

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3449
ANSWERED ON:16.08.2010
WATERSHED DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES
Saroj Smt. Sushila

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has requested the National Institute of Rural Development (NIRD) to undertake an impact assessment study to ascertain the impact of the investment made in the watershed development activities;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the progress made so far in this regard;
- (c) the official figure about the depletion of ground water in the country, State-wise; and
- (d) the steps taken to replenishment?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): Yes, Sir. The Department of Land Resources, Ministry of Rural Development has awarded a study titled 'Comprehensive study of impacts of investment in watershed projects' to National Institute of Rural Development (NIRD), Hyderabad during 2010-11. An amount of Rs.3.89 crore has been released to NIRD on 14.07.10 towards first installment for the above study and the works are at initial stages only.

(c): The State-wise data categorizing blocks/ mandals/ talukas showing extent of depletion of ground water in the country (Assessment-2004) is at Annexure-I.

(d): The Department of Land Resources has been implementing three area development programmes, viz. Desert Development Programme (DDP), Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP) and Integrated Wastelands Development Programme (IWDP) on watershed approach since 1995-96. These schemes have been merged into a single modified programme called Integrated Watershed Management Programme

(IWMP) with effect from 26-02-2009. Recharging of ground water table is one of the outcomes of these programmes. Since 1995-96, a total area of 39.998 million ha has been undertaken for treatment of watersheds. Further, Central Ground Water Board, Ministry of Water Resources has also taken several regulatory and augmentation measures for replenishment of ground water. The details are at Annexure-II.