

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4048
ANSWERED ON:06.08.2014
DESERT NATIONAL PARK
Choudhary Col. (Retd) Sona Ram

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

- (a) whether any land has been demarcated for desert national park in Rajasthan;
- (b) if so, the details and the present status thereof;
- (c) whether villagers are still residing on the land reserved for desert national park; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government to address their concerns?

Answer

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

(a) and (b) The Desert National Park Wildlife Sanctuary has been notified by the State Government of Rajasthan under the provision of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 on 4th August 1980. The Sanctuary comprises of 50.76 Sq.km. of forest land and 3111.24 sq.km of revenue, agriculture and other miscellaneous lands.

(c) Yes, Sir. The villagers are still residing on the revenue, community and agriculture lands notified as Desert National Park Sanctuary.

(d) As informed by the State Government of Rajasthan, there are 73 villages situated in the Desert National Park Sanctuary area. The rights of the local people have been determined by the District Collectors of Barmer and Jaisalmer in 1998-99 in accordance with the provisions of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

The Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 provides for continuation of certain rights in or over any land within the limits of the Sanctuary, in consultation with the Chief Wildlife Warden. There is no prohibition for residing of villagers in the Sanctuary area.

Further, the concerns of the local people are addressed in accordance with the applicable provisions, including legal and administrative, and also through various developmental and other schemes applicable in the area.

In respect of certain development activities over lands of the Sanctuary, the proposals are considered by the State Board for Wildlife in the State, and decisions are taken in accordance with the applicable provisions to address the concerns of the local people. As per the directions of Hon'ble Supreme Court, recommendation of NBWL and permission of Hon'ble Supreme Court of India is also required for such activities.