

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
RURAL DEVELOPMENT  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:814

ANSWERED ON:03.12.2015

National Watershed Management Project

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

- (a) whether the Government has implemented the World Bank assisted National Watershed Management Project "Neeranchal" in the country, if so, the details of the project including the total outlay and the expected period of completion, State/UT-wise;
- (b) the States identified for implementing the project along with the criteria fixed for selection of States in this regard and the reasons for leaving behind certain States from the project;
- (c) the funds allocated, released and utilized thereunder during each of the last three years and the current year, State/UT-wise;
- (d) the details of the machinery available and the provisions made to carry out the work under the said scheme, State/UT-wise; and
- (e) the details of benefits likely to be accrued to various States under the scheme, State/UT-wise?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT  
(SHRI SUDARSHAN BHAGAT)

- (a) : The Government of India has approved the World Bank Assisted National Watershed Project "Neeranchal" on 7.10.2015 with an outlay of Rs. 2142.30 crore. The duration of the project is between 2015-16 to 2020-21. The project would be implemented through four components as per the approved Project Appraisal Document (PAD). The components are Central Institutional and Capacity Building; National Innovation Support; Implementation Support in participating States and Project Management & Coordination.
- (b) : The project will be implemented in 9 States viz. Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Rajasthan and Telangana. Neeranchal will also support some activities across all the States. Some components of the project will be demonstrated in selected sites of these 9 States. These States were selected based on the extent of rainfed agricultural area. These States cover around 60% of the total rainfed area and are contiguous to each other covering various agro-climatic zones.
- (c) : As the project has been approved only during October 2015, no funds have been allocated, released and utilized during the last three years including the current year to the States.
- (d) : The Neeranchal project would be implemented by the State Level Nodal Agencies (SLNAs) set up in each State. The tentative allocation to each project State is around Rs 202.42 crore during the entire duration of the project.
- (e) : As a Technical Assistance project, Neeranchal will strengthen the existing structures, systems and translate into better implementation outcomes of the PMKSY. The programme will lead to reduced surface runoff of rainwater, increased recharge of ground water and better availability of water in rainfed areas resulting in incremental rainfed agriculture productivity, increased cropping intensity and enhanced incomes through better convergence of related programmes in the project areas.

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