

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
RURAL DEVELOPMENT  
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:135  
ANSWERED ON:20.02.2001  
RECLAMATION OF DEGRADED WASTELAND  
A. VENKATESH NAIK;RAMSHETH THAKUR

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) Whether the Government have prepared a network to reclaim the 175 million hectares of degraded wasteland in the country;
- (b) If so, the details thereof, particularly in respect of Maharashtra;
- (c) the funds earmarked for the purpose;
- (d) the States which have started the work in this direction;
- (e) whether the voluntary organisations are likely to be engaged in the said work; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof and the incentives likely to be given to these organisations, State-wise?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT(SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA)

(a) & (b) : As per the 'Wastelands Atlas of India' 2000, brought out by the Department of Land Resources (DoLR), Ministry of Rural Development in collaboration with National Remote Sensing Agency (NRSA), Hyderabad using Remote Sensing Technologies, the total extent of wasteland (including forest wasteland) in the country is 63.85 million hectare. The DoLR is implementing 3 major programmes, namely, Integrated Wastelands Development Programme (IWDP), Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP) and Desert Development Programme (DDP) for the development of non-forest/degraded wastelands in the country. These programmes are being implemented through

Watershed Approach as per Guidelines for Watershed Development w.e.f 1.4.95. Since then, 8335 watershed projects to develop an area of 41.88 lakh hectares under DPAP, 3694 projects to develop an area of 18.47 lakh hectares under DDP and 192 projects to develop an area of 18.22 lakh hectares under IWDP have been sanctioned and are under implementation. In case of Maharashtra, 9 Projects under IWDP and 1037 projects under DPAP have been sanctioned for treatment of 1.02 lakh hectares and 5.19 lakh hectares of wastelands respectively from 1995-96 to 1999-2000. The Desert Development Programme is not being implemented in Maharashtra.

(c) : An amount of Rs. 480.00 crore under IWDP including Rs. 350 crores for meeting committed liabilities under on-going EAS Watershed projects, Rs.190.00 crore under DPAP and Rs.135.00 crore under DDP was allotted during the current financial year i.e. 2000-2001.

(d) : While DDP covers 227 Blocks of 140 Districts in 7 States, DPAP covers 947 Blocks of 179 districts in 16 States. IWDP projects are generally sanctioned in non-DPAP and non-DDP Blocks of the entire country. The details of States/UTs where projects under the three programmes were under implementation on 31.3.2000 are given in Annexure.

(e) & (f) : Watershed projects under the three Programmes are sanctioned in favour of ZPs/DRDAs. A Voluntary Agency can also be appointed as a Programme Implementing Agencies for the watershed development projects. However, as per the Guidelines for Watershed Development, the ZPs/DRDAs are competent authority to decide on the suitability or otherwise of a Voluntary Agency for appointment as a Project Implementation Agency for a Watershed Development Project.

Annexure

Annexure referred to in reply to part (d) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 135 due for reply on 20.2.2001.

Details of States/UTs where Projects under IWDP, DPAP and DDP were under implementation on 31.3.2000 are given as under:

Sl.No.	Programmes	Name of States
1.	IWDP	Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam,
2.	DPAP	Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Jammu & Kashmir, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Uttaranchal and West Bengal.
3.	DDP	Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Jammu & Kashmir, Karnataka, Rajasthan and Uttaranchal.