

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
DEPARTMENT OF SPACE**

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.730**

**TO BE ANSWERED ON WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 07, 2018**

**SOCIAL UPGRADATION IN RURAL AREAS**

**730. SHRI JANARDAN MISHRA:**

**Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Indian space programme has some importance in social upgradation of rural areas;**
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the manner by which it is important; and**
- (c) the efforts made through Indian space programme for the rural and backward areas so far?**

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PG &  
PENSIONS AND IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE**

**(DR. JITENDRA SINGH):**

- (a) Yes, Madam.**
- (b) Indian Space Programme plays a key role in enabling social upgradation of rural areas through space based inputs towards development of wastelands, identification of degraded lands for suitable reclamation measures, assessment of fodder crops**

**for dairy industry, monitoring developmental activities under rural employment guarantee scheme & integrated watershed development programme, space based inputs for ground water, targeting surface waterbodies for tribal districts and monitoring irrigation infrastructure.**

**(c) The efforts made by Indian Space Research Organisation benefitting rural and backward areas so far include:**

- i. Mapping of wastelands (1986-2000, 2005-06, 2008-09 & 2015-16) for enabling prioritisation of watersheds, identification of areas for renewable energy projects and industrial corridor development.**
- ii. Mapping of land degradation (2005-06 & 2015-16), help in prioritisation of development in the rural areas.**
- iii. Prepared and deployed National level groundwater prospects maps, including locations for planning recharge structures, as a support for drinking water requirements for Ministry of Drinking Water & Sanitation.**
- iv. Geospatially enabled monitoring of developmental activities under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), for Ministry of Rural Development.**
- v. Generation of sustainable land and water resources development plans in 180 districts for soil and water conservation and satellite data based monitoring**

**and evaluation of about 86,000 microwatersheds, under Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) for Ministry of Rural Development.**

- vi. Mapping and monitoring of village water bodies for suitability to adopt aquaculture development in the tribal districts as a possible alternative livelihood support.**
- vii. Assessment of fodder crops in Gujarat, Rajasthan and Haryana for enabling sustainability of dairy industry, relevant in rural and backward areas.**

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