

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2730

ANSWERED ON:29.03.2012

AVAILABILITY OF WATER IN DESERT AND DROUGHT PRONE AREAS

Jakhar Shri Badri Ram ;Meghwal Shri Arjun Ram

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the situation of availability of water in desert areas is worse than that in drought prone areas due to abnormal and scattered rain;
- (b) if so, whether the Government proposes to provide irrigation facilities in these areas on priority basis in order to check the spread of desert and to provide livelihood to the people in these areas;
- (c) if so, the reasons for not considering the desert areas at par with drought prone areas under Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP) in order to provide ninety percent Central assistance to these areas;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to provide ninety percent Central assistance to desert areas under AIBP;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

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

- (a) & (b) No study about availability of water in the desert area in comparison to drought prone areas has been conducted by the Department of Land Resources of the Ministry of Rural Development.
- (c) to (f) The Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP) is being implemented by the Ministry of Water Resources. As per the information furnished by the Ministry of Water Resources, the proposal for considering DDP areas at par with DPAP areas for funding under AIBP @ 90% to cost of the works of the project is under consideration of the Government.