

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:510
ANSWERED ON:26.11.2012
CHECK ON EXPANSION OF DESERT
Lal Shri Kirodi

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

- (a) whether the Government has received any proposals from the State Governments including Madhya Pradesh to check the expansion of desert in the concerned States;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has prepared any action plan to check the expansion of deserts in the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the land permanently degraded due to huge piles of sand gathered by flood included in the Anti-Desertification Project;
- (f) if so, the details of areas to be included in the anti-desertification project State-wise; and
- (g) the amount sanctioned/ released by the Government to the State Governments for this purpose, State-wise?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) No, Sir.

(c) & (d) The steps taken to check desertification, include, implementation of following programmes in States and UTs;

Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP), National Afforestation Programme (NAP), Soil Conservation in the Catchment of River Valley Project and Flood Prone River, National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas (NWDPR), Sustainable Land and Ecosystem Management (SLEM), Fodder and Feed Development Scheme- component of Grassland Development including Grass Reserves, Command Area Development and Water Management (CADWM) programme, National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP), National Project for Repair, Renovation and Restoration (RRR) of Water Bodies, The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM), Solar Photovoltaic (SPV) Programme etc.

The Department of Land Resources has been developing an area development programme, viz. Desert Development Programme on a project mode on watershed approach with effect from 1.04.1995. The basic objective of the programme is to mitigate the adverse effects of desertification and adverse climatic conditions through rejuvenation of the natural resource base of identified desert areas. Since 1995-96 to 2006-07, 15746 projects covering an area of 78.73 lakh hectare have been sanctioned and Rs. 3127.67 crore has been released upto 2011-12 to implement these projects.

The Department of Land Resources, Ministry of Rural Development's Desert Development Programme has since been consolidated along with other area development programmes namely, Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP) and Integrated Wastelands Development Programme (IWDP) into a single modified programme called 'Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) with effect from 26.02.2009. Due priority to desert areas is being given while selecting the projects under IWMP. The IWMP is being implemented under Common Guidelines for Watershed Development Projects, 2008.

(e), (f) & (g) Does not arise, in view of (a) & (b), above.