

Watershed management projects in Maharashtra

4300. SHRI D. P. TRIPATHI: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of different schemes for watershed management projects in the country;
- (b) the expenditure on such projects in Maharashtra;
- (c) whether Government has any regulatory authority to check the effectiveness in terms of rise in ground water level of such projects; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI LALCHAND KATARIA): (a) The Department of Land Resources, Ministry of Rural Development has been implementing three area development programmes viz. Integrated Wastelands Development Programme (IWDP), Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP) and Desert Development Programme (DDP) since 1995-96 on watershed basis. These three programmes have been integrated and consolidated into a single modified programme called Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) w.e.f. 26.02.2009, for development of rainfed/degraded areas. The major activities taken up under IWMP *inter-alia* include ridge area treatment, drainage line treatment, soil and moisture conservation, rain water harvesting, nursery raising, afforestation, horticulture, pasture development, livelihoods for asset less persons.

(b) No projects under DDP have been sanctioned in Maharashtra. An amount of Rs. 580.27 crore has been provided under DPAP and Rs. 228.46 crore under IWDP as central assistance upto 31.03.2013 for implementation of these projects.

(c) and (d) The Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) has been constituted under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 for the purpose of regulation and control of ground water development and management in the country. It is headed by the Chairman, Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) and 14 other

members of different Ministries /Departments/ Organizations/ Institutions of Government of India. The Central Ground Water Authority do not exercise any powers/ regulatory measures to check the effectiveness in terms of rise in ground water level of watershed managements projects. The Central Ground Water Authority excercises following powers and perform functions namely:

- (i) Exercise of powers under section 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 for issuing directions and taking such measures in respect of all matters referred to in sub-section (2) of section 3 of the said Act.
- (ii) To resort to penal provisions contained in section 15 to 21 of the said Act.
- (iii) To regulate and control, management and development of ground water in the country and to issue necessary regulatory directions for the purpose.
- (iv) Exercise of powers under section 4 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 for the appointment of officers.

Considering the severity of the exploitation and in order to restrict further exploitation of ground water, some of highly over exploited areas are Notified by Central Ground Water Authority for regulation of ground water withdrawal. The Central Ground Water Authority has so far notified 162 areas in the country for the purpose of regulation of ground water development.

New road connectivity in Andhra Pradesh

4301. SHRI Y.S CHOWDARY: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has received any proposal from Andhra Pradesh Government for sanction of 1,580 road works under new connectivity category;
- (b) if so, the details and the status thereof; and
- (c) the action taken/being taken by Government to sanction these proposals?