

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
RURAL DEVELOPMENT  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1220  
ANSWERED ON:29.07.2003  
CAMPUS OF NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT  
AMBATI BRAHMANAIAH

**Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:**

to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 1108 dated 25.02.2003 and state:

- (a) whether the requisite information has been collected;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the time by which it is likely to be collected?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ANNASAHEB M. K. PATIL)

(a) to (c) The assistance given on 25.02.2003 to Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 1108 has since been fulfilled by the Ministry of Environment and Forests on 7th July, 2003. The reply furnished by that Ministry is as under:-

Desertification is a land degradation process due to extreme climatic conditions, inappropriate management practices and socio-economic conditions. Studies conducted by Department of Space indicate the process of desertification in pockets of Rajasthan, Gujarat, Punjab, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh. Assessment of various climatic, land water and socio-economic parameters. No such studies have been conducted so far. To check the process of desertification, Ministry of Rural Development and Ministry of Agriculture have initiated programmes such as Desert Development Programme, Drought Prone Areas Programme, Integrated Wastelands Development Programme, National Watershed Development Programme in Rain Fed areas, etc. National Afforestation Programme of Ministry of Environment and Forests in degraded forest land.