

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT OF LAND RESOURCES**

RAJYA SABHA

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2223
TO BE ANSWERED ON 09.08.2024**

Integrated watershed management programme under WDC-PMKSY

2223 Dr. Fauzia Khan:

Will the Minister of **RURAL DEVELOPMENT** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the completion of projects under the Integrated Watershed Management Programme, especially those initiated under Watershed Development Component - Prime Minister Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (WDC-PMKSY) 1.0, is being prioritized to decrease the negative impacts of unsustainable resource use and degradation;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the progress achieved so far and the target set to be achieved;
- (c) if not, the reasons and alternatives in place to preserve land and mitigate degradation; and
- (d) the details of measures implemented to ensure the effective functioning of PMKSY-WDC 2.0 and its alignment with the goals of sustainable land development and watershed management, if any?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
(Dr. CHANDRA SEKHAR PEMMASANI)**

(a) to (d): Department of Land Resources, Ministry of Rural Development was implementing Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) for the development of rainfed and degraded areas since 2009-10. Subsequently, IWMP was amalgamated as a Watershed Development Component of Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (WDC-PMKSY) 1.0 in 2015-16. Under the scheme, a total of 8214 projects covering an area of 39.07 million hectares were sanctioned in 28 States, under the Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) principally for development of rainfed and degraded areas. From FY 2009-10 to FY 2020-21, an amount of Rs. 19926.67 crore was released as Central share to States/UTs in these projects.

Based on the assessment of implementation performance, a total of 1832 projects were transferred to States/UTs in 2018, for implementation with their own resources/budget. Under WDC-PMKSY1.0, the Department of Land Resources funded the implementation of 6382 projects in States/UTs.

Under WDC-PMKSY 1.0, as per information received from the States/UTs, from 2014-15 to 2021-22 about 7.64 lakh water harvesting structures have been created/rejuvenated. An additional area of about 16.41 lakh hectares has been brought under protective irrigation. The number of farmers who benefited was about 36.34 lakh during the said period. Further, 1.62 lakh hectares of the area brought under plantation (Horticulture/Afforestation), 3.36 lakh hectares of culturable wasteland treated in completed projects, and 388.66 lakh person-days employment generated under WDC-PMKSY1.0 from 2018-19 to 2021-22.

Out of 6382 WDC-PMKSY1.0 projects, 6376 projects are reported as completed by States/UTs. The End-line evaluation reports of WDC-PMKSY 1.0 completed projects reveal considerable improvements due to watershed interventions on the groundwater table, crop productivity, milk production and per capita income; thus contributing to poverty alleviation in the project areas.

The project period for WDC-PMKSY 1.0 got over on 31.03.2022. The Government of India approved the continuation of the scheme as WDC-PMKSY 2.0 on 15th December 2021 with an outlay of Rs. 8134.00 crore (Central Share) for a period of 2021-22 to 2025-26. Under WDC-PMKSY 2.0, the Department has sanctioned 1150 projects to States/UTs covering an area of 50.55 lakh hectares at a total cost of Rs.12388.58 crore. The project period of WDC-PMKSY 2.0 projects is upto March, 2026. All sanctioned WDC-PMKSY 2.0 projects are at various stages of implementation. From FY 2021-22 to FY2024-25 (as of 31.07.2024), the Central share of Rs. 4114.45 crore has been released to States/UTs.

Under WDC-PMKSY 2.0, as per information received from the States/UTs, from 2022-23 to 2023-24 about 1.05 lakh water harvesting structures have been created/rejuvenated. An additional area of about 1.46 lakh hectares has been brought under protective irrigation. The number of farmers who benefited was about 7.06 lakh during the said period. Further, 0.85 lakh hectares were brought under plantation (Horticulture/Afforestation) and 127.31 lakh person-days employment was generated under WDC-PMKSY 2.0.

The activities undertaken in watershed projects, *inter alia*, include ridge area treatment, drainage line treatment, soil and moisture conservation, rainwater harvesting, nursery raising, pasture development, crop diversification, livelihoods for asset less persons etc. WDC-PMKSY through these interventions seeks to ensure sustainable development through improved natural resources management and better resilience of farmers to climate change. Thus WDC-PMKSY aims to ensure sustainable improvement in productivity by focusing on integrated farming systems and sustainable livelihood development.

Considering the importance of India's commitment towards Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) targets, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and the scheme's significant role towards doubling farmers' incomes, the Department is making all-out efforts to complete the WDC-PMKSY 2.0 by 2025-26.

The Department has made concerted efforts to monitor the Watershed schemes regularly through regular meetings with the States at a higher level, MIS, Review meetings with State Government officers, field visits of Senior officers of the Department, Evaluation studies being undertaken through M&E agencies, GIS-based near Real-time Monitoring, VCs etc.