

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1923
ANSWERED ON:22.11.2010
LAND FOR INDUSTRIAL PURPOSES
Choudhary Shri Bhudeo;Singh Shri Radha Mohan

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the desert land in the country as on date, State-wise;
- (b) whether the Government has inquired into as to why the new industries have been allotted agricultural land instead of desert/barren land;
- (c) If so, the details thereof; and
- (d) If not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

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

(a) As per the Report of a Technical Committee headed by Prof. Hanumantha Rao, Ex-Member of Planning Commission, the total area identified under desert is 45.79 million hectare in the country which is spread over in 235 blocks of 40 districts in 7 States. State-wise details of desert in the country are given in Annexure.

(b), (c) & (d)

The Department of Agriculture & Cooperation has brought out a National Policy for Farmers - 2007 which envisages that prime farmland must be conserved for agriculture except under exceptional circumstances, provided that the agencies that are provided with agricultural land for non- agricultural projects should compensate for treatment and full development of equivalent degraded / wastelands elsewhere. State Governments have been advised to earmark lands with low biological potential such as uncultivable land, land affected by salinity, acidity, etc. for non-agricultural development activities, including industrial and construction activities.