

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3411
ANSWERED ON:06.08.2002
DROUGHT PRONE AREA PROGRAMME
SUKDEO PASWAN

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the total geographical area is 328 million hectare, out of which only about 181 million h is cultivable as reported in C and AG Report No.30 (Civil) on page 90 in para 3.1.1;
- (b) whether the Drought Prone Area Progl initiated in 1973 to cover more million-hectare areathousands of crores of rupees to come over the c prone area; and
- (c) if so, the suces achieved by DPAP in b more hectares into cultivable vis-a-vis production of CROPS?

Answer

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

(a) to (c) Out of the 328 million hecteres of geogr area, 74.6 million hectares are presently covered Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP) spread 0\ blocks of 183 districts in .16 Sates. Since its incel 1973-74 upto 1994-95, DPAP was being implemer sectoral basis and during this period an area (million hectares was treated under the programrr total cost of Rs. 1762 Crore.

The programme is being implemented on wa basis w.e.f. 1.4.1995 and 16268 watershed projE treatment of an area of 8.13 million hectares hay sanctioned in the programme areas. Out of thes water shedprojects covering 1.69 million hectare been completed and the remaining are at various of implementation.

The watershed development projects hay gestation period and their main objective is to che degradation, sustainable production of bio-mass ir fueFwood and fodder and restoration of ecological balance through conservation of natural resources, recharge of ground water table, improvement in soil health etc. The impact assessment studieds commissioned by the Minist'Y indicate that with the implementation of watershed projects under DPAP, there has been increase in the productivi~ of land, water table, availability of fuel and fodder in the project areas. There has also been significant impact on overall economic development of the project areas.