

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3039

ANSWERED ON:29.08.2013

DROUGHT PRONE AREAS

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Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the steps taken for watershed development in Drought Prone Areas and other programmes implemented therefor;
- (b) the funds sanctioned, released and utilized for training and development of functionaries involved in implementation of Watershed Development projects;
- (c) the details of institutions identified for providing such training and number of functionaries who have been successfully trained; and
- (d) the details of people's participation in watershed development programme, State-wise?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI LALCHAND KATARIA)

(a) The Department of Land Resources, Ministry of Rural Development has been implementing three area development programmes viz. Integrated Wastelands Development Programme (IWDP), Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP) and Desert Development Programme (DDP) since 1995-96 on watershed basis. These three programmes have been integrated into a single modified programme called Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) with effect from 26.02.2009, for development of rainfed / degraded areas including Drought Prone Areas. The major activities undertaken under IWMP projects inter-alia include preparation of details project reports, institutions & capacity building, entry point activities, ridge area treatment, drainage line treatment, soil and moisture conservation, rain water harvesting, nursery raising, afforestation, horticulture, pasture development, livelihood activities for the asset-less persons and production system and micro-enterprises for small and marginal farmers. Under IWMP, so far, 6622 projects covering an area of 31.29 m.ha. have been sanctioned and central assistance of Rs. 7473.09 crores released for implementation.

(b) Department of Land Resources is not releasing any funds to States specifically for training of functionaries under watershed development programmes. However, as per programme Guidelines, 5% of project cost has been earmarked for Institution and Capacity Building under watershed development programmes.

(c) State Level Nodal Agency (SLNA) for implementation of IWMP develops clear terms of references with Institutions/organizations for providing necessary training support to various stakeholders of Watershed Projects. The institutions indicated in the Guidelines of the programme for providing trainings to senior government officers at national / state/ district levels inter-alia include National Institute of Rural Development (NIRD) , National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management (MANAGE), Central Arid Zone Research Institute (CAZRI), Central Soil and Water Conservation Research and Training Institute (CSWCRTI) and its regional centres, Central Research Institute for Dryland Areas (CRIDA), Water Technology Centres (WTCs), Indian Institute of Remote Sensing, Dehradun, Institute of Rural Management, Anand (IRMA), Indian Institute of Forest Management (IIFM), National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC), Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) and Soil and Land Use Survey of India (SLUSI).

In addition, several reputed voluntary organizations/ resources organizations with considerable expertise and experiences related to watershed development projects in different part of the country are also providing training in collaboration with SLNAs.

Besides the above, States are also utilizing services of State Agricultural Universities, Krishi Vigyan Kendras, State Institutes of Rural Development etc. depending on their need and capacity building strategy.

(d) People's participation is an important feature of IWMP. To ensure the people's participation right from the planning, execution, monitoring and evaluation and post project management, various community based organizations (CBO) are created under IWMP. The important CBOs at village levels under IWMP are Watershed Committee, Self Help Groups and User Groups. The Watershed Committee is constituted by the Gram Sabha. The plan of watershed projects is prepared on the basis of Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) exercise with community participation. These plans are required to be approved by Gram Sabha.