

### Irrigation System

\*136. SHRI MANJAY LAL:  
SHRI RAM PUJAN PATEL:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Water Commission has formulated any action plan for improving the irrigation system effectively;

(b) if so, the broad features thereof;

(c) whether any technique has been developed to save large quantity of water resources;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action being taken for making available the benefits of this technique and other modern irrigation technologies to the farmers?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) to (e). No such action plan has been formulated by the Central Water Commission for improving the irrigation system effectively. However, the Central Water Commission has formulated a draft Irrigation Management Policy which contains suggestions and guidelines for achieving improved irrigation water management. The draft policy as approved by the National Water Board has been included in the agenda for the next meeting of National Water Resources Council for its adoption. The policy lays emphasis on improved operational management and maintenance, conjunctive use of surface and ground water, phased turn over of tertiary level system to water users' associations, financial sustainability through improved water rates and training and research needs. Through effective and improved water management, coupled with other actions and by use of drip and sprinkler irrigation methods, wherever suitable and applicable, there will be saving of water resources. Also the Irrigation Management Policy emphasises better management of canal systems, equity in distribution and involvement of farmers' organisations in tertiary distribution, all of which lead to better water management.

Government of India is giving subsidies to farmers for installing drip irrigation systems. Similarly, Central assistance and World Bank assistance is available for Command Area Development and National Water Management Project which deal with on-farm management and water management in canals. Earlier the States were assisted by the centre in setting up water and land management institutes.

[English]

### Exploration Programme

\*137. SHRIMATI DIPIKA H. TOPIWALA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have launched an accelerated exploration programme;

(b) if so, the total investment involved in the programme;

(c) the major components of the programme; and

(d) the likely investment of the private sector in the said programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA): (a) yes, Sir.

(b) The programme is expected to involve an expenditure of around Rs. 6500 crores.

(c) The major components of the programme are:—

(i) Exploration in the deep water area.

(ii) National seismic programme.

(iii) Exploration in frontier areas.

(iv) Acquisition of acreages abroad.

(d) Efforts are being made to attract private investment to the extent possible. However, it is too early to make an estimate of the likely investment.

[Translation]

### Jobs to handicapped Persons

\*138. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR:  
SHRI DEVI BUX SINGH:

Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated any scheme to provide jobs to the handicapped persons and to encourage them to run their own industries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the major schemes being implemented for the welfare of the handicapped persons at present; and

(d) the achievements made under each scheme so far?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) 3% of the vacancies against identified posts in Group C & D have been reserved for the physically handicapped persons—1% each for visually, speech & hearing and orthopaedically handicapped in the Ministries—Departments and Public Sector Undertakings.

Special Recruitment Drives are also undertaken from time to time to fill up the backlog of vacancies.

Handicapped persons are also helped in getting gainful employment through 23 Special Employment Exchanges and 55 Special Cells located throughout the country. Under the Scheme of Assistance to Voluntary Organisations for the Disabled, assistance is given to voluntary organisations upto 90% for education vocational training and rehabilitation of the disabled.