

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3202

ANSWERED ON:29.11.2010

INTEGRATED WATER MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME

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Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to include forest areas from the Watershed Programme for Integrated Development;
- (b) if so, the facts thereof;
- (c) the steps being taken by the Union Government to formulate scientific and integrated ridge to valley approach of watershed treatment;
- (d) whether the Union Government is not approving and allocating funds for treatment of forest areas under Integrated Water Management Programme in the State of Gujarat;
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (f) the remedial steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Union Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SISIR KUMAR ADHIKARI)

(a) to (f) The watershed programmes, namely Integrated Wastelands Development Programme (IWDP), Desert Development Programme (DDP) and Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP) are being implemented on areas including forest areas under the Hariyali Guidelines. These three schemes have been integrated and consolidated into a single modified programme called Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) with effect from 26.02.2009 and being implemented under Common Guidelines for Watershed Development Projects, 2008. Under IWMP, forest areas other than reserved forests are covered in project area. It is applicable to all States including Gujarat. Under IWMP, the Department of Land Resources lays emphasis on treatment of non-forest areas in the country. The multi tier ridge to valley approach is one of the key features of the Common Guidelines, 2008, under which IWMP is implemented. The Guidelines provide for identification of higher reaches of a watershed, including forest & hilly areas, and taking up suitable treatment with the support of Ministry of Environment and Forests, or from the States' forest programmes or other sources. In the upper reaches, which are mostly hilly and forested, the onus of implementation of watershed programmes mainly lie with the Forest Departments and the Joint Forest Management Committees (JFMC).