

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
RURAL DEVELOPMENT  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3256  
ANSWERED ON:12.05.2006  
PARTHASARTHY COMMITTEE REPORT ON WATERSHED PROGRAMMES  
Verma Shri Ravi Prakash

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

- (a) whether the Parthasarthy Committee set up to review the implementation of Centrally Sponsored Watershed Programmes has submitted its report to the Government as reported in The Hindu dated April 28, 2006;
- (b) if so, the details of the recommendations made by the said Committee; and
- (c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to implement these recommendations in toto ?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (A. NARENDRA)

(a) to (c) The Parthasarthy Committee on Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP), Desert Development Programme (DDP) and Integrated Wastelands Development Programme (IWDP) has submitted its report to the Ministry on 31.3.2006. The main recommendations of the Committee are listed in the Annexure. The recommendations are being examined by the Ministry.

Annexure

Annexure referred to in reply to parts (a) to (c) of the Lok Sabha Question No.3256 due for answer on 12.05.2006

Main Recommendations of Parthasarthy Committee

- (i) An increased thrust to rainfed areas through greater emphasis on a reformed, more intensive and improved watershed development programme for meeting the food and water security in future.
- (ii) Increased investment in watershed programme and convergence with National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme.
- (iii) Setting up a National Authority for Sustainable Development of Rainfed Areas (NASDORA) as a quasi-independent authority to manage the entire primarily Central Government funded watershed programmes under one umbrella with a view to implementing them on a Mission Mode.
- (iv) In line institutional structures to NASDORA at State, district and block levels to ensure complete coordination in effective delivery of programme, and at village level, Watershed programme may be executed and implemented by the Village Watershed Committee (VWC) as a standing committee of the Gram Panchayat (GP).
- (v) The project period may be increased from 5 years to 8 years and divided into three phases - preparatory phase of 2-year, second phase of resource augmentation and institution building of 4 year, and the third phase of sustainable livelihoods and productivity enhancement of 2-years
- (vi) The per-year per-hectare norm of Rs.1500.
- (vii) A separate monitoring agency under NASDORA for social, physical and financial audit of the programme. Committee proposes a separate head of expenditure Impact Assessment, Monitoring and Research.
- (viii) The report stresses on ensuring social and economic equity and benefits from public land must be reserved for landless and dalits having them organized in SHGs and their federations for effective marketing of produce. Close attention needs to be paid to developing common lands for livelihoods and making sure that landless/dalit access to them is ensured.
- (ix) There has to be clear prioritisation of objectives - drinking water and protective irrigation, along with fodder and fuel must come first
- (x) What is required is to find ways of not just increasing water supply but much more critically reducing demand and regulating end-uses. For this a package of sustainable dryland agriculture practices must be mandatorily incorporated into the watershed programme.

(xi) Livestock management, animal husbandry, dairying fisheries and other land based activities must be integrated in watershed development programmes.