

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
RURAL DEVELOPMENT  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2481  
ANSWERED ON:19.03.2002  
WATERSHED DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME  
BRAJ MOHAN RAM;SAVSHIBHAI MAKWANA

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

- (a) the number of proposals received under Watershed Development Programme during the last three years and the current year, especially from drought hit areas of the country, State-wise;
- (b) the number of projects pending under the programme State-wise; and
- (c) the time by which these pending projects are likely to be cleared?

**Answer**

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

(a) to(c)The Department of Land Resources is implementing three Programmes, namely, Integrated Wastelands Development Programme (IWDP), Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP) and Desert Development Programme (DDP) for development/treatment of wastelands/degraded lands in accordance with the Guidelines for Watershed Development. The project proposals under DPAP/DDP are not invited from the State Governments but are sanctioned by the Department of Land Resources in the identified Development Blocks while projects under IWDP are invited from the State Governments.

Under IWDP, the project proposals are prioritized in consultation with the State Governments on year to year basis for sanction during a financial year since 1999-2000. The pending project proposals which are not sanctioned in a financial year are also considered for prioritisation during the next financial year in consultation with the State Government. The pending project proposals which do not find a place in the priority list, are then returned to the State Governments. The number of prioritized project proposals received and sanctioned under IWDP during the last three years (1998-99 to 2000-2001) and the current financial year i.e. 2001-2002 are given in the enclosed Statement.

New projects are generally sanctioned in a year keeping in view the funds available for the programme, after meeting the liability for the ongoing projects, progress made in ongoing projects, spread of treatable wastelands in the State, implementation capacity etc. and conformity of project proposals with the Guidelines for Watershed Development. Since sanction of project proposals depends on many factors such as budget available, conformity of project proposals with the Guidelines, progress in the ongoing projects etc., no firm time limit can be indicated.