

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
AGRICULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:759

ANSWERED ON:02.03.2010

IRRIGATED LAND AND AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION

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

- (a) whether the country, despite being ahead of several developed and developing nations in terms of the availability of irrigated land, still lacks in agricultural production and productivity;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (d) the corrective steps taken by the Government to increase the agricultural production and the pace of irrigated land in the country during the last three years and the current year; and
- (e) the details of per-capita agricultural production during the last three years and the current year?

**Answer**

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

- (a): It is a fact that India is having the largest area under irrigation in the world. However, the production and productivity of some crops are comparatively on the lower side to that of other developed countries.
- (b): A statement indicating the comparatively information on total cropped area, production and productivity of major crops in some of the selected countries is annexed.
- (c): Lower productivity of some crops is mainly due to the small land holding that restricts large scale mechanization and modernization. Majority of the agriculture land belong to small and marginal farmers who are resource poor and are not able to afford improved agricultural practices. Further, though irrigated area is higher, the per hectare storage facility created for irrigation is of much lower size compared to many developed countries.
- (d): To improve the agriculture production and productivity, the Government has launched various new programmes and restructured the on-going programmes for the benefit of farmers with special emphasis to small and marginal farmers. The major programmes are Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), Macro Management of Agriculture (MMA), National Horticulture Mission (NHM), National Food Security Mission (NFSM), Micro Irrigation (MI) and Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize (ISOPOM). Government has also made efforts to increase the irrigation potential in the country. The gross irrigated area which was 83.94 M. ha. during 2005-06 has increased to 87.26 M. ha. during 2007-08.
- (e): As per available information, the average annual per-capita availability of food grains during the last 3 years is about 159 Kgs.