

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
RURAL DEVELOPMENT  
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:130

ANSWERED ON:22.03.2012

INTEGRATED WASTELANDS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

Singh Shri Ilyaraj ;Swamygowda Shri N Cheluvaraya Swamy

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

- (a) the names of the States where Integrated Wasteland Development Programme (IWDP) is under implementation at present;
- (b) the details of the projects implemented and the areas of wasteland brought under cultivation indicating the funds sanctioned/ released and incurred thereon, during the last three years, year-wise and State-wise;
- (c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to make wasteland more cultivable particularly in the coastal areas of the country;
- (d) whether wasteland development is providing considerable employment opportunities in rural areas; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a) to (e) : A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred to in reply to part (a) to (e) of the Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 130 due for reply on 22.3.2012

(a) & (b): Projects under Integrated Wastelands Development Programme (IWDP) have been sanctioned in all the 28 States of the country, since 1995-96 till 2006-07. IWDP along with two other area development programmes viz., Desert Development Programme (DDP) and Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP), has been consolidated and integrated into a single modified programme called Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) with effect from 26.02.2009. No new projects under IWDP have been sanctioned since 2007-08. However, state-wise details of funds released and utilised during the last three years for the ongoing projects under Integrated Wastelands Development Programme (IWDP) are at Annexure-I. The Statewise details of total wasteland and degraded land developed under Integrated Wastelands Development Programme (IWDP) during each of the last three years is at Annexure-II.

A project on Wasteland Change Analysis between 2005-06 and 2008-09 has been given by the Department of Land Resources to National Remote Sensing Centre, Hyderabad to understand the dynamics of wastelands through comparison of spatial statistics. This study will enable the Department to assess the extent of wastelands converted to cultivable land between these two periods. However, the assessment of yearwise acreage of wasteland converted to cultivable land is not feasible through this study.

(c) The Department of Land Resources integrated the three area development programmes viz., DPAP, DDP and IWDP into a single modified programme called ?Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP)? with effect from 26.02.2009. The main aims of IWMP are harnessing, conserving and developing degraded natural resources such as soil, vegetative cover and water; prevention of soil run-off; rain water harvesting and recharging of the ground water table; increasing the productivity of crops; introduction of multi-cropping and diverse agro-based activities; promoting sustainable livelihoods and increasing the household incomes. Under IWMP, the projects are selected based upon certain criteria for prioritization. They are:-

Poverty index, % of SC/ ST population, Actual wages, % of small and marginal farmers, Ground water status, Moisture index, Area under rain-fed agriculture, Drinking water, Degraded land, Productivity potential of the land, Contiguity to another watershed that has already been developed/ treated and Cluster approach. Any area including coastal area, satisfying the above criteria of prioritization, qualifies for treatment under IWMP.

(d) & (e) Yes Sir, a study on ?Comprehensive Assessment of Watershed Programmes in India? by International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT), Hyderabad has inter alia revealed that the mean additional annual employment generation in the watershed area on various activities and operations was about 154 person days per hectare per year.