

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:130
ANSWERED ON:23.07.2003
SOFTWARE FOR DEVELOPMENT OF WATERSHED PROGRAMMES
KAMBALAPADU E. KRISHNAMURTHY

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a new software has been evolved for the management and development of Watersheds;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the details of the packages supplied so far to various States, particularly in Andhra Pradesh?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SHANTA KUMAR):

(a) to (c) A CD-ROM on `Watershed Management, Information & Training System (WITS)` was prepared by the Department of Land Resources (Ministry of Rural Development) through the National Informatics Centre (NIC), CDs of which were sent to State Governments (including Andhra Pradesh), the State Institutes of Rural Development and Extension Training Centres in May/June 2001.

2. A Supplementary Observation Mechanism has been introduced from the year, 2002-03, for Watershed Development Projects for tracking the pace and quality of the implementation of the Projects; this mechanism will be in the nature of Management Information System (MIS) and for generating Real Time On-Line information about the Projects under implementation, on a regular basis. A number of projects have also been sanctioned, based on remote sensing/GIS, for generating data base/ models for Wasteland Development Projects and for preparation of Action Plans through Remote Sensing and GIS for land and water resources, as detailed below:-

(i) A Wastelands Atlas of India was released in May, 2000 containing information on various categories of Wastelands at the District level.

(ii) A project on Digitization of Wasteland Data, including demarcation of watershed boundaries upto 500 hectares, has been completed,

(iii) Projects on use of Remote Sensing and GIS for the preparation of Action Plans for land and water resources have been sanctioned to the National Remote Sensing Agency (NRSA), Hyderabad, the State Remote Sensing Application Centre, Jodhpur and the National Informatics Centre, New Delhi,

(iv) A GIS Based Model for Development of Watersheds` has been prepared for 6 Pilot Watersheds in the Districts of Etah (Uttar Pradesh), Udaipur (Rajasthan), Salem (Tamil Nadu), Pune (Maharashtra), Gangtok (Sikkim) and Raipur (Chhattisgarh) containing spatial and non-spatial information of the project areas. The application package so developed was sent to the District Rural Development Agencies (DRDAs) concerned for being used in the particular Watersheds.