

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PLANNING
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4208
ANSWERED ON:25.08.2004
CENTRAL ASSISTANCE TO HRDS
Pingle Shri Devidas Anandrao

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of districts of the country, particularly of Maharashtra, covered under the Hilly Region Development Scheme (HRDS);
- (b) the criteria fixed for providing special Central assistance to various districts covered under this scheme;
- (c) whether any evaluation / study has been conducted to assess the impact of HRDS during the Tenth Five Year Plan;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the funds allocated for HRDS in the current budget ?

Answer

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

(a) : The Hill Area Development Programme (HADP) covers two districts of Assam, one district of Tamil Nadu and one district of West Bengal and the Western Ghats Development Programme(WGDP) covers 171 talukas of Western Ghats Region comprising Goa (3 talukas in 1 district), Karnataka (40 talukas in 11 districts), Kerala (32 talukas in 13 districts), Maharashtra (63 talukas in 11 districts) and Tamil Nadu (33 talukas in 8 districts).

(b): Special Central Assistance is being apportioned between the designated hill districts and Western Ghats talukas in the ratio of 60:40. The Special Central Assistance is being allocated to the States covered under these programmes on the basis of area and population with equal weightage in the case of HADP and 75% weightage to area and 25% weightage to population in the case of WGDP.

(c) & (d): Evaluation Studies of WGDP of Goa and Kerala have been conducted during the Tenth Five Year Plan period. The Studies highlight the impact of WGDP in sectors such as agriculture, soil conservation, watershed development, horticulture, animal husbandry, forestry and minor irrigation. The findings of the studies indicate that the watershed approach has been followed to a great extent. The findings also indicate that the productivity and production of different production systems, namely, crops, livestock, etc. have increased in the region.

(e) : An amount of Rs.160 crore has been allocated under HADP/WGDP in the current financial year (2004-05).