

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
AGRICULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6334  
ANSWERED ON:04.05.2010  
FINDINGS OF ISRO  
Panda Shri Baijayant

**Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether as per a status map drawn by the Indian Space Research Organisation, one fourth of the country is likely to turn into desert;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) whether the Government has worked out any action plan in this regard; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

**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) to (d): As per Desertification & Land Degradation Atlas of India (2007) brought out by Government of India, Space Application Centre (SAC), Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO), Hyderabad about 105.48 million ha. of land is under various type of Desertification/Degradation, which constitutes 32.07 percent of total geographical area of the country. The details are as under:

Sl.No. Processes of Desertification/ Area in million ha.  
Land Degradation

1. Water Erosion	33.56
2. Vegetal Degradation	31.66
3. Wind/Eolian Degradation	17.56
4. Frost Shattering	10.21
5. Salinity/Alkalinity	5.26
6. Mass Movement	4.45
7 Water Logging	0.98
8. Rocky Areas/Barren	1.65
9. Others	0.15
Total	105.48

With a view to prevent soil erosion, desertification/land degradation and to maintain balance in different types of land uses, Government of India has worked out an action plan for development of about 32.00 million ha. area under various Watershed Development Programmes at an estimated cost of Rs. 25848.00 crore during XI Five year Plan.