

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 and 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.

Redefining of BPL Criteria

2899. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that all the people earning less than twenty rupees a day have not been included in the lists of Below Poverty Line (BPL) families;

(b) whether it is a fact that these poor people are not getting the benefits of BPL category;

(c) if so, whether Government is going to redefine the BPL criteria; and

(d) if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The Ministry of Rural Development conducts a BPL Census approximately every five years to identify the rural poor families who could be assisted under various programmes of the Ministry. The Ministry of Rural Development constituted an Expert Group to advise the Ministry on the suitable methodology for conducting the Below Poverty Line (BPL) Census for Eleventh Five Year Plan in August, 2008. The Expert Group submitted its report to the Ministry on 21st August, 2009. The report of the Expert Group has been circulated among the

States/UTs and the concerned Central Ministries for their comments and has also been posted on the Ministry's website at www.rural.nic.in. The Ministry is in the process of finalizing the methodology for identification of people living below the Poverty Line in rural areas of the country, taking in to account the suggestions/comments of States/UTs and Central Ministries.

Fund provided under IGNOPS to Uttarakhand

2900. SHRI BHAGAT SINGH KOSHYARI: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the amount provided to State Government of Uttarakhand under Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme, during the last two years;

(b) whether the State Government has requested to provide additional fund under these schemes and also for such other schemes; and

(c) if so, whether Government has provided fund to complete all the above mentioned projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) Rs. 1841.90 lakh during 2007-08 and Rs.4720.53 lakh during 2008-09 were released to the State Government of Uttarakhand under National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) which includes, among others, Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS).

(b) and (c) The State Government had not requested for additional fund under NSAP during the last two years as funds released by the Central Government were sufficient to meet the requirement.

DPAP in Madhya Pradesh

2901. SHRI RAGHUNANDAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of districts where projects have been started in Madhya Pradesh under Drought-Prone Area Programme (DPAP), the number of proposals received from the State in this regard and the number of projects alongwith amount sanctioned for each proposal; and

(b) by when the rest of the proposals will be sanctioned?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SISIR ADHIKARI): (a) and (b) The Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP) has been under implementation in 27 districts of Madhya Pradesh. Since 26.02.2009, DPAP, Desert Development Programme (DDP), and Integrated Wastelands Development Programme (IWDP) of the Department of Land Resources have been consolidated into

Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.