (c) The steps taken by the Government to check such extension of the desert land; and
- (d) The success achieved thereafter?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT(SHRI A . NARENDRA)

(a) to (d) : Desertification is a land degradation process due to extreme climatic conditions, inappropriate management practices and socio economic conditions. The Ministry of Rural Development is implementing a long term area development programme viz: Desert Development Programme (DDP) with the objective of combating desertification by rejuvenating the natural resource base on watershed basis in the affected areas identified by a High Level Technical Committee adopting scientific criteria. A statement showing state wise DDP coverage is given in Annexure - 1. Since, 1995-96 till 2004-05 a total of 11476 DDP projects (each of about 500 ha.) have been sanctioned to the programme states to treat an affected area of about 57.38 lakh hectares. The impact assessment studies of sample DDP projects have revealed positive impact in areas such as land productivity, rise in water table, increase in bio-mass, crop yield, net sown area, increase in per capita income, decrease in outmigration etc.

Annexure I

Annexure referred to in reply to part (a) to (d) of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 1958 due for reply on 5.8.2005

Statement showing state-wise DDP coverage

Sr.No, Name of the States Area identified
(in Sq. Kms.)

- | | | |
|----|------------------|--------|
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 19136 |
| 2. | Gujarat | 55424 |
| 3. | Haryana | 20542 |
| 4. | Himachal Pradesh | 35107 |
| 5. | Jammu & Kashmir | 96701 |
| 6. | Karnataka | 32295 |
| 7. | Rajasthan | 198744 |
| | Total | 457949 |