

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3303
ANSWERED ON:19.03.2001
IRRIGATION CAPACITY
MANSUKHBHAID. VASAVA

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the target of irrigation capacity for Gujarat was fixed for 800 thousand hectares during the Eighth Five Year Plan;
- (b) if so, whether the irrigation capacity was generated as per the target set during the said period;
- (c) if not, the extent of remaining capacity to be generated and the reasons for not generating the irrigation capacity as per the target; and
- (d) the action proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SMT. BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY)

(a) to (d) The targets fixed and achievements made for creation of irrigation capacity during the VIII Five Year Plan in Gujarat through Major and Medium irrigation projects and Minor irrigation schemes along with the gap in achieving the targets are as under:-

Creation of Irrigation Potential during VIII Plan (in 000 hectare)

Type of Projects	Target	Achievement	Gap
Major & Medium Irrigation	448.00	104.00	344.00
Minor Irrigation	180.00	35.00	145.00
Total	628.00	139.00	489.00

The shortfall was mainly because of Sardar Sarovar Project which could not generate any potential during VIII Plan as the project work was held up due to pending court cases and non completion of other projects .

Irrigation is a State subject and all types of irrigation projects are conceived, planned and implemented by the respective State Governments according to their own priorities and financial resources. However, with a view to complete irrigation projects in a time bound manner so that benefits from locked up investments can be accrued at the earliest, Government of India is providing Central Loan Assistance (CLA) to the State Governments for selected ongoing major & medium irrigation projects under Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP), which was launched in the year 1996-97. Under AIBP, CLA amounting to Rs.1287.293 crore has been released up to the end of February 2001 for 14 major & medium irrigation projects of Gujarat and about 102.4 thousand hectare of additional irrigation potential has been created from these projects through AIBP funding by the end of 1999-2000.