

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
RAJYA SABHA
QUESTION NO 15.12.2009
ANSWERED ON
DDP IN ANDHRA PRADESH .

2898

Shri Nandi Yellaiah

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

- (a) the number of blocks and districts in Andhra Pradesh identified as desert area and such land there in hectares;
- (b) the details of the measures taken to conserve land, water, cattle wealth and to preserve ecological balance there under Desert Development Programme (DDP) and results thereof till date; and
- (c) the details of the works to be undertaken there under DDP during the current year?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT

(SHRI SISIR KUMAR ADHIKARI)

(a) In Andhra Pradesh, 16 blocks of Anantapur district covering an area of about 19.136 lakh hectares have been identified as desert area under the Desert Development Programme (DDP).

(b) DDP is an area oriented programme and implemented on watershed basis aiming at mitigating the adverse effects of extreme climatic conditions of desertification. Restoration of ecological balance by harnessing, conserving and developing natural resources i.e. land, water, vegetative cover is the objective. Beginning from the year 1995-96, a total number of 1054 projects (each of nearly 500 ha.) have been sanctioned for which the total central share of Rs. 193.85 crore has been released to the State Government and an area of 4.67 lakh hectare has been treated so far. 110 projects in Anantapur district were sanctioned in 2003 and Mid-Term Evaluation Report, 2006 inter-alia indicates increase in the ground water level, improvement in drinking water availability, rejuvenation of wells, easy availability of fodder for cattle and increase in the milk production in the project area.

(c) Under DDP the district agency is expected to undertake the work relating to construction of water harvesting structures, augmentation of water resources, de-siltation of village tanks for drinking water/irrigation, land development including in-situ soil and moisture conservation measures, afforestation, horticulture & pasture development, crop demonstrations for popularizing new crops/varieties or innovative management practices etc. The scheme of Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP), Desert Development Programme (DDP) and Integrated Wastelands Development Programme (IWDP) have been consolidated into Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) with effect from 1.04.2008.