

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5327
ANSWERED ON:14.08.2014
WATERSHED DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME
Venkatesh Babu Shri T.G.

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the present status of implementation of Watershed Development Programme in the country;
- (b) whether the Government has any proposal to start a new programme 'Neeranchal' to give impetus to watershed development in the country;
- (c) if so, the salient features of the programme and the funds earmarked for the purpose; and
- (d) the time by which the above programme is likely to be implemented in the country and the extent to which it will be helpful to the State of Tamil Nadu?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI UPENDRA SCUSHWAHA)

(a): The Department of Land Resources is implementing the Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) w.e.f. 2009-10, As on 31.03.2014, the Department has sanctioned 7204 projects covering an area of 34.26 million hectares and has released Rs.8747.55 crore as central share to the States under IWMP.

(b): Yes, Madam.

(c) & (d): 'Neeranchal' is a World Bank assisted national watershed management project. The objective of the programme is to support IWMP through technical assistance to improve incremental conservation outcomes and agricultural yields for communities in selected sites and adoption of more effective processes and technologies into the broader IWMP in participating project States. The project would be implemented through four components namely; Central Institutional and Capacity Building, National Innovation Support, IWMP Implementation Support in Participating States and Project Management and Coordination. Neeranchal is designed to add value to all aspects of IWMP and cater to the specific requirements of nine states of Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Rajasthan and Telengana. The total outlay of project is Rs. 2142 crores. The duration of the project is 6 years from 2014-15 to 2019-20. Certain software, models and systemic innovations such as for planning, capacity building, Information, Education & Communication (IEC), Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E), financial management developed within Neeranchal could be applied to all the 28 IWMP states including Tamil Nadu.