

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5403
ANSWERED ON:13.12.2010
DEVELOPMENT OF DRY AREAS
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Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has any plan to develop dry areas across the country including Ramanthapuram in Tamilnadu;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the funds allocated by the Government alongwith the time by which the said work is likely to be completed?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): To develop degraded land in rainfed areas including dryland areas, the Department of Land Resources has been implementing three area development schemes viz., Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP), Desert Development Programme (DDP) and Integrated Wastelands Development Programme (IWDP) on watershed basis since 1995-96. These three schemes have been integrated and consolidated into a single modified programme called Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) w.e.f. 26.02.2009. Projects covering a total area of 42.65 million ha, including dryland areas, have been sanctioned throughout the country under these programmes. The target for sanction of new projects under IWMP is 22.65 million hectare for the Xth Five Year Plan with annual targets of 5.41 million ha, 8.50 million ha and 8.74 million ha for the years 2009-10, 2010-11 and 2011-12, respectively.

(c) A total amount of Rs. 12646.04 crore has been released as on 30.11.2010 to projects under these programmes in the country. This includes a total amount of Rs. 40.26 crores for projects sanctioned under DPAP, IWDP and IWMP in Ramanathapuram District of Tamil Nadu. The projects under DDP, DPAP and IWDP have a project duration of 5 years from the date of sanction. The projects under IWMP have a project period of 4 to 7 years which is to be specified at the time of preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR).