

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
AGRICULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:567  
ANSWERED ON:04.03.2002  
USE OF MINOR AGRICULTURE WATERSHEDS  
LAXMAN GILUWA;RAM TAHAL CHOUDHARY

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

- (a) whether the minor agriculture watersheds are not being properly utilized in the country;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government for proper and optimum utilization of small watersheds?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV)

(a) to (c): The Government of India have accorded the highest priority for development of minor agriculture watersheds which is known as `micro watershed` in the technical terminology. 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.

During the VIII plan, 2554 Watersheds were treated covering an area of 4.23 Million hectares all over the country. 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. Impact evaluation conducted on random sample basis 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.