

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 416
ANSWERED ON 05.02.2024

Desertification in Rajasthan

416. SHRI P.P. CHAUDHARY:

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

- (a) whether desertification in the State of Rajasthan has increased during the last five years;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, year-wise and district-wise;
- (c) the details of steps taken by the Government to reduce desertification in the said State alongwith the results thereof; and
- (d) whether the Government has any plans to tackle the situation of desertification throughout the country, if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)

- (a) & (b) As per the available data of latest Desertification and Land Degradation Atlas of India, 2021 published by the Space Application Centre, a total of 62.06% (21.23 million ha) of geographical area of the State of Rajasthan is undergoing desertification and land degradation. Overall, there is a decrease of 0.84% (288847 ha) in the area undergoing desertification and land degradation during 2011-13 to 2018-19.
- (c) & (d) The Government is implementing various schemes/programs which include, *inter alia*, the Green India Mission, Watershed Development Component of Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojna (PMKSY), Nagar Van Yojana, Compensatory Afforestation under CAMPA funds, Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, Sub-Mission on Agro forestry etc., to reduce the desertification across the country including in the State of Rajasthan. Moreover, 35310 ha of plantation activities has been carried out in the State of Rajasthan from 2019-20 to 2023-24 under the Climate Change and combating desertification initiative.
