

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): (a) A High level Technical Committee set up in 1994 under the Chairmanship of Prof. Hanumantha Rao identified 45,79,49 m. ha desert areas in 235 blocks of 40 districts in 7 States, namely Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Karnataka and Rajasthan. No information is available about the percentage of population density in such area.

(b) to (d) No, Sir. However, the Department of Land Resources has been implementing an area development programme viz. Desert Development Programme on a project mode on watershed approach with effect from 1.04.1995. The basic objective of the programme is to mitigate the adverse effects of desertification and adverse climatic conditions through rejuvenation of the natural resource base of identified desert areas. Since 1995-96 to 2006-07 15746 projects covering an area of 78.73 lakh hectare have been sanctioned and Rs. 3127.67 crore has been released upto 2011-12 to implement these projects.

The Department of Land Resources, Ministry of Rural Development's Desert Development Programme has since been consolidated along with other area development programmes namely, Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP) and Integrated Wastelands Development Programme (DPAP) and Integrated Wastelands Development Programme (IWDP) into a single modified programme called Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) with effect from 26.02.2009. Due priority to desert areas is being while selecting the projects under IWMP. The IWMP is being implemented under Common Guidelines for Watershed Development Projects, 2008.

Appraisal of Indian basins sedimentary basins

5094. DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India Hydrocarbon Vision (IHV) 2025 document envisages appraisal of the Indian sedimentary basins to the extent of 25 percent by 2005, 50 percent by 2010, 75 percent by 2015 and 100 percent by 2025;

(b) if so, to what extent these targets have been achieved so far;

(c) the total areas awarded for exploration; and

(d) the details of future plans in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Out of the total sedimentary area of about 3.14 Million Sq. km in the country, so far area awarded for exploration on nomination basis as well as through various rounds of pre-NELP and NELP bidding is about 2.217 Million Sq. Km (i.e. about 70.6% of the total sedimentary area), which is in line with the India Hydrocarbon Vision (IHV)-2025 document.

(d) Sedimentary area of about 0.396 Million Sq. Km is expected to be offered for exploration during the 12th Plan Period, which will bring exploration coverage to about 83% of the total sedimentary area by the year 2016-17.

Funds allocation under NRLM

5095. SHRI NATUJI HALAJI THAKOR: Will the minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria for allocation of funds to States under National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM) Aajeevika programme for support to livelihood projects.

(b) whether it is a fact that at present, in absence of specific rational principles, grant is being allocated randomly;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether Ministry has any planning for making it more rational by linking to percentage of number of poor out of the total population of state?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM) follows a demand driven strategy. Under NRLM, the States have the flexibility to develop their livelihoods-based perspective plans and annual action plans for poverty reduction. Before the commencement of the financial year, each State would get an indicative allocation based on the inter-se incidence of poverty among the States/UTs to enable the states to prepare their annual action plans. The annual action plans would be appraised and approved by the NRLM/ Empowered Committee, and the approved outlay would not exceed the indicative allocation for the State.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. Does not arise.

(d) Under NRLM, the allocation of funds to the State / UTs is linked to the incidence of poverty among them.