

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2840

ANSWERED ON:15.03.2010

ASSISTANCE FOR WATERSHED PROJECTS

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Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of watershed schemes being implemented in the country alongwith their current status and expenditure involved thereon;
- (b) the amount of funds allocated/released/utilized under each such scheme during each of the last three years and current year, State-wise;
- (c) whether the Government has received any request from certain States for assistance for watershed projects meant for the development of dry lands during the said period;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the extent of assistance provided to each such State;and
- (e) the details of the other projects funded by the Government to develop drylands in the States during the last three years?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SISIR KUMAR ADHIKARI)

(a) The Department of Land Resources has been implementing three watershed schemes namely Desert Development Programme (DDP), Drought Prone Areas programme (DPAP) and Integrated Wasteland Development Programme (IWDP).

DPAP is under implementation in 972 blocks of 195 districts in 16 States. The States covered under DPAP are Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand and West Bengal. Since 1995-96, a total no. of 27,437 projects have been sanctioned to cover an area of 13.70 m ha. Out of this, a total no. of 11436 projects have been completed/closed as on 10.03.10 and the remaining projects are on-going and at various stages of implementation. An amount of Rs. 3661.19 crore has been released as on 10.3.2010 for these watershed projects

DDP is in operation in 7 States namely, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Karnataka and Rajasthan covering 235 blocks in 40 districts. Beginning from the year 1995-96, a total number of 15746 projects have been sanctioned to cover an area of 7.873 million hectares. Out of these, a total no. of 6702 projects have been completed/closed as on 10.03.2010. The remaining 9044 projects are on-going and at various stages of implementation. An amount of Rs. 2784.34 crore has been released as on 10.03.2010 for these watershed projects.

The projects under IWDP are sanctioned in areas not covered by DDP and DPAP. The programme is being implemented in 470 districts in 28 States of the country. Since 1995-96, a total no. of 1877 projects have been sanctioned to cover an area of 10.72 million ha. Out of this, a total no. of 459 projects have been completed/closed as on 10.03.10 and the remaining projects are on-going and at various stages of implementation. An amount of Rs. 3897.75 crore has been released as on 10.03.2010 for these watershed projects.

Since 26.02.2009, the above three schemes have been consolidated into a single programme called as Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP).The coverage of IWMP extends to all the States. Projects under IWMP are being implemented from 2009-10 under the Common Guidelines for Watershed Development Projects, 2008. A total amount of Rs.423.68 crore has been released as on 10.03.2010 for 1286 projects covering an area of 6.087 million ha.

In addition to above, Department of Agriculture & Co-operation also implements following watershed programmes:

National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas (NWDPA): This programme was launched in the VIII Plan which has been subsumed under Macro Management of Agriculture (MMA) since November, 2000. The programme is being implemented in all the States / UTs. NWDPA has been thoroughly restructured by retaining the technical strength of the earlier programme and incorporating the lessons learnt from successful projects, especially on community participation. Upto December 2009, an area of 10.18 million hectare has been covered with the expenditure of Rs. 3668.24 crores.

Soil Conservation in the Catchments of River Valley Project & Flood Prone River (RVP & FPR): The programme is primarily meant for treating catchment areas (extending over more than one State) with appropriate soil and water conservation measures to enhance the

productivity of degraded lands, minimize siltation rates in reservoirs and reduce flood peaks in flood prone rivers. At present, the programme is being implemented in 60 catchments of 27 States of the country through Macro Management of Agriculture. Upto December 2009, an area of 7.2 million hectare has been covered with the expenditure of Rs. 2898.39 crores.

Watershed Development Project in Shifting Cultivation Areas(WDPSCA): This programme is being implemented in North Eastern States with 100% special assistance to the State Plan. The objective of the scheme is to protect the hill slopes of Jhum areas through different soil and water conservation measures on watershed basis to reduce further land degradation and also to improve the land productivity and improve socio-economic status of tribal families and minimizing Jhum cultivation to reduce its ill effects. Upto December 2009,an area of 0.49 million hectare has been covered with the expenditure of Rs. 397.99 crores.

(b). The DPAP, DDP, WDP & IWMP being demand driven, State-wise funds are not allocated. The State-wise details of funds released under DPAP, DDP, WDP & IWMP during last three years & current year are given at Annexure-I. State-wise funds utilized during the last 3 years and current year under NWDPRA and RVP & FPR are given at Annexure-II & III respectively. The State-wise allocation and release of funds during the last 3 years and current year under WDPSCA is given at Annexure ?IV.

(c),(d)&(e) The schemes of DPAP, DDP, WDP & IWMP of the Department of Land Resources are meant for development of rainfed/degraded/wasteland areas. The State-wise details of central assistance provided under these schemes during last three years and current year is given at Annexure-I.