

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:523
ANSWERED ON:25.11.2005
WATERSHED DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS
Majhi Shri Parsuram

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of watershed development projects launched in the country as on date and the amount spent thereon, State-wise;
- (b) whether these watershed projects have achieved desired results;
- (c) if so, the extent thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the steps taken to plug loopholes so that the main objectives of launching these projects are achieved?

Answer

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

(a) The Department of Land Resources is implementing three Area Development Programmes namely Integrated Wastelands Development Programme (IWDP), Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP) and Desert Development Programme (DDP) on watershed basis in the country. Since 1.4.1995, 1225 IWDP, 24353 DPAP and 13476 DDP projects have been sanctioned to the States. State-wise funds released to these projects from 1.4.1995 till 18.11.2005 is given in Annexure.

(b)& (c) Yes, Sir. The Impact Evaluation Studies carried out for completed projects in 16 States have revealed that overall productivity of land has increased, water table has gone up and there has been a significant positive impact on overall economic development of the inhabitants of the project areas.

(d) Monitoring of projects is carried out regularly through quarterly progress reports, auditing of yearly accounts, Mid-term evaluations by independent evaluators, visits of the Area Officers, National Level Monitors and through the constituted Vigilance and Monitoring Committees of Monitoring Division of the Ministry of Rural Development.