

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:98

ANSWERED ON:25.11.2009

DESERTIFICATION IN THE COUNTRY

Amlabe Shri Narayan Singh;Dhotre Shri Sanjay Shamrao

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Union Government has received any proposals from the State Governments including Madhya Pradesh to check the desertification in their States;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the union government has prepared any action plan to check desertification in the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the land degraded permanently by heavy sand deposits due to flood will also be included in the anti-desertification programme;
- (f) if so, the details of the area that is likely to be included in the anti-desertification programme, State-wise; and
- (g) the details of the funds sanctioned/released by the Union Government to State Governments for the purpose, State-wise?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS(SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a)to (g) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (g) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 98 BY SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE AND SHRI NARAYANSINGH AMLABE REGARDING 'DESERTIFICATION IN THE COUNTRY' DUE FOR REPLY ON 25.11.2009.

(a)& (b) No,Sir.The Ministry of Environment and Forests has not received any proposals from the State Governments including Madhya Pradesh to check desertification in the states. As per the information received from the ministries of Rural Development and Agriculture also, no such proposals have been received in their ministries.

(b)& (d) No,Sir.However, India is a party to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), and the Government of India in fulfillment of one of the obligations of the parties to the convention, submitted a National Action Programme to Combat Desertification to the Secretariat of the UNCCD in 2001. It provided an overview of on-going endeavours of various sectors that directly or indirectly contribute to fighting land degradation in arid, semi arid and dry sub humid regions as 'desertification' is understood in the UNCCD parlance.

(e)to(g) No such proposal is under the consideration of the Government of India.