

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4111

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Watershed Projects

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Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of watershed projects sanctioned and the amount earmarked/ released and utilised during each of the last three years and the current year indicating their status, State/UT-wise;
- (b) the number of watershed projects pending for approval, State/UT-wise;
- (c) whether the Government has made any evaluation of the watershed projects during 2014-15 if so, the outcome thereof and the details of shortcomings/irregularities found;
- (d) the measures taken/being taken by the Government to overcome these shortcomings/irregularities; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to achieve the targets set for the aforesaid projects?

Answer

(a): The Number of watershed projects sanctioned and the amount released and utilised during each of the last three years and the current year, State/UT-wise under the erstwhile Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) is given at Annexure. As per the Guidelines of the programme, the project duration varies from 4-7 years and the major activities are sequenced into three phases. The Preparatory Phase (1 to 2 years) involves preparation of DPR, Entry Point Activities and Institution & Capacity Building. The Works Phase (2 to 3 years) involves the Watershed Development Works, Livelihood Activities for the assetless persons and Production System & Micro Enterprises. The Consolidation and Withdrawal Phase (1 to 2 years) involves consolidation and completion of various works. Therefore, the projects sanctioned under IWMP so far are at various stages of implementation. Out of the total 3127 projects sanctioned during last three years (2012-13 to 2014-15), 258 projects are in Works Phase and remaining 2869 projects are in Preparatory Phase of implementation. No new watershed project has been sanctioned during current financial year 2015-16. The erstwhile IWMP has been amalgamated as watershed component of the new scheme called Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) from 2015-16.

(b): No watershed project proposal is pending for approval in this Department.

(c) and (d): The Department of Land Resources has not made any evaluation of the watershed projects during 2014-15. However, there is a provision of evaluation of projects by the independent evaluating agencies after completion of every phase of the project i.e. Preparatory Phase, Works Phase and Consolidation & Withdrawal Phase. Only after the submission of a satisfactory evaluation report of the Preparatory Phase along with action taken report on recommendations of the evaluating agency by the State Level Nodal Agency, the Central funds are released by the Department for the implementation of next phase of projects i.e. Works Phase.

(e): The Department has, inter alia, taken following steps to achieve the targets set for the aforesaid projects:

i) Special emphasis on Monitoring and Evaluation of the projects.

ii) Monitoring the progress of works under watershed projects through the instruments of Quarterly Review Meetings, State level Nodal Agency Meetings, Management Information System (MIS), progress reports, utilization certificates, Audited Statement of Accounts.

iii) Holding Regional Review Meetings with State Government officers under the Chairpersonship of Secretary, Department of Land Resources to review the performance of the scheme and progress of works.

iv) Introducing a system of Third party concurrent Monitoring & Evaluation in the States.

v) Utilization of space technology in Monitoring & Evaluation of Watershed Projects through IWMP Bhuwan portal developed by National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC) by the using of following application-

a) 'Srishti' - is a Geographic Information System (GIS) based Geo-portal developed to assist in monitoring, evaluation, change assessment and provide inputs in planning for watershed management and preparation of Detailed Project Reports (DPR).

b) 'Drishti' is the Mobile Application tool to capture data including visuals from the field for real time monitoring of IWMP projects. The tool can also be used for community monitoring of IWMP works.

vi) Insistence on adopting the Public Financial Management System (PFMS) of the Govt. of India.
