

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PLANNING
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1075
ANSWERED ON:01.03.2006
SOIL EROSION IN WESTERN GHAT
Veerendra Kumar Shri M.P.

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Western Ghat particularly the Malabar area has been experiencing high rate of soil erosion; and
- (b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to check the soil erosion in the Western Ghat?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN)

(a): Yes, Sir. The State Government of Kerala has reported that high rate of soil erosion has been reported in Malabar area during the monsoon season.

(b): The Western Ghats Development Programme (WGDP) is in operation in designated talukas of the Western Ghats including the Malabar region with the main objectives of eco- preservation and eco-restoration. The basic thrust is on watershed based development so as to ensure a holistic view of water and land resources and to prevent further degradation of these ecological fragile areas. The State Government of Kerala has reported that they are giving top priority to check the soil erosion in the Western Ghats by emphasizing on Watershed programmes. They are providing grants to selected watershed projects to check soil erosion through soil conservation measures like contour bunds, stone bunds, check dams, trenching for ordinary soil, planting trees, etc. under Western Ghats Development Programme and other measures suggested by Watershed Committee of areas where soil erosion is common during the monsoon seasons.