

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
AGRICULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3871  
ANSWERED ON:21.04.2008  
CONSTRUCTION OF WATERSHEDS  
Khair Shri Chandrakant Bhaurao

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

- (a) whether the Union Government has formulated a comprehensive scheme for construction of watersheds in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the number of watersheds sanctioned/constructed under the River Valley Project in the country, State-wise, particularly in Maharashtra;
- (d) the total amount sanctioned under the scheme during the last three years;
- (e) whether the small agriculture watersheds are not being properly utilised;
- (f) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons therefor; and
- (g) the steps taken by the Government to ensure the proper utilization of small watersheds?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE(SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA)

(a) & (b): Yes, Sir, The major Watershed Development Programmes being implemented by Ministry of Agriculture are

(i) National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas (NWDPR),

(ii) soil Conservation for Enhancing Productivity of Degraded Lands in the Catchments of River Valley Project & Flood Prone River(RVP & FPR) and

(iii) Watershed Development Project in shifting Cultivation Areas (WDPSCA).The size of watershed varies from 500 ha. to 2000 ha. And such watersheds are being treated in an integrated manner with suitable soil and water conservation measures for development and management of natural resources.

(c)& (d): Scheme-wise and State-wise details of number of ongoing watersheds and fund utilized in the last three years (2004-07) under each watershed development programmes, including Maharashtra are Annexed.

In the State of Maharashtra, out of these programmes, two programmes namely, NWDPR and RVP & FPR are being implemented.

(e) to (g): Small watersheds are also included under these Watershed Development Programmes. Thrust has been given for involvement of beneficiaries/farmers in planning, implementation and maintenance of assets created. For this purpose, Watershed Committees/ Associations have been constituted to ensure effective participation. The capacity building and trainings of the beneficiaries, demonstrations, exposure visits etc. are organized for the farmers to utilize the resources of small watersheds in sustainable manner.

The Working Group of the Sub-Committee of National Development Council (NDC) on Agriculture and related Issues on Dryland/Rainfed Farming System including Regeneration of Degraded /Watershed Development Programmes has recommended the development of about 38 million ha. of land during Eleventh Five Year Plan with main thrust on treatment and development of watersheds in the country.