

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3544
ANSWERED ON:15.12.2011
EXCLUSION OF FOREST AREAS
Jardosh Smt. Darshana Vikram

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has issued instructions for exclusion of the forest areas which will not only vitiate integrated watershed development from ridge to valley approach but also deprive people and animals in forest areas of the basic requirements of drinking water;
- (b) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to formulate scientific and integrated ridge to valley approach of watershed treatment;
- (c) whether the Government is not approving and allocating funds for treatment of forest areas under Integrated Watershed Management Programme in the State of Gujarat; and
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor?

Answer

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

- (a) & (b) The Department of Land Resources has issued instructions that irrespective of the type of forests, the land forming integral part of the selected watershed project area having agriculture/wasteland and forest land use, the fringe-forest areas and the degraded areas needing treatment which have implications for the lower reaches of watershed in terms of runoff? water yield, soil erosion & sedimentation, fodder, etc should be part of the holistic watershed treatment plan, with major focus on soil & moisture conservation. Works undertaken in such forest areas can be funded through Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) scheme. This will ensure scientific and integrated ridge to valley approach of watershed treatment.
- (c) The Department of Land Resources is approving and releasing funds for treatment of forest areas under IWMP to the States including Gujarat.
- (d) Question does not arise, in view of (c) above