

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
AGRICULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:119  
ANSWERED ON:20.08.2007  
IRRIGATION AND SEED DEVELOPMENT  
Verma Shri Ravi Prakash

**Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Union Government has urged the State Governments to give special focus on irrigation and seed development in partnership with the Union Government to address the bottlenecks in agriculture;
- (b) if so, the response of the State Governments thereto;
- (c) whether the Union Government has prepared any detailed action plan in this regard;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the Central assistance proposed to be provided to each State for the purpose?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR)

(a) to (e): Sir, the State Governments have been urged to enhance seed production to achieve the required Seed Replacement Rate in three to five years. Government of India has been providing assistance to States under various schemes for this purpose. As regards irrigation, States have been requested to improve water use efficiency and water conservation. Further, under the Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme and Surface Minor Irrigation Scheme, loan assistance and grants are given to States to complete major/medium and minor irrigation projects.