

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2464
ANSWERED ON:05.12.2000
UNIT COST UNDER WATERSHED DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME .
SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the unit cost under Watershed Development Programme was fixed Rs. 400 per hectare during 1995-96;
- (b) if so, whether by then the wage rates have gone up;
- (c) if so, whether State Governments have requested to enhance the unit cost;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the action taken or being taken by the Government in this regard ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT (PROF. RITA VERMA)

(a) to (e) : The Ministry of Rural Development is implementing three main Watershed Development Programmes namely, the Integrated Wasteland Development Programme, Drought Prone Areas Programme and Desert Development Programme based on watershed approach under the Guidelines for Watershed Development w.e.f. 1.4.95. The cost norm for watershed development projects under these programmes varies from Rs.3500/- per ha. to Rs. 5000/- per hectare. These rates were fixed in 1995-96. Since then the wage rates have gone up all over the country. Consequently, the State Governments have been requesting the Ministry of Rural Development in various fora for revision of the unit cost for watershed development projects. A proposal to enhance the unit cost for such projects under the three Programmes is under consideration of the Central Government.