

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
RURAL DEVELOPMENT  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3479  
ANSWERED ON:16.08.2010  
DESERT DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME  
Tomar Shri Narendra Singh

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

- (a) whether any scheme is being implemented by the Government to control desertification in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Madhya Pradesh Government has submitted any proposal for continuous action plan to control desertification in its western area on the basis of subject-wise information and Information technology; and
- (d) if so, the action taken so far on the above proposal?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SISIR KUMAR ADHIKARI)

(a) & (b): The Department of Land Resources has been implementing an area development programme viz. Desert Development Programme on a project mode on watershed approach with effect from 01-04-1995 in 235 blocks covering 40 districts of 7 States, namely Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Karnataka & Rajasthan. The basic objective of the programme is to mitigate the adverse effects of desertification and adverse climatic conditions through rejuvenation of the natural resource base of identified desert areas. The programme also aims at promoting overall economic development and improving the social-economic conditions of the resource poor and disadvantaged sections inhabiting programme areas. Since 1995-96 to 2006-07, 15746 projects covering an area of 78.73 lakh hectare have been sanctioned and Rs. 2803.36 crore has been released upto 31-03-2010 to implement these projects.

The Desert Development Programme has since been consolidated alongwith other area development programmes namely, Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP) and Integrated Wastelands Development Programme (IWDP) into a single modified programme named 'Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP)' with effect from 26-02-2009. The IWMP is being implemented under Common Guidelines for Watershed Development Projects, 2008.

(c): No, Sir.

(d): Question does not arise.