

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2660
ANSWERED ON:12.12.2005
PROBLEMS OF RAJASTHAN
Kaushal Shri Raghuvir Singh

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the problems facing by Rajasthan like fluoride content in water in rural areas, increasing desert, scarcity of agricultural land, limited irrigation resources and drought like situation every year;
- (b) if so, the details of the steps taken by the Government for the solution of these problems during the last three years and the current year;
- (c) whether in view of the above circumstances the Government proposes to include Rajasthan in the category of special States receiving financial assistance;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether request has also been received from State Government in this regard; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof alongwith the action proposed/taken thereon?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH)

(a) to (f): The Government of India, Ministry of Rural Development is implementing a project on Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP) throughout the country, including the State of Rajasthan. Under this programme, Ten percent of the total allocated amount is being utilized for prevention of contamination of water in rural areas from the fluoride and arsenic.

Central Arid Zone Research Institute (CAZRI), Jodhpur, Rajasthan an institute under the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has concluded that Watershed Development Programmes are one of the ways and means for combating desertification, rainwater management through watershed approach. In view of these, the Government of India is implementing various Watershed Development Programmes, namely,

- (i) National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas (NWDPA),
- (ii) Soil Conservation for Enhancing Productivity of Degraded Lands in the Catchments of River Valley Project and Flood Prone River (RVP & FPR),
- (iii) Reclamation of Alkali Soil (RAS),
- (iv) Watershed Development Project in Shifting Cultivation Areas (WDPSCA),
- (v) Drought Prone Area Programme (DPAP),
- (vi) Desert Development Programmes (DDP) and
- (vii) Integrated Wasteland Development Programme (IWDP) for conservation of soil and rain water and thereby mitigating ill effect of drought and further expansion of desertification in the country including Rajasthan. Under these programmes, since inception upto March 2005, an area of 28.533 million ha, has been developed with expenditure of Rs. 14577.32 crore. The achievements of the major programmes in last three years (2002-05) for Rajasthan are as under:

Name of programmes Achievements
Phy. (lakh ha.) Fin. In Rs. lakh

NWDPA	2.05	9807.00
RVP & FPR	0.68	4998.00
RAS	0.13	171.50
DDP	11.94	287.66

DPAP	1.53	49.84
IWDP	0.90	49.90
Total	17.23	15363.90

These programmes are under implementation during the current year also. For increasing irrigation potential, Government of India, Ministry of Water Resources, has started an Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) in the country including Rajasthan. Under this programme, the grant component was introduced in the year 2004-05 with 70% loan and 30% grant for non special category States and 90% grant and 10% loan for special category States. The relaxations made also include inclusion of Extension, Renovation & Modernization (ERM) projects on a selective basis, minor irrigation schemes with potential more than hundred hectares with preference to tribal areas and drought prone areas which wholly benefiting dalits and adivasis, the drought prone areas, tribal areas and flood prone areas in the country to be identified in consultation with Planning Commission to be treated at par with special category States for funding etc.