

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT OF LAND RESOURCES

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 1608
TO BE ANSWERED ON 26.07.2018

Watershed Projects

1608. SHRI RADHESHYAM BISWAS:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government is not allocating funds for treatment of forest areas which are prioritized as integral part of watershed projects based on the criteria defined by the department itself and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(b) whether non-allocation of funds in this regard would lead to denial of livelihood to the forest dwellers and if so, the details thereof and the strategy devised to tackle the issue;

(c) whether the exclusion would lead to collapse of guiding principal of Common Guidelines, 2008 issued by the Union Government and is likely to result in fragmented, limited and flawed outcomes of watershed programmes;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) whether the Union Government proposes to reconsider its decision and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT

(SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV)

(a): Department of Land Resources has sanctioned 8214 watershed development projects in 28 States (except Goa) [during the period 2009-10 to 2014-15] covering an area of about 39.07 million hectare under Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP). The IWMP was amalgamated as the Watershed Development Component of the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (WDC-PMKSY) principally for development of rainfed portions of net cultivated area and culturable wastelands.

The activities being undertaken through the watershed development projects *inter alia* include ridge area treatment, drainage line treatment, soil and moisture conservation, rain water harvesting, nursery raising, afforestation, horticulture, pasture development, livelihoods for assetless persons, etc. Treatment of forest area in the project is also an integral part of the WDC-PMKSY project guidelines.

Under WDC-PMKSY, the available Central assistance is provided amongst the States *inter-alia* on the basis of number of projects sanctioned, pace of utilisation, Annual Action Plan formulated by the State etc. States further distribute funds (Central share plus State share) amongst the districts / projects as per requirements.

During FY 2017-18, Rs.1691.81 crore was released as Central assistance to States under WDC-PMKSY. During FY 2018-19, Rs.2122.71 crore has been earmarked as Central Assistance for States under project fund of WDC-PMKSY.

(b) to (e): Does not arise.
