

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
RURAL DEVELOPMENT  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4972  
ANSWERED ON:25.04.2013  
WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PROJECTS  
Ajnala Dr. Rattan Singh

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

- (a) the details of the different schemes for the watershed management projects in the country;
- (b) the details of the expenditure incurred on such projects in Punjab;
- (c) whether the Government has any regulatory authority to check the effectiveness in terms of rise in ground water level of such projects; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRILAL CHAND KATARIA)

(a) The Department of Land Resources, Ministry of Rural Development has been implementing three area development programmes viz. Integrated Wasteland Development Programme (IWDP), Drought Prone Area Programme (DPAP) and Desert Development Programme (DDP) since 1995- 96 on watershed basis. The above three programmes have been integrated into a single a modified programme called Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) w.e.f. 26.02.2009, for development of rainfed/degraded areas. The major activities taken up under IWMP inter-alia include ridge area treatment, drainage line treatment, soil and moisture conservation, rain water harvesting, nursery raising, afforestation, horticulture, pasture development, livelihoods for asset less persons.

(a) As on 31.03.2013, an amount of Rs.14.04 crore has been incurred as expenditure on Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) and Rs. 23.30 crore was incurred on Integrated Wasteland Development Programme (IWDP). No projects under DPAP and DDP had been sanctioned in Punjab.

(c) & (d) The Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) has been constituted under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 for the purpose of regulation and control of ground water development and management in the country. It is headed by the Chairman, Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) and 14 other members of different Ministries /Departments/ Organizations/ Institutions of Government of India. The Central Ground Water Authority do not exercise any powers/ regulatory measures to check the effectiveness in terms of rise in ground water level of watershed managements projects. The Central Ground Water Authority excercises following powers and perform functions namely:

- (i) Exercise of powers under section 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 for issuing directions and taking such measures in respect of all matters referred to in sub- section(2) of section 3 of the said Act.
- (ii) To resort to penal provisions contained in section 15 to 21 of the said Act.
- (iii) To regulate and control, management and development of ground water in the country and to issue necessary regulatory directions for the purpose.
- (iv) Exercise of powers under section 4 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 for the appointment of officers.

Considering the severity of the exploitation and in order to restrict further exploitation of ground water, some of highly over exploited areas are Notified by Central Ground Water Authority for regulation of ground water withdrawal. The Central Ground Water Authority has so far notified 162 areas in the country for the purpose of regulation of ground water development.