

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
RURAL DEVELOPMENT  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:75  
ANSWERED ON:17.02.2006  
WATERSHED DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES  
Chowdhury Shri Adhir Ranjan

**Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Government proposed to bring all the watershed development programmes under single umbrella for the purpose of implementation;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the total degraded land area rehabilitated since implementation of these programmes till date;
- (d) whether NABARD has also set up a special fund for watershed development programmes;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the progress made through utilization of this fund in the current financial year?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. NARENDRA)

(a) & (b) The Department of Land Resources under the Ministry of Rural Development submitted a Cabinet Note on the unification of all land based programmes being implemented by Ministry of Agriculture, Planning Commission and Ministry of Rural Development on 1.10.2003, which was listed for discussion on 7.1.2004. However, the agenda was deferred. A fresh Cabinet Note was again prepared by the Department for approval but it was not pursued further in view of setting up of an Inter- Ministerial Task Group under Planning Commission on the issue by the Government. The Task Group recognized the need to bring all watershed projects under one Ministry and implement them in a Mission mode. Alternatively, the Group recommended that a separate Mission under the Prime Minister might be created with mini-missions under the Ministries of Agriculture, Rural Development, Environment & Forests and Water Resources.

(c) Land treated under the watershed development programmes of the Department of Land Resources in the Ministry of Rural Development and the schemes of the Ministry of Agriculture is about 268.10 lakh ha.

(d) & (e) A Watershed Development Fund (WDF) has been established at NABARD since 1999-2000 with a total corpus of Rs. 200 crores which includes Rs. 100 crores by NABARD and a matching contribution of Rs. 100 crores by the Department of Agriculture, Government of India, with the objective of integrated watershed development in 100 priority districts through participatory approach. The fund will be utilized to create the necessary framework conditions to replicate and consolidate the isolated success initiatives under different watershed development programmes in the government, the semi-government and the NGO sectors. Two-third of the allocation from the fund will be loans to the State Governments at an interest rate of 4.5% for watershed development and the remaining one-third will be for grant based activities covering promotional efforts and capacity building. The repayment period of the loan will be 9 years including grace period of 3 years. At present, 11 States are effectively participating in this process viz. Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Rajasthan, Chhatisgarh, Orissa, Jharkhand and West Bengal.

(f) The achievements as on 31.12.2005 are given below:

(i) sanctioning of 390 projects (44 grant and 346 loan component) under Capacity Building Phase (CBP) with a grant assistance of Rs. 1919.38 lakh covering an area of 35895.32 hectares.

(ii) A total number of 201 projects (21 grant and 180 loan) were sanctioned involving a grant assistance of Rs. 188.56 lakh for preparation of Project Feasibility Report (FR).

116 projects have graduated into Full Implementing Phase (FIP) which include 92 loan projects with a loan assistance of Rs. 4310.5 lakh and 24 grant projects with a grant assistance of Rs. 1092.10 lakh.