

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4315
ANSWERED ON:19.05.2006
DROUGHT PRONE AREA PROGRAMME
Nayak Shri Ananta

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the objectives of Drought Prone Area Programme (DPAP);
- (b) the number of blocks of various districts covered by the said programme till date, State-wise;
- (c) the number of projects undertaken thereunder during each of the last three years and current year alongwith their present status;
- (d) the criteria adopted for allocation of funds under the said programme; and
- (e) the details of the funds allocated and utilized during the said period, State-wise?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (A.NARENDRA)

(a) & (b) Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP) is being implemented in 972 blocks of 183 districts in 16 States (Annexure-I) on watershed basis with the objective of drought proofing by rejuvenating the natural resource base viz. water, soil and vegetative cover.

(c) Ministry of Rural Development sanctions block wise new projects to programme districts, each of 500 hectares, as per the criteria which takes into account their identified coverage, performance of the ongoing projects, capacity to absorb new projects, programme outlay etc. During the last three years and current year, a total of 8085 new watershed projects have been sanctioned to the programme districts in addition to the ongoing projects. These projects are at various stages of implementation.

(d) & (e) Under DPAP, specific allocation of funds to the programme States/Districts is not made but generally 25-30% of the annual budget is kept for new projects while about 70- 75% is utilized to meet the committed liability of ongoing projects. The funds are released to Zilla Panchayats (ZPs)/District Rural Development Agencies (DRDAs) in annual installments over the project period of five years. The first installment of central funds is released with the sanction of new projects and the programme being demand driven, subsequent installments are released on receipt of specific proposals from the DRDA./Z.P. While releasing the central funds, it is interalia, ensured that ZP/ DRDA has utilized more than 50% of the last installment of funds released to it. The State-wise details of projects sanctioned and funds released during the last three years and during 2006-07 (till date) are given in Annexure-II.