

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3163
ANSWERED ON:16.03.2010
DEVELOPMENT OF AGRICULTURE IN DESERT AREAS
Choudhary Shri Harish

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has implemented any scheme for the development of agriculture in desert areas in the country including Rajasthan;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and
- (c) the details of development work done under the said scheme during each of the last three years and the current year?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS)

- (a) & (b): Yes, Madam. Government is implementing a specific programme namely; Desert Development Programme (DDP) in the 40 districts of 7 States including Rajasthan. From 1.4.2008, this programme has been brought under a comprehensive programme namely; Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP). The basic objective of the programme is to control desertification through rejuvenation of natural resource base of the identified desert areas in order to promote overall economic development and improve the socio- economic conditions of the resource poor and disadvantaged sections inhabiting the programme areas. The state wise details of the programme is at Annexure-I.
- (c): Under the programme various activities namely : Water Harvesting Structures such as Low Cost Farm Ponds, Nalla Bunds and Check Dams, Plantations, Agro-Forestry, Horticulture Development, Land Development including in-situ Soil and Moisture Conservation Measures, Crop Demonstrations, Bio-fuel Plantations etc. have been implemented. State-wise and year- wise projects sanctioned and fund released during the last three years is at Annexure-II.