

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3213
ANSWERED ON:10.12.2002
DROUGHT PRONE AREA PROGRAMME
PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR;VIRENDRA KUMAR

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the total drought prone areas in the country during 1950 to 2000, especially in the Western part of India;
- (b) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to solve this problem;
- (c) the amount spent to contain drought in the country during the Ninth Five Year Plan;
- (d) whether the Government have launched any new project under DPAP in various States during 2001-2002 and 2002-2003; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof, State-wise?

Answer

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

- (a) The Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP) was launched during 1973-74 to cover 54 districts together with part of another 18 districts contiguous with them. In 1994 a High Level Technical Committee by adopting a scientific criteria, reviewed the extent of drought prone areas in the country. Presently the programme has coverage of 74.6 million hectare spread over 182 districts in 16 States. The Western States of Maharashtra and Gujarat are covered under the programme and the drought prone area identified under these two States is 19.45 million hectares and 4.39 million hectares respectively.
- (b) The DPAP was being implemented on sectoral basis and during this period an area of 5.71 million hectares was treated. From 1995-96, the programme is being implemented on watershed basis and 16268 watershed projects for treatment of 8.13 million hectares have been sanctioned.
- (c) During Ninth Five Year Plan the Central Government released a amount of Rs. 668.16 Crores under the Drought Prone Areas Programme, as given in the statement enclosed.
- (d) and (e) Under DPAP, 2052 projects and 2478 projects were sanctioned in 2001-2002 and 2002-2003 respectively, as shown in the statement enclosed.