

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
RURAL DEVELOPMENT  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:206  
ANSWERED ON:26.07.2010  
DESERT AND WASTELAND AREAS  
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**Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:**

- (a) the details of the desert and wasteland areas in the country, State-wise;
- (b) the details of expansion or shrinkage of such areas in the country during the last three years, State-wise;
- (c) whether the desert and wasteland areas are increasing in the country over a period of time;
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to contain the expansion of desert and wasteland in the country?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT(SHRI SISIR KUMAR ADHIKARI)

- (a) State-wise details of desert and wastelands areas in the country are given at Annexure- I and II respectively.
- (b) to (d) As per the information available with the Department, there is no evidence of expansion of desert area in the country. As per the 'Wastelands Atlas-2000', the total wastelands area in the country was 63.85 Million ha. whereas as per the 'Wastelands Atlas – 2005', the total available wastelands area in the country is 55.27 Million ha. The total wastelands in country got reduced by 8.583 Million ha between 2000 to 2005.
- & (e) The Department of Land Resources has been implementing three programmes, namely, Integrated Wastelands Development Programme (IWDP), Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP) and Desert Development Programme (DDP) on watershed basis since 1995-96. These three programmes have been integrated into a single modified programme called 'Integrated Watershed Management Programme' (IWMP) w.e.f. 26.02.2009. The major land based activities are soil and moisture conservation works, water harvesting, afforestation, pasture development and horticulture. During 2009-10, 1326 projects covering an area of 6.299 million ha. have been sanctioned under IWMP, while during 2010-11, 42 projects covering an area of 0.191 million ha. have been sanctioned under IWMP.