

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT  
DEPARTMENT OF LAND RESOURCES

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 2765**  
**TO BE ANSWERED ON 06.08.2015**

**Desert land**

2765. Shri Ramsinh Rathwa :

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) The total desert area along with the percentage of population density therein in the country, State-wise;
- (b) Whether any scheme has been introduced/ proposed to be introduced for development of desert land;
- (c) If so, the details thereof; and
- (d) If not, the reason therefor?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT  
(SHRI SUDARSHAN BHAGAT)

(a) to (d) The details of the total desert area along with the population density State-wise as provided by the Registrar General of India & Census Commissioner are at Annexure. These desert districts were identified on the recommendations of the "Hanumantha Rao Committee Report - Report of the Technical Committee on Drought Prone Areas Programme and Desert Development Programme (April 1994)". The Department of Land Resources had implemented a scheme called the Desert Development Programme (DDP) on watershed basis between 1995-96 to 2006-07 in 40 districts of seven States. 15746 projects covering an area of 45.7949 million hectare had been taken up under DDP. The DDP alongwith the Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP) and the Integrated Watershed Development Programme (IWDP) were integrated into a single modified programme called the Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) with effect from 26.02.2009. One of the criteria which have been adopted for the allocation of area among the States is "identified DDP/DPAP areas in the State as percentage of total DPAP and DDP area in the country". The objectives of IWMP include harnessing, conserving and developing degraded natural resources such as soil, vegetative cover and water; prevention of soil run-off; rain water harvesting and recharging of the ground water table; increasing the productivity of crops; introduction of multi-cropping and diverse agro-based activities; promoting sustainable livelihoods and increasing the household incomes.

From 2015-16, the IWMP is amalgamated as the Watershed component of the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana (PMKSY).

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**Annexure**

Annexure referred in part (a) to (d) of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No.2765

for reply on 06.08.2015

<b>DESERT DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (DDP)</b>					
<b>State-wise Districts of DDP</b>					
<b>S.No.</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>Area in Sq Km</b>	<b>Population</b>	<b>Density per Sq Km</b>
1	Andhra Pradesh	Anantapur	19130	4081148	213
2	Gujarat	Banaskantha	10743	3120506	290
3		Jamnagar	14184	2160119	152
4		Kutch	45674	2092371	46
5		Patan	5792	1343734	232
6		Rajkot	11198	3804558	340
7		Surendranagar	10423	1756268	168
8	Haryana	Bhiwani	4778	1634445	342
9		Fatehabad	2538	942011	371
10		Hissar	3983	1743931	438
11		Jhajjar	1834	958405	523
12		Mahendragarh	1899	922088	486
13		Rewari	1594	900332	565
14		Sirsa	4277	1295189	303
15	Himachal Pradesh	Kinnaur	6401	84121	13
16		Lahul & Spiti	13841	31564	2
17	Jammu & Kashmir	Kargil	14036	140802	10
18		Leh	45110	133487	3
19	Karnataka	Bagalkot	6552	1889752	288
20		Bellary	8461	2452595	290
21		Bijapur	10498	2177331	207
22		Davangere	5924	1945497	328
23		Koppal	5570	1389920	250
24		Raichur	8442	1928812	228
25	Rajasthan	Ajmer	8481	2583052	305
26		Barmer	28387	2603751	92
27		Bikaner	30239	2363937	78
28		Churu	13835	2039547	147
29		Hanumangarh	9656	1774692	184
30		Jaipur	11143	6626178	595
31		Jaisalmer	38401	669919	17
32		Jalore	10640	1828730	172
33		Jhunjhunu	5928	2137045	361
34		Jodhpur	22850	3687165	161
35		Nagaur	17718	3307743	187
36		Pali	12387	2037573	164
37		Rajasamand	4655	1156597	248
38		Sikar	7732	2677333	346
39		Sirohi	5136	1036346	202
40		Udaipur	11724	3068420	262
		<b>Total</b>	<b>501794</b>	<b>78527014</b>	<b>156</b>

