

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
AGRICULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1673  
ANSWERED ON:02.08.2001  
DRY FARMING IN ADVASI AREAS  
MANSUKHBHAID. VASAVA

**Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Government have made any efforts for dry farming in the Adivasi areas;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, area-wise; and
- (c) the work done by the Government in this regard in South Gujarat and the achievements made thereunder?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD Y. NAIK)

(a)&(b): Yes, Sir. The Government of India have accorded the highest priority for increasing the production and productivity in the dry farming/rainfed areas. The major initiative of the Ministry of Agriculture in this regard is the National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas (NWDPR), which was launched in VIII Plan in 25 States and 2 Union Territories of Andaman & Nicobar and Dadra & Nagar Haveli and continues to be implemented during IX Plan. This scheme was being implemented as independent Centrally Sponsored Scheme till November, 2000, after which it has been subsumed under the Macro Management mode of operation. This, however, continues to be a component of Macro management.

This project covers the tribal (Adivasi) areas falling under watershed project in the States/Union Territories. During the VIII Plan, 2554 Watersheds were treated covering an area of 4.23 Million hectares all over the country.

Impact evaluation studies both on the ground and through remote sensing techniques have shown that watershed based interventions have led to ground water recharge, enhancement of cropping intensity, changes in cropping pattern, higher yield of crops and reduction in soil losses. During the IX Plan, it is proposed to treat an area of 2.25 million hectares at an estimated cost of Rs.1020.00 crores.

(c): Vadodara, Bharuch, Surat, Narmada, Valsad, Navsari and Dangs districts of South Gujarat have been covered under NWDPR and an area of 29312 ha. has so far been developed with a cost of Rs.357.99 lakh during IX Plan.