

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
PLANNING  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1118  
ANSWERED ON:25.11.2009  
REPORT ON VIDARBHA  
Ahir Shri Hansraj Gangaram

**Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Facts Finding Committee constituted by the Planning Commission to inquire into the causes of slow development of backward areas of Vidarbha has submitted its report;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government is formulating any action plan to remove the backwardness of Vidarbha in the light of the recommendations made in the said report;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY)

(a) : Yes Madam,

(b) : The Fact Finding Committee was constituted on March 2nd, 2006 by the Planning Commission to study the situation regarding disparities in regional development, to recommend necessary measures for reducing regional disparities, Maharashtra, and for addressing the issue of rural distress, especially in the Vidarbha region. The Team conducted intensive field tours of all the six affected districts, namely, Yavatmal, Akola, Amravati, Wardha, Buldana and Washim in Nagpur and Amravati in Maharashtra and submitted its report on 30th May, 2006. The Team recommended that a time frame of 5 years may be fixed for removal of backlog; absorptive capacity of various sectors for incurring expenditure be improved; a strong monitoring mechanism be established for ensuring implementation; a non-lapsable budget head may be created for funds allocation and expenditure for the previous years so as to facilitate better monitoring. The Team also felt that it was necessary to focus on overall perspective planning for the backward regions and emphasis on only removal of backlog should not be the only means of achieving the developmental needs of the region. Other recommendations of the Fact Finding Team were relating to waiving of all institutional credits owed by the farmers in affected districts of Vidarbha region, strengthening the Development Board of Vidarbha, Distribution of appropriate seeds, disciplining unlicensed money lenders, Streamline Institutional credit flow etc.

(c) & (d): Based on the recommendation of the Fact Finding Committee on Vidarbha, a rehabilitation package for 6 affected districts of Vidarbha region was announced by the Prime Minister on 1st July, 2006 amounting to Rs. 3873.26 crore. The status of progress in implementation of Package, as on 30th September, 2009 in respective of various programmes is as follows:

Progress in implementation of package (as on 30th September, 2009)

(Rs.in crore)

A. Credit related measures

Loans to be rescheduled as Loans rescheduled per package		
Amount	No. of	Amount
Accounts		
Debt relief to farmers	1,296.00	937,000 1418

Interest Waiver	Overdue interest to be	Overdue interest waived
	waived	

837.5 837.5

Credit Flow	Target	Disbursement	Target	2009-10	Disbursement as on
2008-09	30.07.09				
2401.8	1250.89	2635.61	3141.42		

(Rs. in crore)

B. Assured Irrigation Facilities

Allocation	Progress				
Physical	Financial	Physical	Expendit-	Release by	
Achievement	ure by	ure by	Government	State Govt. of India	
Major and	17	1728.58	17	1893.96	1209.79
Medium					
Irrigation					

Allocation under	Progress				
package	Physical	Financial	Physical	Expendit-	Sanctioned
Achievement	ure by	ure by	ure by	ure by	ure by
Minor	State Govt.	NABARD	State Govt.	NABARD	State Govt.
Minor	557	48.68	557	790.93	701.43
Irrigation					

(Rs. in crore)

C. Watershed Development

Allocation under	Progress				
package	Physical	Financial	Physical	Amount	Amount
Achievement	Sanctioned	released	by NABARD	by State	Government
Check Dams	9000	180.00	9068	151.50	176.21

Allocation under	Progress				
package	Physical	Financial	Physical	Sanctioned	by
Watershed	(lakh ha)	(lakh ha)	(lakh ha)	(lakh ha)	NABARD
Development					
Pogramme	2.70	162.00	0.163	39.09	

Allocation under	Progress				
package	Physical	Financial	Physical	Financial	Financial
Rain Water	Harvesting	Scheme	18000	18.00	18000
Scheme	18000	18.00	18000	18.00	

(Rs. in crore)

D. Seed Replacement Programme

Allocation Package	Seeds Agency	supplied Qty (lac qtls)	Releases during 2006-07 to 2008-09	Amt. Utilized
180.00	NSC/Mahara	14.07	180.00	201.07
shtra State Seeds Corporation				

(Rs. in crore)

Allocation under package	Physical	Financial	Progress Release by State Govt.	Expenditure by GoI

E. Micro Irrigation	0.534	78	0.989	112.93	113.19
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Allocation under package	2006-07 Release#	2007-08 Exp\$	2008-09 Release#	2009-10 Exp\$

F. Horticulture Development	225	46.88	28.14	29.23	28.83	86.45	61.32
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Allocation under package	2006-07 Release#	2007-08 Exp\$	2008-09 Release#	2009-10 Exp\$			
G. Extension Services	3	3.83	3.82	3.64	2.68	3.65	3.84

#Release by Government of India;

\$ Expenditure by State Government

H. Subsidiary Income

Allocation under the package	2006-07 Alloca- tion	2007-08 Release#	2008-09 Alloca- tion	2009-10 Release#	Expn.			
	98.87	32.78	17.49	29.61	19.27	30.97	17.16	59.05

Physical progress (as per statement): Subsidiary Income

- # 20210 milch animals inducted.
- # 11424 calves enrolled
- # 11028.88 MT supplied
- # 2 fodder block making units set up
- # 32 units of chilling units set up
- # 90 ponds completed (101.94 ha)

Modification in the Rehabilitation Package

The following modifications in the Rehabilitation Package have been approved by the Government of India in October, 2008.

- (i) Extension of period for implementation of non-credit component by two more years i.e. up to 30th September, 2011.
  - (ii) 'In principle approval' for provision of need based additional financial support to concern Ministries/Departments.
  - (iii) Increase in per farmer area limit under seed replacement programme from one hectare to two hectare.
  - (iv) Adoption of 'Cafeteria Approach' for participatory watershed development programmes in accordance with the common guidelines approved by NRAA and subject to the condition that financial assistance will be as per the approved norms of WDF.
  - (v) Inclusion of 'Women Farmers' empowerment programme under extension services.
  - (vi) Constitution of Empowered Committee headed by Secretary, Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying & Fisheries and consisting of representatives from Department of Agriculture & Cooperation, Planning Commission and Ministry of Finance as members for taking decision regarding modification or inclusion of new components under subsidiary income activities subject to the total financial implication remaining within the existing approved outlay for the concerned State
- (e): Does not arise.