

under various stages of construction. In addition, dams under formulation/consideration will provide an additional live storage of 132 BCM.

The total water requirement projection of 1050 BCM for the year 2025 can be met by harnessing fully, the utilisable surface water resources of about 690 BCM and by utilising about 360 BCM of exploitable ground water resources.

[Translation]

Major and Medium Dams

*211. SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the major and medium dams are not adequate for catering to the irrigation needs of agriculture land in the country and these dams are also not being utilised effectively by the concerned State Governments;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Union Government are contemplating to evolve other cheaper alternative sources of irrigation for the purpose; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL) (a) to (d) The National Water Policy (1987) stipulates that there should be an integrated and multi-disciplinary approach to the development and management of water resources. Thus, the present strategy in Water Resources Development and management in the country is based on a judicious mix of option consisting of large, medium and small surface water storages; diversion and lift schemes; ground water development through deep/shallow tubewells and open wells and micro watershed development schemes.

Irrigation potential created upto the end of VIII Five Year Plan and irrigation potential utilised is as under:—

Sector	Irrigation Potential Created (IPC) (Provisional) (million hectare)	Irrigation Potential Utilised (Provisional) (million hectare)
(i) Major & Medium Irrigation	32.96	28.44
(ii) Minor Irrigation	56.60	52.32

As can be seen, the minor irrigation through surface water and ground water also plays a vital role to cater to the irrigation needs. There is some time lag in the creation and utilisation of irrigation potential through major, medium and minor irrigation projects mainly due to non-development of command area, non-completion of canals, adequate water not reaching to the tail end and changing agricultural techniques and cropping patterns.

Visa to Salman Rushdie

*212. SHRI SADASHIV RAO D. MANDLIK:
SHRI RIZWAN ZAHEER KHAN:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to grant visa to Indian born British Writer Salman Rushdie to visit India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Iran has conveyed any resentment against this decision to grant visa;

(d) if so, whether the Government proposes to reconsider its decision; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) and (b) A five-year multiple entry visa was issued by the Indian High Commission in London on February 3, 1999.

(c) The Iranian Foreign Office made its views known in February 1999.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

[English]

Investment in Agriculture

*213. SHRI P.C. THOMAS:
SHRI R.S. GAVAI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether investment in agriculture has increased during the last three years;