



# Watershed development projects lagging behind badly

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Parliamentary Standing Committee says only 10% of projects complete.

## Highlights

- Irrigation projects of the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana (PMKSY) may have taken the spotlight in the Prime Minister's speech during Friday's no-confidence motion debate in the Lok Sabha.
- However, a less well-known but vital component of that scheme is watershed development, which is lagging behind badly, according to a Parliamentary Standing Committee (PSC) report.
- When the report was first tabled last July, not a single one of the 8,214 projects sanctioned between 2009 and 2015 at a cost of ₹ 50,740 crore had been completed, said the Standing Committee on Rural Development.
- What exactly is watershed development? "It's all about making running to water stop and standing water to sink inside," was the succinct definition offered by Dr. Ch Radhika Rani, who heads the Centre for Agrarian Studies at the National Institute for Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRD&PR), an autonomous institution under the Ministry of Rural Development.

Source: The Hindu

