

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
RURAL DEVELOPMENT  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1384  
ANSWERED ON:23.07.2002  
CAG REPORT ON WATERSHED DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME  
PRABHUNATH SINGH

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

(a) whether the CAG carried out an extensive survey in its Report No.3 of 1999 on pages 98 onwards in para 3.6 on soil conservation, land shaping and development, water resource conservation and development, afforestation and pasture, fodder and grass land development to mitigate the adverse effects of droughts and developing the ecologically disadvantaged areas; and

(b) if so, the action taken by the ministry to modify the programme to integrate the large number of area development programmes for achieving greater focus and accountability?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL):

(a) and (b) Yes Sir. Prior to 1995-96, the Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP) was being implemented on sectoral basis. Sectoral schemes were being implemented in a dispersed manner and independent of each other, which resulted in the lack of any perceptible impact. As such, the programme content and methodology have been modified and the programme is being implemented on watershed basis for holistic and integrated development of the programme areas with community participation in accordance with the Guidelines for Watershed Development w.e.f. 1.4.1995. In this approach, watershed projects with emphasis on activities like soil conservation; land shaping and development; water resource conservation and development; pasture, fodder and grass land development and afforestation etc. are being taken up as per the requirements and needs of the local people. Keeping in view the experience of implementing agencies etc. over the years, the Guidelines have further been revised in September 2001 for a focussed approach in watershed development; greater role of Panchayati Raj Institutions and Self Help Groups of the rural poor especially those belonging to Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes, establishing credit linkage with financial institutions and provision of probation period for the projects, exit protocol for Project Implementing Agencies, Supplementary Observation Mechanism etc.