

- Effective implementation of the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM).
- Mainstreaming of Indian Systems of Medicine and Homeopathy.
- Making available specialized health care services through strengthening of hospitals.
- Increased public allocations for health programmes.

DDP in Rajasthan

*557. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of blocks and districts in Rajasthan identified as desert area;
- (b) the total land area and total desert area in Rajasthan and in India in hectares;
- (c) the measures taken to conserve land, water, cattle wealth and to preserve ecological balance there under Desert Development Programme along with the results thereof;
- (d) the works undertaken under DDP during 2009 and the outcome thereof; and
- (e) whether the desert area is expanding in the country?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI C.P. JOSHI): (a) In Rajasthan State, 85 blocks of 16 districts are identified as desert blocks.

(b) The total land area in India is 328.73 million hectares including 34.22 million hectares in Rajasthan. As per Prof. C.H. Hanumantha Rao Committee Report, 235 blocks in 40 districts of 7 States viz. Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Karnataka and Rajasthan have been identified as desert areas and the total desert area in India is 45.79 million hectare including 19.87 million hectare in Rajasthan.

(c) The measures adopted to conserve land, water, cattle wealth and ecological balance under Desert Development Programme (DDP) are mainly construction of contour bunds, farm bunds, check dams, afforestation, pasture development, dryland horticulture, water harvesting structures, khadin, sand dune stabilization, shelterbelt plantation, promoting improved breed, castration, artificial insemination, vaccination and animal health camps.

(d) During 2009, various works undertaken under DDP include construction of water harvesting structures such as farm ponds, nallah bunds, check dams, percolation tanks, soil and

moisture conservation works like sand dune stabilization and shelterbelt plantation, afforestation, pasture development, dry land horticulture, crop demonstration and animal health camps. The evaluations carried out for the works under execution during 2009 generally indicate benefits like increase in availability of water, sand dune stabilization, reduction in soil erosion, increase in vegetative cover, fuel wood and fodder availability, production of crops, and area under dry land horticulture, increase in milk production and reduction in labour migration. In a few cases, the outcome is below expectation.

- (e) There is no evidence of increase in desert area in the country including Rajasthan.

Availability of petroleum production North Eastern States

*558. SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of availability of petroleum and natural gas in the North Eastern States, state-wise;
- (b) the details of refineries in all these States, State-wise;
- (c) whether Government has taken any measures to preserve petroleum and natural gas in the country; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) As on 1.4.2009 the Oil and Natural Gas reserve in the North Eastern states are 172.92 Million Metric Tonne (MMT) and 128.37 Billion Cubic Meter (BCM) respectively.

- (b) The details of the four refineries in the state of Assam with their capacity are as follows:

Refineries	Numaligarh	Digboi	Guwahati	Bongaigaon
Capacity in Million Metric Tonne per Annum (MMTPA)	3.000	0.650	1.000	2.350

(c) and (d) To preserve the hydrocarbon reserves and acceleration of the exploration and production activities following measures are taken in the country:

- (i) Carving out more and more areas for exploration for offer under various rounds of New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP) and Coal Bed Methane Policy (CBM).