

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
WATER RESOURCES  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2158  
ANSWERED ON:08.03.2000  
ONGOING IRRIGATION PROJECTS  
MOHAN RAWALE;SANJAY PASWAN

**Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Government have formulated any Five Year Irrigation Development Scheme;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the production of foodgrains is likely to be doubled by the year 2008 as a result of the scheme; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE FOR WATER RESOURCES (SMT. BJOYA CHAKRAVARTY)

(a) & (b) All types of irrigation development schemes are conceived, formulated and implemented by the State Governments from their own allocation of Plan funds. However, under the ongoing Ninth Five Year Plan (1997-2002) the following strategies have been adopted for the development of irrigation in the country.

- (i) To improve water use efficiency by progressive reduction in conveyance and application losses;
- (ii) To bridge the gap between the potential created and its utilisation by strengthening the Command Area Development Programme (CADP), institutional reforms and promoting farmers' involvement in irrigation management;
- (iii) To complete all the ongoing projects, particularly those which were started during pre-Fifth and Fifth Plan period as a time bound programme to yield benefits from the investments already made;
- (iv) To restore and modernise the old irrigation systems which were executed during the pre-Independence period and 25 years ago;
- (v) To introduce rational pricing of irrigation water, based initially on O&M cost and then to encourage higher level of water use efficiency;
- (vi) To take concrete steps towards comprehensive and integrated development of natural water resources, taking into account the possibility of inter-river-basin transfer of surplus water;
- (vii) To promote adaptive research and development to ensure more cost-effective and efficient execution and management of irrigation systems;
- (viii) To promote Participatory Irrigation Management(PIM) with full involvement of the water user community, which will be at the centre stage of the implementation of above strategies of the Ninth Plan;
- (ix) To encourage and implement the conjunctive use of ground and surface water towards optimal utilisation of water resource and to have its development environmentally sustainable as well; and
- (x) To accelerate the development and utilisation of ground water, particularly in the eastern region on sound technical, environmental and economic considerations also with proper regulatory mechanisms. The Ninth Five Year Plan targets for creating additional irrigation potential in the country and corresponding outlays are as under:

Target for creation of Additional irrigation Sector	Potential	Outlay (Rs.crore) (in million hectare)
Major & Medium Irrigation	9.81	42644.11
Minor Irrigation	7.24	8984.84
Total	17.05	51628.95

(c) & (d) The Ninth Plan target is to achieve a growth rate of about 4.5% per annum in agricultural output and production of 234 million tonnes of foodgrains by 2001-02.