

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1428
ANSWERED ON:28.11.2000
MOHAN DHARIA COMMITTEE REPORT .
Y.G. MAHAJAN

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Mohan Dharia Committee on Wasteland Development has submitted its report;
- (b) if so, the details of recommendations made by the Committee; and
- (c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA)

(a) The Mohan Dharia Committee constituted in November 1994 had submitted its report to the Government on 8th December 1995.

(b)&(c) The main recommendations of the Committee and action taken by Government thereon are as under: -

Sl.No. Recommendations Action taken by Government

(i) Perspective Plans for proper water, land use and wastelands development be prepared by the States.

Report of the Committee was sent to States for implementation of its recommendations. They were specifically requested to prepare necessary 10-15 years Perspective Plans for proper water, land use and wastelands development.

(ii) To have all afforestation, wastelands development, soil and water conservation and related schemes, under a suitably structured and empowered coordinating authority at the Centre and in States. To create a separate Department of Land Resources to treat non-forest and forest wasteland under the same authority. A separate Department of Land Resources has since been created in the Ministry of Rural Development to deal with all the Area Development Schemes namely IWDP, DDP and DPAP to have close coordination and development of degraded lands.

(iii) Reclamation of waterlogged and saline soils.

Seven pilot projects have since been sanctioned in the States of Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan and Orissa for development of waterlogged and saline soils.

(iv) Greater involvement of women at every level for development of wastelands.

Common Guidelines for Watershed Development applicable to IWDP, DPAP and DDP were modified to provide that one-third of the members of the Watershed Committee should be women.

(v) Review of flood control and water policy relating to both surface and ground water. The Ministry of Water Resources had informed that more and more emphasis was being placed on the measures like flood forecasting, flood proofing, and flood plain zoning which would result in reduction in flood losses. A model bill had also been prepared and revised and circulated by Ministry of Water Resources to all States to control and regulate the development of ground water. The Central Ground Water Board which has been revamped and revitalized by strengthening it, has also prepared a manual on artificial recharge of ground water.