

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2350
ANSWERED ON:10.03.2011
INTEGRATED WASTELAND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME
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Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether around 5.53 crore hectare land have become waste and unproductive in the country despite Integrated Wasteland Development Programme, Drought Prone Area Programme and Arid Land Development Programme being run by the Government;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the reasons for not spending funds allotted to convert wasteland into cultivable land by the Government in Eleventh Five Year Plan and whether its target has been reduced;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Government proposes to take fresh steps to make wasteland cultivable in the country; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): As per 'Wastelands Atlas of India-2005' prepared by National Remote Sensing Agency, Hyderabad, the total wastelands in the country were estimated at 5.527 Crore hectare. However, as per the latest 'Wastelands Atlas of India-2010' published by the Department of Land Resources, Ministry of Rural Development and National Remote Sensing Centre, Hyderabad, the total wastelands in the country is 4.723 Crore hectare.

(c) & (d): The Department of Land Resources has incurred expenditure commensurate to fund allocated to it. During the first four years (i.e. from 2007-08 to 2010-11, upto 28.02.11) of the Eleventh Plan, following are the details of budgetary allocation and expenditure by the Department of Land Resources for the purpose of watershed development projects:

(Rs. in Crore)

Year	Budget Estimate	Revised Estimate	Expenditure
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2007-08	1114.54	1114.54	1164.54
2008-09	1825.00	1545.00	1544.00
2009-10	1911.00	1762.80	1762.50
2010-11 (upto 28.02.11)	2458.00	2458.00	2238.46

The target for sanction of new projects under Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) is 2.265 Crore hectare for the Eleventh Five Year Plan, against which, projects covering an area of 1.417 Crore ha has already been achieved upto 28.02.2011. The remaining target of 0.848 Crore hectare is proposed to be achieved during the remaining period of the Eleventh Five Year Plan.

(e) & (f): 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. 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 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) with effect from 26.02.2009 to be implemented under these

guidelines. The main features of IWMP include provisions of development 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. Under the new modified programme of IWMP, watershed projects are implemented on rainfed/ degraded lands in the country.