

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6223

ANSWERED ON:06.05.2013

CHECK ON DESERTIFICATION

Hazari Shri Maheshwar ;Saroj Smt. Sushila;Upadhyay Seema;Vardhan Shri Harsh;Verma Smt. Usha

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

- (a) the action plan of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) to combat desertification in the country;
- (b) the steps taken so far in this regard;
- (c) the action plan for environment management in heritage sites, pilgrimage places and other tourist places in 12th Five Year Plan; and
- (d) the steps taken so far for implementation of the Action Plan?

**Answer**

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

(a) & (b) India submitted its National Action Programme (NAP) to Combat Desertification to the Secretariat of United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in 2001; providing an overview of the status of natural resources in the country, the status and impacts of desertification, measures under implementation, and in particular, the initiatives taken for combating desertification.

(c) & (d) Ministry of Environment and Forests has a sub-scheme related to "Environment Management in Heritage, Pilgrimage and Tourist Centres including Taj Protection" under "Conservation of Natural Resources and Ecosystems". There is no action plan for the sub scheme under 12th Five Year Plan.

However, India being a member of World Heritage Convention, the Ministry is associated with the conservation of natural World Heritage Sites. Currently six natural World Heritage Sites has been recognized by UNESCO in India viz. Nanda Devi National Park, Kaziranga National Park, Manas National Park, Keoladeo National Park, Sundarbans National Parks and serial cluster of 39 sites from Western Ghats spread for States. The Ministry provides financial assistance to the UNESCO recognized World Heritage Sites under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes.