

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
RURAL DEVELOPMENT  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3210  
ANSWERED ON:29.11.2010  
FUNDS FOR DESERT AREAS  
Joshi Shri Mahesh

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

- (a) the funds spent on rural development in Rajasthan each year during the last three years and the current year;
- (b) whether the Government proposes to increase allocation for desert districts in the country including Rajasthan;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the hike is likely to be made; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Answer**

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

- (a) Details of funds released under various rural development programmes in Rajasthan each year during the last three years and the current year are at Annexure.
- (b) to (d) The Department of Land Resources has been implementing three area development programmes viz. Integrated Wastelands Development Programme (IWDP), Drought Prone Areas programme (DPAP) and Desert Development Programme (DDP) on watershed basis since 1995-96. These programmes have been consolidated into a single modified programme namely 'Integrated Watershed Management Programme' (IWMP) with effect from 26.02.2009. Under Desert Development Programme (DDP), the cost norms per hectare were Rs. 6,000 which have been revised to Rs. 15,000 for hilly and difficult areas including desert districts of Rajasthan under IWMP. Under IWMP, allocation of target area among the States is worked out based on the criteria like extent of identified DPAP/DDP areas, treatable wastelands, percentage of SC/ST population, percentage of rainfed area in the State and 10% mandatory allocation of North- Eastern States. Accordingly, the State of Rajasthan has been allocated an area of 12.54 lakh Ha. Since due weightage has been given to the desert areas while working out the allocation of area, Rajasthan has got the highest allocation of area amongst all States for taking up IWMP projects.