

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS  
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:434  
ANSWERED ON:07.05.2012  
AREAS UNDER DESERTIFICATION  
Singh Shri Dhananjay

**Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:**

- (a) Whether the Government has identified the areas under threat of desertification in the country;
- (b) if so, the details of such areas, State wise;
- (c) whether the Government has submitted any proposal of the National Action Programme to Combat Desertification to the Secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT & FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN)

- (a) to (e): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred to in reply to Parts (a) to (e) of the Lok Sabha Starred Question No.434 to be answered on 7th May, 2012 regarding "Areas under Desertification" raised by Shri Dhananjay Singh.

(a) to (e): Desertification means land degradation in arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas resulting from various factors, including climatic variations and human activities. As per Desertification Status Map, 2007 of Space Application Centre, ISRO, Ministry of Space, out of total geographical area of 328 million hectares, about 228.3 million hectares (69.6%) constitute dryland. 32% of the Total Geographical Area (TGA) is under various processes of desertification and land degradation. The state-wise details are annexed as Annexure-I and process wise details are at Annexure-II.

As signatory to United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) India has formulated and submitted National Action Programme to Combat Desertification in 2001. India has submitted proposal of USD 148,500 to Global Environment Facility (GEF) Secretariat in 2011 to support enabling activities for National Reporting and capacity building for alignment of National Action Programme, in accordance with UNCCD 10 year strategy (2008-18).