

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT  
DEPARTMENT OF LAND RESOURCES**

**RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2018  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 20.12.2023**

**Watershed Projects in Tamil Nadu**

**2018. Shri K.R.N. Rajeshkumar:**

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

- (a) the salient features of Watershed Projects;
- (b) the details of the Watershed Projects sanctioned and completed under the Drought Prone Area Programme in the districts of Tamil Nadu during the last five years, year-wise;
- (c) the number and location of Watershed Projects sanctioned and completed in the State of Tamil Nadu; and
- (d) the details of the targets and achievements of these projects towards resolving drinking water shortage in Tamil Nadu?

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT  
(SHRI FAGGAN SINGH KULASTE)**

(a): The salient features of watershed projects implemented by Department of Land Resources, Ministry of Rural Development *inter-alia* are as under:

- i. The Watershed Development Component of Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana follows *ridge to valley approach* for development of rainfed / degraded lands.
- ii. It emphasizes on sustainable livelihood options for asset-less people, also on production system and microenterprises for small & marginal farmers.
- iii. The cost norms for watershed projects are Rs. 22,000/ ha for plain areas, Rs. 28,000/ha for hilly / difficult areas and upto Rs.28000/ ha for Left Wing Extremism /Integrated Action Plan Districts.
- iv. The project duration is 3 to 5 years.
- v. There is a provision of dedicated institution of State Level Nodal Agency (SLNA), Watershed Cell *cum* Data Centre (WCDC), Project Implementing Agency (PIA) and Watershed Committee (WC) at State, District, Project and Village levels, respectively.
- vi. Adoption of Integrating Farming Systems (IFS) approach particularly Agri-Horticulture
- vii. Spring-shed development has been introduced as one of the activities under watershed projects

- viii. Farmers Producers Organization (FPO) has been introduced right from the planning stage of projects.
- ix. Use of Geographical Information System / Remote Sensing Technology for planning and monitoring of projects.

**(b) to (d):** The Department of Land Resources (DoLR) was earlier implementing three area development programmes namely Drought Prone Area Programme (DPAP), Desert Development Programme (DDP) and Integrated Wastelands Development Programme (IWDP) on watershed basis.

These three programmes were integrated and consolidated into a single modified programme called the Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) with effect from 26.02.2009 which was later amalgamated in PMKSY in 2015-16 and named as the Watershed Development Component of the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (WDC-PMKSY).

Under IWMP, 8214 projects were sanctioned in the country upto 2014-15, of which 270 were sanctioned in Tamil Nadu.

Keeping focus on the completion of the sanctioned projects, Government has not sanctioned any new watershed project under WDC-PMKSY 1.0 from 2015-16 onwards in the country including **Tamil Nadu.**

WDC-PMKSY aims for developing rainfed and degraded land in the country. Out of 270 watershed projects being funded by DoLR in Tamil Nadu, as on date, all 270 projects have been reported completed. As per the information of the State, between 2014-15 and 2021-22, 0.51 lakh water harvesting structures have been created / rejuvenated, 1.41 lakh ha additional area has been brought under protective irrigation and 2.86 lakh farmers benefited under WDC-PMKSY 1.0.

Further, The continuation of the scheme as WDC-PMKSY 2.0 has been approved by the Government on 15<sup>th</sup> December, 2021. Under WDC PMKSY 2.0, total 1149 watershed projects have been sanctioned in the country during FY 2021-22 and 2022-23, out of which 28 projects have been sanctioned in **Tamil Nadu.**

As per the information of the State, from 2022-23 to 2023-24 (upto 2<sup>nd</sup> Qtr), 2044 number of water harvesting structures have been created / rejuvenated, 4897 hectare additional area has been brought under protective irrigation and 14,146 farmers benefited under WDC-PMKSY 2.0.

The district-wise details of projects sanctioned and completed under WDC-PMKSY 1.0 and projects sanctioned under WDC-PMKSY 2.0 in Tamil Nadu are given as **Annexure.**

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**Annexure referred to in reply to parts (b) to (d) of Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 2018 for answer on 20.12.2023**

**District-wise details of projects sanctioned and completed under WDC-PMKSY 1.0 and projects sanctioned under WDC-PMKSY 2.0 in Tamil Nadu**

Sl. No.	District	WDC-PMKSY 1.0		WDC-PMKSY 2.0	
		Projects sanctioned during 2009-10 to 2014-15	Projects completed	Projects sanctioned	
				2021-22	2022-23
1	Ariyalur	6	6		
2	Coimbatore	11	11		
3	Cuddalore	11	11		
4	Dharmapuri	12	12	3	1
5	Dindigul	11	11	5	
6	Erode	7	7		
7	Kancheepuram	9	9		
8	Karur	7	7		
9	Krishnagiri	11	11	3	
10	Madurai	9	9		
11	Namakkal	12	12		
12	Perambalur	9	9	3	
13	Pudukottai	13	13		
14	Ramanathapuram	14	14	3	
15	Salem	14	14		
16	Sivagangai	11	11		
17	Theni	8	8		
18	Tuticorin	13	13	7	
19	Trichirappalli	14	14		
20	Thirunelveli	9	9		
21	Tirupur	1	1		
22	Thiruvallur	8	8		
23	Thiruvannamalai	10	10		
24	Vellore	12	12		
25	Villupuram	12	12		
26	Virudhunagar	16	16	3	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>270</b>	<b>270</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>1</b>

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