

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3113

ANSWERED ON:13.12.2011

INCREASING DESERT LAND

Bhagat Shri Sudarshan;Choudhary Shri Bhudeo;Hazari Shri Maheshwar

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Indian Space Research Organisation has undertaken any study recently on increasing barren land/desert land in the country;
- (b) if so, the details of the findings and outcome thereof; and
- (c) the reaction of the Government thereto including the remedial measures taken thereon?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI HARISH RAWAT)

(a) & (b): Yes, Madam. Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) has carried out desertification and land degradation mapping on 1:500,000 scale using Indian Remote Sensing Satellites Data (AWiFS) of 2003-05 time frame which indicates that 81.4 million hectare area of the country is undergoing process of desertification.

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