

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
RURAL DEVELOPMENT  
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:275  
ANSWERED ON:29.11.2010  
DEVELOPMENT OF WASTELAND  
Ram Shri Purnmasi

**Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether despite implementation of the Integrated Wasteland Development Project, Drought Prone Areas Programme and Desert Development Programme over the last twenty years, wastelands in the country are rising;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government has reviewed the implementation of the said programmes to remove the shortcomings therefrom; and
- (d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to monitor strictly the implementation of the said programmes and to achieve the desired results?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (Dr. C.P. JOSHI)

(a) to (d) : A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred to in reply to part (a) to (d) of the Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 275 due for reply on 29.11.2010

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) & (d) The Technical Committee on Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP), Desert Development Programme (DDP) and Integrated Wastelands Development Programme (IWDP), under the chairmanship of Shri S. Parthasarathy (2006), addressed major issues in watershed programmes and recommended viable strategies and mechanisms for effective implementation of these programmes. Based on the suggestions of the Committee, National Rainfed Area Authority (NRAA), in coordination with Planning Commission, formulated Common Guidelines for Watershed Development Projects, 2008 to give an impetus to watershed development programmes. The provisions in the Common Guidelines and the observations of the Parthasarathy Committee have necessitated modifications in the watershed schemes of the Department of Land Resources. Accordingly, DPAP, DDP and IWDP of the Department of Land Resources have been integrated and consolidated into a single modified programme called Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) w.e.f. 26.02.2009. The provisions of treatment of micro-watersheds on cluster basis, reduced number of installments, delegation of power of sanction of projects to the States, dedicated institutions, capacity building of stakeholders, monitoring & evaluation, specific budget provision for Detailed Project Report preparation, livelihood for assetless people and productivity enhancement are the major features of IWMP which will facilitate achieving the desired results. Ongoing projects under DPAP, DDP and IWDP are being monitored periodically. An online MIS monitoring system is also in place. Besides, concurrent evaluation of the projects and Action Taken Report on the findings of the evaluation are mandatory provisions for release of further instalment for the projects that have received 45 % of the project cost. In addition, a pilot project for Geographical Information System (GIS) based monitoring of watershed projects on near-real time basis, through map based visualization of the works executed in the field, has been initiated. Apart from these, evaluation studies are also undertaken through reputed and independent Research Institutions/Organizations from time to time to evaluate the performance of Watershed Programmes at the field level, to assess the impact of the programmes.