

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2040
ANSWERED ON:04.08.2003
IRRIGATION SCHEMES
RAM SHAKAL

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(

- (a) whether the Government have formulated any plan to start new schemes for better use of water resources for irrigation, particularly in rural areas of the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (c) the irrigation capacity created and utilized during the last three years; and
- (d) the measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to increase irrigation capacity?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BHOYA CHAKRAVARTY)

(a) & (b) As irrigation is a State subject, the State Governments formulate schemes for irrigation in their respective States. However, the Government of India provides assistance for Command Area Development with a view to optimally utilize the created irrigation potential. In order to further improve the efficiency of the programme the Central Government has proposed to restructure it during the Tenth Plan period. Under the restructured programme, three new components viz

- (i) correction of system deficiencies upto the distributaries;
- (ii) funds for motivational activities for Water users' Association and
- (iii) renovation of minor irrigation tanks under the commands of major & medium irrigation projects are proposed to be introduced to bring about efficiency in water conveyance in distributaries upto 150 cusec (4.25 cumecs) capacity, minors and outlets, effective water management in farms through Participatory Irrigation Management Programme and added thrust on adaptive trials, etc.

(c) As per provisional figures compiled by the Planning Commission, the irrigation potential created and the potential put to utilization during the last 3 years are as follows:

Year Irrigation Potential (in million hectare)

	Created	Utilised
2000-01	1.69	0.99
2001-02	2.09	1.52
(Provisional)		
2002-03	1.22	0.89
(Provisional)		

(d) To increase irrigation capacity, irrigation projects of various types are conceived, planned, and executed by the respective State Governments from their own Plan resources and according to their own priorities. Due to resource constraints with the State Governments a number of irrigation projects are pending for completion for years. For expeditious completion of such ongoing major & medium irrigation projects, Government of India is providing Central Loan Assistance (CLA) to the State Governments under the Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) since 1996- 97. The minor irrigation schemes of the special category states comprising the North Eastern States and Sikkim, the hilly States of J & K, Himachal Pradesh and Uttaranchal as well as the drought-prone Kalahandi, Bolangir & Koraput districts of Orissa are also eligible for the CLA under AIBP with effect from 1999-2000. Under the programme, CLA of Rs. 11541.73 crore has been provided to the State Governments upto the end of March 2003 which includes Rs 472.86 crore provided as 100% loan assistance to identified major/medium projects in the advance stage of construction that can be completed in one year (two working seasons) under the Fast Track Programme.