

## **Preparation of Perspective Plan**

14. The Department of Land Resources has brought out the Wastelands Atlas of India in May 2000 in collaboration with NRSA, Hyderabad. The State Governments are expected to prepare a long-term perspective plan for treatment of wastelands/degraded lands, drought prone and desert areas over a period of 15 years. This plan should keep in view the availability of funds under IWDP, DPAP, DDP and other such programmes being implemented through International Cooperation projects and other agencies. In most of the States, State Remote Sensing Application Centres have developed watershed-wise Atlas showing code numbers. These code numbers should be specified in the perspective plan indicating already treated watershed areas, ongoing project areas and new project areas to be taken up in a phased manner.

## **Criteria for Selection of Watersheds**

15. The following criteria may broadly be used in selection of the watersheds:

- (a) Watershed area may be about 500 ha. However, if on actual survey, a watershed is found to have slightly less or more area, the total area may be taken up for development as a project. Even small contiguous watersheds with an approximate total area of 500 hectares may be taken up for development.
- (b) In case a watershed falls in two villages, it should be divided into two sub watershed areas confined to the designated villages. Care should be taken to treat both the sub watershed areas simultaneously.
- (c) Watershed, which has acute shortage of drinking water.
- (d) Watershed, which has a large population of scheduled castes/scheduled tribes dependent on it.
- (e) Watershed that has a preponderance of non-forest wastelands/degraded lands.
- (f) Watershed, which has a preponderance of common lands. However, in view of the fact that watershed development aims at poverty alleviation by improving productivity of land and generation