

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4660
ANSWERED ON:23.04.2002
DEVELOPMENT OF WASTELAND
PRABHUNATH SINGH

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether despite spending hundreds of crores of rupees during 1991-2001 and taking lakhs of hectares of wasteland for development under various programmes, only a fraction thereof has been developed;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. P A TIL)

(a) to (c) : Department of Land Resources in the Ministry of Rural Development is implementing the Integrated Wastelands Development Programme (IWDP) for treating wastelands and degraded lands through insitu soil and moisture conservation measures with the help of active community participation. Projects under the programme are generally implemented over a period of five years. Keeping in view the budget allocations, projects for treating 34.04 lakh ha. have been sanctioned under the Programme from 1991-92 to 2000-01 against the estimated wastelands of about 638.5 lakh ha. in the country. Thus the intervention under this Programme for treating the wastelands and degraded lands is at a very small level considering the magnitude of the problem. Moreover, majority of these projects were sanctioned after 1998-99 and their impact will be known only after their completion. Further, the Department has been making conscious efforts to sanction more and more projects every year for treating the degraded lands and wastelands. Projects for treating 18.04 lakh hectares were sanctioned during 1999-2000 and 2000-01 only against the sanctioned area of 16.00 lakh ha. in previous eight years from 1991-92 to 1998-99.