

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT OF LAND RESOURCES

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3040
TO BE ANSWERED ON 17.12.2015

Development of Desert Land

3040.SHRI P. KUMAR:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of total desert land in the country, at present, State/UT-wise;
- (b) whether the Government proposes to develop the desert lands in the country;
- (c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the steps taken/being taken in this regard and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the details of total area of desert land proposed to be developed during the next three years, State/UT-wise?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT
(SHRI SUDARSHAN BHAGAT)

(a): The details of the total desert lands in the country State/UT wise is given in the **Annexure**.

(b) to (d): At present there is no specific proposal of Government of India to develop just desert lands in the country. However the Department of Land Resources (DoLR) had implemented the Desert Development Programme (DDP) on watershed basis between 1995-96 to 2006-07. A total of 15746 projects covering an area of 7.83 million hectare were sanctioned under this programme for which Rs 3157.77 crore of Central share was released. Out of this, a total of 13421 projects have been completed. 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 has been adopted for the allocation of project areas 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 Development Component of the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojna (PMKSY).

Annexure

Annexure referred to in reply to part (a) of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No.3040 to be replied on 17.12.2015

State/UT wise the details of total desert land in the country*

S.No.	State	Desert area (Categories No.17,18 and 19)** in square km	Number of Projects sanctioned under Watershed Development Component of PMKSY for entire State including Desert area
1	Andhra Pradesh	4.09	432
2	Haryana	22.79	88
3	J&K	209.51	159
4	Punjab	322.57	67
5	Rajasthan	26928.05	1025
Total:		27487.56	1771

*Source: Wasteland Atlas of India (Revised Edition, 2011)

** Category 17, 18 & 19 includes dunes less than 15 m, 15-40 m and more than 40 m high respectively.