

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2330
ANSWERED ON:30.07.2002
STUDY ON IMPLEMENTATION OF WATERSHED
SUKDEO PASWAN

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Centre and the State Governments were to get periodical studies conducted of impact of implementation of the programme on production crops and livestock and productivity of land, water and human resources and drought proofing of the affected areas and economic and social conditions of the disadvantaged rural people inhabiting the programme area as reported in C&AG Report No.3 of 1999 (Civil) on page 110 in para 3.11;
- (b) whether the Centre and the State Governments have not got such evaluation conducted during 1992-98;
- (c) whether any studies have since been conducted;
- (d) if so, the outcome thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K.PATIL)

(a) and (b) The Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP) is being implemented since 1973-74. Since then, several State Governments had commissioned evaluation studies in order to measure the impact the programme had created. At the Central level, the overall evaluation study of Drought Prone Areas Programme was conducted by the Programme Evaluation Organization

(PEO) of the Planning Commission in January, 1995. Further, the Ministry had earlier set up a high level Technical Committee (Hanumantha Rao Committee) in April, 1993, specifically for the purpose of reviewing the Programme contents, methodology of planning, scale and pattern of funding and the administrative structure at various levels. On the basis of the recommendations of the Committee, the DP AP is being implemented through watershed approach since 1995-96 onwards.

(c) to (e): Each watershed development project sanctioned since 1995-96 was to be implemented and completed over a period of 5` years. In respect of projects sanctioned during 1995-96 to 1997-98, which either have been completed or nearing completion, the Ministry had commissioned impact evaluation studies through independent organisations. Some of these studies have since been completed and the results indicate that with the implementation of watershed projects under Drought Prone Areas Programme, the overall productivity of land and water table have increased and there has been a positive and significant impact on overall economic development in the project areas. The availability of fuel and fodder is also noticed to have increased in the watershed area. The studies also revealed that green vegetative cover has also improved which would have a positive impact in checking soil erosion by water and wind.