

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:141
ANSWERED ON:23.02.2010
IRRIGATED AGRICULTURAL LAND
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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the percentage of irrigated agricultural land in the country, State-wise including Karnataka;
- (b) whether there are regional imbalances in regard to the availability of irrigated agricultural land amongst States;
- (c) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (d) whether the Government has taken any steps to check regional imbalance in the irrigation acreage in the country; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS)

(a&b): A statement on statewise gross irrigated area and agricultural land with the relevant percentages is at Annexure-I. The gross irrigated area does show regional imbalances amongst states.

(c) to (e): The Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) was launched during 1996- 97 to give loan assistance to the states to help them complete some of the incomplete major/medium irrigation projects which were in an advanced stage of completion and create additional irrigation potential in the country. The Surface Minor Irrigation Schemes of North- Eastern States, Hilly States of Sikkim, Uttaranchal, Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and undivided Koraput, Bolangir and Kalahandi Districts of Orissa have also been provided Central Loan Assistance (CLA) under this programme since 1999-2000. Grant component has been introduced in the programme from April, 2004 like other Central sector schemes. As per the existing AIBP criteria effective from December, 2006, grant amounting to 25% of the project cost for major and medium irrigation projects in non-special category States and 90% grant of the project cost for major/medium/minor irrigation projects in special category States (including undivided Koraput, Bolangir and Kalahandi districts of Orissa) are provided to the selected projects. The minor irrigation schemes in non-special category States falling in drought prone/tribal areas are treated at par with special category States and are released 90% grant of the project cost. Major and medium projects providing irrigation benefit to drought prone/Tribal area and flood prone area are also eligible for 90% grant of the project cost. The State Governments have been provided an amount of Rs.38983.2354 crore as CLA/Grant under AIBP since inception of this programme till date for 275 major/medium irrigation projects and 10316 Surface minor irrigation schemes. After commencement of this Programme 110 major/medium and 6959 Surface MI Schemes have so far been completed. An additional irrigation potential of 5.486 million hectare has been created through major/medium irrigation projects and an irrigation potential of 0.454 million hectare has been created through Surface MI Schemes upto March, 2009.

As per the prevailing AIBP guidelines, projects benefiting drought prone/tribal area, projects included in the Prime Minister's relief package for agrarian distress districts of Maharashtra, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Kerala and projects in the States having irrigation development below national average could be included in AIBP in relaxation to one to one criteria of inclusion of new project under AIBP. Of the 65 major/medium projects initially included in the Prime Minister's relief package for agrarian distressed districts of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala and Maharashtra, so far 38 projects have been funded under AIBP. The grant released so far for these projects is Rs.4514.752 crore.

For the year 2009-10, projected grant requirement of AIBP is Rs.12285 crore for creation of an additional irrigation potential of 10.50 lakh ha. A Budget allocation of Rs.8000 crore has already been made by the Ministry of Finance for AIBP for 2009-10 which includes Rs.1800 crore for National Projects. During 2009-10, grant amounting to Rs.720 crore has been released to the Gosikhurd National Project.

Ministry of Water Resources has finalized modalities of funding and guidelines for implementation of scheme of National Projects in consultation with Planning Commission and Ministry of Finance and has sent the same to all the states and Union Territories. During the year 2008-09, proposal of Gosikhurd Project of Maharashtra for funding under the scheme of National Project was received for which grant amounting to Rs.450 crore has been released under the AIBP for implementation of project under the scheme of National Project.

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