

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
RURAL DEVELOPMENT  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2241  
ANSWERED ON:22.07.2004  
CONTROL ON EXPANSION OF DESERT AREAS  
Athawale Shri Ramdas

**Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:**

- (a) The names of States in the country where desert areas are expanding ;
- (b) The details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (c) The steps taken by the Government to control the expansion of desert in the country ?

**Answer**

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

(a)to(c) Desertification is a land degradation process due to extreme climatic conditions, inappropriate management practices and socio-economic conditions. Studies conducted by Department of Space indicate the process of desertification in pockets of Rajasthan, Gujarat, Punjab, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh. Assessment of intensity of desertification requires detailed assessment of various climatic, land water & socio-economic parameters. No such studies have been conducted so far. To check the process of desertification, Ministry of Rural Development & Ministry of Agriculture have initiated programmes such as Desert Development Programme, Drought Prone Areas Programme, Integrated Wastelands Development Programme, National Watershed Development Programme in Rain Fed areas etc. and National Afforestation Programme of Ministry of Environment & Forests in degraded forest land.