

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:443
ANSWERED ON:22.04.2003
WASTELAND DEVELOPMENT PROJECT
DALPAT SINGH PARASTE

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of projects being implemented by various agencies under the Wasteland Development Programme alongwith funds released for the purpose during the last five years. State-wise;
- (b) whether the Government have involved the local Members of Parliament in monitoring the works under the programme;
- (c) whether the Government have received any complaints that the concerned Members of Parliament are not consulted in this regard; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION AND MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
ANANTH KUMAR):

(a) to (d) The Department of Land Resources in the Ministry of Rural Development is implementing an Integrated Wastelands Development Programme (IWDP) on watershed basis in accordance with the Guidelines for Watershed Development w.e.f. 1.4.1995. Under this Programme, the project districts are prioritized in the beginning of the financial year in consultation with the State Governments. Thereafter, the project proposals for prioritized districts are prepared by the Zilla Panchayats (ZPs)/District Rural Development Agencies (DRDAs) and submitted to this Department for sanction during the year. The projects are sanctioned in favour of ZPs/DRDAs and Central funds are released to them for implementation of the projects. The Project Implementing Agencies (PIAs) viz various Government departments, voluntary agencies/NGOs, Institutes etc. are nominated by the ZPs/DRDAs. In all, 401 projects covering an area of 34.69 lakh hectares at a total cost of Rs. 1834.65 crores have been sanctioned under the Programme during the last five years i.e. 1998-99 to 2002-03, out of which, Rs.500.81 crores have been released till 31.3.2003 for the implementation of these projects. The details of funds released under IWDP during the last five years-(1998-99 to 2002-03), State-wise, are contained in the enclosed statement.

2. The programme has an inbuilt monitoring mechanism which involves experts in this sector. However, the Ministry has recently constituted Vigilance and Monitoring Committees at the State/District level. A Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha) representing the District has been nominated as the Chairman of the District level Committee, depending upon the geographical area represented by him in the District. Other MPs (Lok Sabha) representing the District have been nominated as Vice-Chairmen. One MP (Rajya Sabha) is also to be nominated as Vice-Chairman of the District level Committee of his choice. These committees are empowered to look into and monitor all the schemes of the Ministry including the above scheme.