

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:564

ANSWERED ON:15.03.2012

WATERSHED SCHEME

Choudhary Shri Harish;Singh Shri Ijyaraj

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the norms regarding implementation of watershed scheme;
- (b) the names of the districts in various states which are included in the said scheme on the basis of the said norms; and
- (c) the details of the mechanism and provisions to ensure that work under the said scheme is carried out in planned manner?

Answer

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

(a) 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) with effect from 26.02.2009 being implemented under the Common Guidelines for Watershed Development Projects, 2008. Under IWMP, watershed projects are implemented on rainfed/ degraded lands in the country. The Scheme is inter alia governed by the following norms:

The unit cost norm under IWMP is Rs. 12, 000 per hectare for plains and Rs.15, 000 per hectare for difficult and hilly areas, which is shared between the Centre and State in the ratio of 90 : 10. In the districts covered under Integrated Action Plan (IAP) the applicable cost norm is upto Rs.15, 000 per hectare.

Criteria for selection of watershed projects includes poverty index (% of poor to population), % of SC/ ST population, actual wages, % of small and marginal farmers, ground water status, moisture index/ DPAP/ DDP Block, area under rain- fed agriculture, drinking water, degraded land, productivity potential of the land, contiguity to another watershed that has already been developed/ treated, cluster approach in the plains (more than one contiguous micro-watersheds in the project); and cluster approach in the hills (more than one contiguous micro-watersheds in the project)

Criteria for making the State wise annual minimum tentative allocation of area under IWMP includes identified DPAP/DDP areas in the State as percentage of total DPAP and DDP area in the country, total treatable wastelands in the State as percentage of total treatable wastelands in the country, total SC/ST population of the State as percentage of total SC/ST population of the country, percentage of rainfed area in the State to total cultivated area in the country; and 10% mandatory allocation of North-Eastern States.

(b) The watershed projects of this Department are implemented on rainfed/ degraded lands in the country which include all districts of the States. The list of Hill districts, districts including difficult areas (i.e. DDP blocks) and IAP districts in various states is at Annexure-I, II & III respectively.

(c) The Department has made provisions to ensure that work under IWMP is carried out in a planned manner. IWMP is being implemented in the States through dedicated institutions like State Level Nodal Agency (SLNA) at State level, Watershed Cell cum Data Centre (WCDC) at district level, Project Implementing Agency (PIA) at project level and Watershed Committee (WC) at village level. For taking up projects under IWMP, the States are required to submit State Perspective and Strategic Plan (SPSP) approved by the SLNA. SPSP is a long-term plan to develop all the treatable watersheds in the State, after excluding all untreatable areas (e.g. area under assured irrigation, area already treated under various watershed programmes etc.). Preparation of SPSP is a one-time exercise.

After having prepared the SPSP, States prepare project wise Preliminary Project Reports (PPRs) for project area to be developed in a particular year. The PPRs, approved by the SLNA, are then presented by the State before the Steering Committee at the Government of India level under the Chairmanship of Secretary (Land Resources) for appraisal & clearance. The Steering Committee has members from Planning Commission, National Rainfed Area Authority (NRAA), technical experts from different scientific institutions, voluntary organizations, related departments of the Central and State Governments.

The SLNAs have been delegated with powers of sanctioning projects as per appraisal of the Steering Committee. On receipt of sanction from SLNA, Department of Land Resources releases 1st installment of central assistance to the SLNA for execution of activities of preparatory phase of the projects. Preparation of technically sound Detailed Project Report (DPR) is one of the crucial activities of this phase besides entry point activities and capacity building. 1% of the total project cost is earmarked for DPR

preparation with scientific inputs utilizing the information technology, remote sensing techniques and the GIS facilities. The IWMP projects are implemented in 3 Phases viz. Preparatory Phase, Works Phase and Consolidation & Withdrawal Phase. The financial assistance to projects under IWMP is released in 3 installments of 20%, 50 % and 30%, respectively.