

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2392
ANSWERED ON:03.12.2002
WATERSHED DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS IN TRIBAL AREAS
ALE NARENDRA

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of Watershed Development Projects set up in the country so far, State-wise;
- (b) whether these projects have been able to achieve the objectives for which they are set up;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the number out of these projects set up in the tribal areas of the country and the amount spent thereon, State-wise;
- (e) whether some of these projects are in defunct condition;
- (f) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor. State-wise; and
- (g) the steps taken by the Government in this regard ?

Answer

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

(a) to (g) The Department of Land Resources in the Ministry of Rural Development is implementing viz. three programmes the Integrated Wastelands Development Programme (IWDP), Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP) and Desert Development Programme (DDP) in the country in accordance with Guidelines for Watershed Development on watershed approach w.e.f. 1.4.1995 to develop wastelands/degraded lands in the country including tribal areas particularly those having acute shortage of drinking water, large population of Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes/small and marginal farmers/ landless labourers/people living below the poverty line and preponderance of non-forest wastelands/degraded lands etc. The Programmes aim at checking land degradation, putting such lands into productive use and increasing the availability of bio-mass specially fuel wood and fodder. Based on the feedback received in the Department, completed projects have been able to achieve the objectives for which these were sanctioned. State-wise number of watershed projects sanctioned and the total funds released for their implementation are given in the statement enclosed.

There is an inbuilt system for monitoring the implementation of the projects sanctioned under the Programme through quarterly/annual progress reports. Funds are released in a phased manner on the basis of utilization certificates, audited statements of accounts etc. There is also a system of mid-term evaluation of the projects through independent agencies/evaluators. In addition, the officers of the Department of Land Resources also visit project areas for on the spot inspection/ assessment. No such report indicating defunct position of any project has come to the notice of the Department. However, if implementation of a particular project is found to be not upto the mark, the same is foreclosed.