

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:263
ANSWERED ON:29.08.2013
INTEGRATED WASTELANDS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME
Maadam Shri Vikrambhai Arjanbhai

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the major activities taken under the Integrated Wastelands Development Programme (IWDP) and the names of the States where the Programme is under implementation at present;
- (b) the details of the projects implemented and the areas of wasteland brought under cultivation, State/UT-wise;
- (c) the funds sanctioned/released and incurred under the programme during the last three years and the current year, year and State/UT-wise; and
- (d) the steps taken/being taken by the Government for effective implementation of the programme particularly in the coastal areas of the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

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

Statement referred to in reply to parts (a) to (d) of the Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 263 due for reply on 29.08.2013

(a) & (b) The major activities taken up under Integrated Wastelands Development Programme (IWDP) inter-alia, include the following:

- i. Development of small water harvesting structures such as low-cost farm ponds, nalla bunds, check-dams, percolation tanks and other ground water recharge measures.
- ii. Renovation and augmentation of water sources, desiltation of village tanks for drinking water/ irrigation/fisheries development.
- iii. Fisheries development in village ponds/tanks, farm ponds etc.
- iv. Afforestation including block plantations, agro-forestry and horticultural development, shelterbelt plantations, sand dune stabilization, etc.
- v. Pasture development either by itself or in conjunction with plantations.
- vi. Land Development including in-situ soil and moisture conservation measures like contour and graded bunds fortified by plantation, bench terracing in hilly terrain, nursery raising for fodder, timber, fuel wood, horticulture and non-timber forest product species.
- vii. Drainage line treatment with a combination of vegetative and engineering structures.
- viii. Repair, restoration and up-gradation of existing common property assets and structures in the watershed to obtain optimum & sustained benefits from previous public investments.
- ix. Crop demonstrations for popularizing new crops/varieties or innovative management practices.
- x. Promotion and propagation of non-conventional energy saving devices, energy conservation measures, bio fuel plantations etc.

IWDP has been implemented in all the 28 States of the country. The details of the State wise projects sanctioned and area covered under IWDP are at Annexure-I. IWDP along with two other area development programmes viz., Desert Development Programme (DDP) and Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP), have 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, the funds have been released for completion of ongoing IWDP projects sanctioned up to 2006-07.

In order to understand the dynamics of wastelands through comparison of spatial statistics a project on Wasteland Change Analysis

between 2005-06 and 2008-09 had been assigned to National Remote Sensing Centre, Hyderabad by the Department of Land Resources. The findings of the project have been published as Wastelands Atlas of India 2011. As per Wastelands Atlas of India-2011, the total area of wasteland that has been reduced and put to productive use from 2005-06 to 2008-09 is 5240.78 sq. kms. The State / UT wise details are at Annexure –II.

(c) State-wise details of central funds released and utilized under WDP during the last three years and the current year are at Annexure-III.

(d) The Department of Land Resources integrated the three area development programmes viz., DPAP, DDP and WDP 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 following criteria for prioritization:

Poverty index, Percentage of Scheduled Caste / Scheduled Tribes population, Actual wages, Percentage 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. The other steps taken by the Department inter- alia include reviewing performance of the programme through Quarterly Review Meetings, Regional Review Meetings, Steering Committee Meetings and field visits by the senior officers of the Department.