

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF PLANNING
LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 93*
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 29.04.2016**

Development of Vidarbha Region

***93 Shri Ramdas Chandrabhanji Tadas**

Will the **Minister of PLANNING** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Facts Finding Committee constituted by the erstwhile Planning Commission to inquire into the causes of slow development of backward areas of Vidarbha has submitted its report;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the major recommendations made by the Committee;
- (c) whether the Government has formulated any action plan to overcome the backwardness of Vidarbha region in the light of the recommendations made in the said report; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR PLANNING (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) AND
MINISTER OF STATE FOR DEFENCE
(RAO INDERJIT SINGH)**

- (a) to (d): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. *93 FOR ANSWER ON APRIL 29, 2016, REGARDING “DEVELOPMENT OF VIDARBHA REGION”.

(a) Yes, Madam.

(b) The Fact Finding Committee had submitted its report on 30th May, 2006. The major recommendations of the Committee *inter alia* included implementation of the programmes for water harvesting and integrated watershed development; organizing crop insurance; waiving outstanding loans of the farmers; improving absorptive capacity of various sectors for incurring expenditure; and improving farmers’ advisory and extension services.

(c) & (d) Based on the recommendations of the Fact Finding Committee on Vidarbha, a Special Rehabilitation Package amounting to Rs. 3873.26 crore to mitigate the distress of farmers of Maharashtra in six districts namely Amravati, Akola, Buldhana, Washim, Yavatmal and Wardha was announced by the Prime Minister on 1st July, 2006. Further, Vidarbha Intensive Irrigation Development Project” (VIIDP) was launched in 2012 with an allocation of Rs. 3250.0 crore under Rashitrya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) as a special programme to bring more area under protective irrigation. Under the Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP), 21 major and medium irrigation projects have been taken up in Maharashtra benefiting the Vidarbha Region and a central assistance of Rs. 5,834.24 crore has been released till 2015-16.

The Government has accorded the highest priority to water conservation and its management. The Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) has been implemented amalgamating the ongoing Schemes of AIBP, Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) and On Farm Water Management (OFWM) with the vision of extending the coverage of irrigation to every field (**Har Khet Ko Pani**) and improving water use efficiency (**more crop per drop**). PMKSY has been approved in 2015 for implementation across the country with an outlay of Rs.50,000 crore for five years.

To provide risk cover to farmers against crop failure due to weather aberrations and natural calamities like drought, flood, etc., the Government has unveiled Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) in 2016. The farmers will have to pay lower premiums and get claim against full sum insured under PMFBY. The rainfed areas including Vidarbha region would be benefited from this scheme.

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