

implementation. It gives, inter-alia, priority to primary education and adult literacy programmes with an accent on equity. The emphasis is now on toning up its implementation and stepping of resources for education so that there is better linkages of access, retention and quality at all stages of education throughout the country.

Irrigation Capacity

842. SHRI KACHARU BHAU RAUT: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the total irrigations capacity created in Maharashtra during the last two years;

(b) whether the Government propose to launch new irrigation projects in the State to boost the same; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the estimated capacity likely to be increased during the forth coming years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SIS RAM OLA): (a) The total irrigation capacity targeted to be created during the last 2 years i.e., 1995-96 and 1996-97 in the State of Maharashtra through Major & Medium Irrigation Projects and Minor Irrigation schemes was about 176.80 thousand hectares (provisional).

(b) & (c) Details of the programme for Major & Medium irrigation projects included by Government of Maharashtra in their Ninth Five Year Plan (1997-2002) are as under:

Sl.	Sector/Scheme	IXth Plan (1997-2002) Outlay (Rupees in lakhs)
A. Major Irrigation Projects (Except Maharashtra Krishna Valley Development Corpn.)		
1.	Major Projects in advanced stage of construction	76951.00
2.	Major Projects in initial stage of construction	73635.00
3.	Common Schemes	37497.00
Total Major Projects		188084.00
B. Medium Projects:		
1.	Residual payments for completed medium projects	2546.00
2.	Medium Projects in advanced stage of construction	9968.00
3.	Medium Projects in initial stage of construction	70750.00
4.	New schemes of VIII Plan (1992-97)	42449.00
Total Medium Projects		125713.00

The physical targets for creation of irrigation potential through Major & Medium and Minor irrigation projects in Maharashtra during the Ninth Five Year Plan is 2283 thousand hectares.

[English]

Irrigation Projects for Deforestation

843. SHRI BHIMRAO VISHNUJI BADADE:

SHRI SURESH R. JADHAV:

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some proposals of Irrigation Projects from certain States for deforestation especially from

Maharashtra are pending with Union Government for approval;

(b) if so, the details thereof with names of these projects, State-wise;

(c) whether delay in approval to these Irrigation Project Works has hampered an overall development programme in these State;

(d) whether the Government propose to accord approval to these proposals early;

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(f) whether the Government have been requested to keep the Irrigation project works out of the purview of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980; and