

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6665
ANSWERED ON:07.05.2015
DROUGHT PRONE AREA PROGRAMME
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Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of drought mitigating measures taken under Drought Prone Area Programme (DPAP); and
(b) the extent to which people have been benefited through the above programme, State/UT-wise?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUDARSHAN BHAGAT)

(a) & (b): The Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP), Desert Development Programme (DDP) and Integrated Wasteland Development Programme (IWDP) have been integrated and consolidated into a single modified programme called Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) and launched in 2009-10 for the development of rainfed and degraded areas in all States and UTs. The projects under IWMP are selected based upon certain criteria for prioritization. While sanctioning of the projects due weightage is given to the identified Drought Prone areas and it is one of the main criteria for allocation of areas for the treatment under the IWMP. The major activities undertaken under IWMP since its inception in 2009-10 inter alia include preparation of Detailed Project Reports, institution and 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 assetless persons and production system & micro enterprises for small and marginal farmers.

Under IWMP, a total of 8214 projects covering an area of 39.069 m. ha have been sanctioned and Central Share of Rs.1 1,032.20 crore have been released to the states for implementation of these projects (as on 31.03.2015). These projects are at various stages of implementation. IWMP has now been converted as the Watershed Component of the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayi Yojana (PMK.SY). However, at the initiative of Department of Land Resources (DoLR), the National Institute of Rural Development (NIRD), Hyderabad has completed the impact assessment of watershed projects sanctioned under DPAP, DDP and IWDP during the period of 1s April, 2002 to 31st March, 2005. The study was taken up in 947 completed watershed projects spread over 169 districts in 17 States in 2011. The major findings of the study (all the data included in the report are averages of a watershed of 500 ha area) are as under:

- # Groundwater table increased by 1.2 m
- # Drinking water availability increased from 68% to 82%
- # Soil erosion reduced by 40%
- # On an average of watershed, 48.5 ha. of cultivable wastelands brought under plough
- # Additional area of 26 ha. under rainfed farming and 46 ha. under irrigation
- # Up to 65 ha area was improved under vegetative cover
- # Overall Milk production increased by 25.64%
- # Household income increased by 54%