

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
RURAL DEVELOPMENT  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2809  
ANSWERED ON:18.08.2011  
COMMITTEE ON WATERSHED PROGRAMME  
Kanubhai Patel Jayshreeben

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

- (a) whether a technical Committee on `Watershed programme` in India was constituted by the Government;
- (b) if so, the details of its composition and terms of reference;
- (c) whether the Committee has submitted its report; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

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

(a): Yes, Madam.

(b): The composition and Terms of Reference of the Technical Committee constituted by the Department of Land Resources (DoLR) are at Annexure-I & Annexure-II, respectively.

(c): Yes, Madam.

(d): The main recommendations of the Technical Committee under the chairmanship of Shri S. Parthasarathy include - more thrust to rainfed areas through an improved watershed development programme; provision of dedicated institutions to implement the watershed programmes; raising of cost norms to Rs.12000/- per hectare; provision of flexibility in project duration; implement of the project in three phases i.e., Preparatory Phase, Resource Augmentation and Institution Building Phase and Sustainable Livelihoods and Productivity Enhancement Phase; separate budget provision for monitoring and capacity building; special provision for landless and dalits; provision for ensuring transparency and accountability; provision for productivity enhancement and livelihoods; etc. The full report of the Parthasarathy Committee is available at DoLR? website (<http://dolr.nic.in>). Based on the suggestions of the Committee, National Rainfed Area Authority, in coordination with the Planning Commission, formulated Common Guidelines for Watershed Development Projects, 2008 to give an impetus to watershed development programmes. Further, the Department of Land Resources has implemented main recommendations of the Technical Committee by integrating the three area development programmes ? Desert Development Programme (DDP), Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP) and Integrated Wastelands Development Programme (IWDP) - into a single modified programme called Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) with effect from 26.02.2009. The IWMP is implemented under the Common Guidelines for Watershed Development Projects, 2008.