

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3960
ANSWERED ON:06.08.2014
POLLUTION SOIL EROSION IN DESERTS
Choudhary Col. (Retd) Sona Ram

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

- (a) whether there is any specific scheme for plantation of trees to check soil erosion and formation of sand dunes in desert areas;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether pollution due to oil production and mining works in various desert areas including Barmer, and Jaisalmer in Rajasthan has become a matter of concern; and
- (d) if so, the details of the efforts being made to address the issue?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR)

(a) & (b) There is no specific scheme for plantation of trees to check soil erosion and formation of sand dunes in desert areas. However, central assistance is being provided to the States under 100% CSS of National Afforestation Programme (NAP) Scheme for regeneration of degraded forests and adjoining areas in the country, including State of Rajasthan. The scheme is implemented through a decentralized participatory mechanism by Joint Forest Management Committees (JFMCs) at village level. Since inception of the Scheme, an area of 52765 hectares has been sanctioned with an investment of Rs 67.58 crores to the State of Rajasthan, including the District Forest Development Agencies of Barmer and Jaisalmer.

In Addition, the Department of Land Resources, Ministry of Rural Development is implementing an area development programme called Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) with effect from 26.02.2009, for development of rainfed/degraded areas including wastelands in the country. The major activities taken up under IWMP inter alia include ridge area treatment, drainage line treatment, soil and moisture conservation, rain water harvesting, nursery raising, afforestation, horticulture, pasture development, livelihoods for asset less persons.

(c) & (d) As reported by Central Pollution Control Board, there is no pollution due to oil production and mining works in various desert areas including Barmer and Jaisalmer in Rajasthan.