WATERSHED DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT

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The Maharashtra State consists of 92% hard rock terrain with peculiar physiographic configuration, flat topped hills, step topography with plateaus and conical hills .Out of total area of the state, 28% covered by highly dissected plateau (HDP) with an area 85258sq km , 44% area is Moderately dissected Plateau(MDP)135638 sq km and 28% is covered with undissected Plateau(UDP) of 86193 sq. km. The rainfall intensity varies in the state 1/3 area is covered with Rain shadow, 1/3 area is of high rein fall, while 1/3 area of assured rain fall.

The entire state has been divided I n to 1505 water sheds. According to GE 1997 ground water assessment, there are 130 over exploited watersheds, 55 critical water sheds, 276 semi-critical water sheds, 80 poor quality watersheds and 964 safe watersheds. The water level tre3nd is decreasing in post monsoon period in over exploited, critical and semi-critical water sheds.

The watershed development programmes should be concentrated in overexploited, critical and semi-critical watersheds, in drought prone area of 1.12 lakh sq.km., Tapi Purna alluvium area of 0.64 lakh sq. km., local shallow alluvium area of 0.05 lakh sq.km. and lateritic area of 0.20 lakh sq. km. of the state.

To overcome the red hot situation of depletion of water levels the water shed development and management has been undertaken in different watersheds of Terna sub basin. The different types of soil conservation measures covering an area of 115370 H., implemented continuous contour trenches. streamlets training, gully control measures loose boulder structures. Over all 3067 different types of water conservation measures have been completed resulting total recharge enhance up to 25%.