

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2298
ANSWERED ON:30.07.2002
STATUS OF DESERTS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME
MANSUKHBHAID. VASAVA

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the DDP is being implemented in 40 districts of States;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, district-wise;
- (c) the present status of Desert Development Programme, State-wise especially in respect of Gujarat; and
- (d) the details of achievements made under the said programme so far, Statewise?

Answer

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

a) and (b): The Desert Development Programme (DDP) is under implementation in 40 districts of 7 States namely, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Karnataka and Rajasthan. The district wise details of projects sanctioned under the Programme from 1995-1996 onwards upto 30.6.2002 are at Annexure-I.

c) and (d). Under DDP, a watershed project is to be implemented over a period of 5 years and funds are released in 7 instalments keeping in view the progress of implementation. Out of 8314 projects sanctioned under the Programme, full Central share has since been released for 1634 projects (including 345 projects of Gujarat). The other projects are at various stages of implementation. The present status of Desert Development Programme (DDP) in the Programme States including Gujarat is at Annexure-II. The results of quick evaluation studies commissioned by the Ministry indicate that with the implementation of watershed projects under DDP, 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 studies also revealed that green vegetative cover has also improved in desert areas which would have a positive impact in checking soil erosion by water and wind.

Includes 50 projects of 1995-96 batch of Kutch district for which 6 instalments have been released but the projects certified by District Rural Development Agency to have been completed.

Includes 283 projects of 1995-96 batch for which 6 instalments have been released in respect of Barmer (123 projects), Chum (74 projects), Pali (52 projects) and Sikar (34 projects) districts and 104 projects for which 5 instalments have been released for Hanumangarh (27 projects) and Nagaur (77 projects) districts. The State Government has certified that additional funds for these projects are not required.

INCLUDES 1602 PROJECTS SANCTIONED recently in June.2002.