

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4916**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 23.03.2026

**Desertification Control and Climate Adaptation in Arid Regions**

4916. SHRI RAHUL KASWAN:

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

- (a) the extent of land under desertification in the country with the percentage increase during the last decade, State/UT-wise along with the measures undertaken under the National Action Programme to Combat Desertification;
- (b) the funds allocated and utilised for desertification control in Rajasthan during the last three years along with coverage under afforestation and soil conservation programmes, district-wise;
- (c) the climate adaptation measures implemented in Churu district in view of temperatures exceeding 50°C, including heat action plans, water conservation infrastructure and disaster preparedness initiatives; and
- (d) whether the Government proposes to establish Climate Resilience Centres in extreme heat zones and if so, the proposed timeline for inclusion of Churu district with focus on sustainable agriculture and land management?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

(SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH)

- (a) & (b) As per the Desertification and Land Degradation Atlas of India (2018-19) published by Space Applications Centre (ISRO), about 97.85 million hectares (29.7%) of the total geographical area of the country is undergoing land degradation/desertification. The State/UT wise details are provided at **Annexure I**.

The National Action Plan to Combat Desertification, 2023 emphasizes the need for a synergistic, efficient planning and implementation of the eco-restoration initiatives in the country by converging all afforestation schemes in the country to provide the much-needed impetus and focus on sustainable management of forest and natural resources available in the specific landscape, and an effective planning and a wider selection of vulnerable and potentially vulnerable sites capable of supporting progressive and sustainable eco-restoration interventions. The Plan emphasizes on convergence of the various schemes for restoration of the degraded land and does not have any provision for financial assistance. The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has launched a number of afforestation schemes/programmes which also address the problem of land degradation and desertification, namely the Green India Mission (GIM), Nagar Van Yojana (NVY), School Nursery Yojana

(SNY), the Eco-Development Forces (EDF) scheme, the National Adaptation Fund for Climate Change (NAFCC) and funds under the Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA) which are utilized for control of desertification through afforestation, water conservation and management in arid areas including Rajasthan.

The State Government of Rajasthan implements the Climate Change and Combating Desertification (CC&CD) programme for combating land degradation and desertification. The budget allocation under this programme for the last three years was ₹11,747.24 lakh in 2022–23, ₹17,701.41 lakh in 2023–24, and ₹13,228.65 lakh in 2024–25, respectively. The details as provided by the State are, given at **Annexure -II**.

(c) & (d)

Climate adaptation measures in arid regions including Churu, are implemented through convergence of Central and State Government schemes. These include preparation and implementation of plans to reduce heat-related risks; water conservation interventions such as rainwater harvesting, check dams, farm ponds and rejuvenation of traditional water bodies; promotion of micro-irrigation and efficient water use practices; adoption of climate-resilient agricultural practices including drought-tolerant crop varieties and crop diversification; afforestation, shelterbelt and sand dune stabilisation to address land degradation; and strengthening of disaster preparedness, early warning systems and community awareness. At present, there is no specific scheme for establishment of dedicated Climate Resilience Centres. However, climate resilience and adaptation are being addressed under ongoing programmes such as the National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA), Green India Mission (GIM), National Innovations on Climate Resilient Agriculture (NICRA), and State Action Plans on Climate Change (SAPCCs). The Government continues to support States, including Rajasthan, in enhancing climate resilience in vulnerable districts, including extreme heat-prone areas such as Churu, through integrated and convergent approaches.

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## Annexure-I

Annexure referred to in reply of part (a) & (b) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 4916 regarding 'Desertification Control and Climate Adaptation in Arid Regions' raised by Shri Rahul Kaswan due for reply on 23.03.2026.

	State Name	Total Area under Desertification 2011-13 (Ha)	Total Area under Desertification 2018-19 (Ha)	Percentage Area under Desertification 2011-13	Percentage Area under Desertification 2018-19
1	Andhra Pradesh	2298758	2378042	14.35	14.84
2	Arunachal Pradesh	153933	200683	1.84	2.4
3	Assam	716596	834530	9.14	10.64
4	Bihar	694809	746586	7.38	7.93
5	Chhattisgarh	2211153	2306531	16.36	17.06
6	Delhi	89868	91543	60.6	61.73
7	Goa	192973	194877	52.13	52.64
8	Gujarat	10261641	10248057	52.29	52.22
9	Haryana	338964	364154	7.67	8.24
10	Himachal Pradesh	239420	240300	43.01	43.11
11	Jammu and Kashmir	1064721	1129503	19.67	20.86
12	Jharkhand	5498726	5482260	68.98	68.77
13	Karnataka	6951000	6959847	36.24	36.29
14	Kerala	379587	422299	9.77	10.87
15	Madhya Pradesh	3804315	3859735	12.34	12.52
16	Maharashtra	13825935	14306029	44.93	46.49
17	Manipur	601959	612566	26.96	27.44
18	Meghalaya	494880	557576	22.06	24.86
19	Mizoram	187453	275827	8.89	13.08
20	Nagaland	786678	828943	47.45	50
21	Orissa	5304114	5359014	34.06	34.42
22	Punjab	144653	167989	2.87	3.34
23	Rajasthan	21526512	21237665	62.9	62.06
24	Sikkim	78749	84610	11.1	11.92
25	Tamil Nadu	1543898	1599981	11.87	12.3
26	Telangana	3598856	3638508	31.34	31.68
27	Tripura	437128	447378	41.69	42.66
28	Uttar Pradesh	1528997	1549608	6.35	6.43
29	Uttarakhand	648253	673894	12.12	12.6
30	West Bengal	1733931	1784345	19.54	20.1
	<b>Total</b>	<b>96404853</b>	<b>97854851</b>	<b>29.32</b>	<b>29.77</b>

Source: *Desertification and Land Degradation Atlas of India 2021* (<https://vedas.sac.gov.in>)

**Annexure-II**

Annexure referred to in reply of part (a) & (b) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 4916 regarding 'Desertification Control and Climate Adaptation in Arid Regions' raised by Shri Rahul Kaswan due for reply on 23.03.2026.

District wise details of plantation activities under various schemes in Rajasthan in last three years:

Rs. In lakhs

<b>Name of the Scheme/Programme: Climate Change and Combating Desertification</b>				
<b>S.No.</b>	<b>District/ Year</b>	<b>2022-23</b>	<b>2023-24</b>	<b>2024-25</b>
1	Ajmer	78.51	163.51	186.15
2	Barmer	1017.37	1266.52	1366.78
3	Bikaner	1737.52	2847.27	2159.12
4	Churu	241.21	262.89	126.2
5	Ganganagar	1202.3	1778.2	1435.81
6	Hanumangarh	1192.73	1320.5	1095.41
7	Jaisalmer	2689.63	4535.2	4195.4
8	Jalore	117.4	177.87	126.1
9	Jhunjhunu	724.11	864.88	380.95
10	Jodhpur	371.21	793.44	674.11
11	Nagaur	1114.11	1588.65	876.12
12	Pali	4.98	4.33	3.14
13	Sikar	1143.35	1287.78	536.24
	<b>Total</b>	<b>11634.43</b>	<b>16891.04</b>	<b>13161.53</b>

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