

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6440

ANSWERED ON:05.05.2010

IRRIGATION PROJECTS IN RAIN DEFICIT AREAS

Gandhi Shri Feroze Varun;Meghwal Shri Bharat Ram;Panda Shri Prabodh;Patel Shri Devji

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has launched or proposes to launch various projects for improvement of irrigation in the rain deficit areas particularly after the drought like situation in the country during the last season;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (c) the benefits accrued or likely to accrue as a result thereof;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to review norms for Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) to provide at par benefit to Desert Prone Area as provided to Drought Prone Areas;
- (e) if, so the details thereof; and
- (f) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT H. PALA)

(a) to (c) Ministry of Water Resources has not launched any specific project for improvement of irrigation in rain deficit areas after the drought like situation in the Country due to deficient rainfall during Monsoon 2009. However, Ministry of Water Resources is providing central assistance for development of irrigation facilities and utilization of created facilities through various programmes namely, (a) Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP), (b) Command Area Development and Water Management Programme, and (c) Scheme for Repair, Renovation and Restoration (RRR) of Water Bodies. Under AIBP and Scheme for RRR of Water Bodies, the central assistance of 90% of the project cost is provided in case of special category States and for projects in some specific areas as per the approved guidelines which, inter-alia, includes central assistance of 90% for the projects benefiting drought prone areas. For non-special category States, the central assistance is 25% only. Government of India has, however, also approved a "Special Package for Drought Mitigation and a Comprehensive Package for Integrated Development of Bundelkhand region of Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh" which, inter-alia, provides for central assistance for various activities related to (a) Animal Husbandry, (b) Agriculture, (c) Environment & Forests, (d) Institutional Credit (e) Water Resources and (f) Watershed Management. Various activities identified under water resources include (a) Changing Pump Sets, reconstruction of water distribution network etc., (b) Command Area Development of Rajghat Canal Systems, (c) Completion of 9 ongoing minor irrigation schemes, (d) Completion of ongoing works of dams, canals etc. including restoration of works of dams, (e) Incomplete Beriyarpur Project, (f) Repair and Renovation of Ponds / Tanks including development of its command areas, (g) Repair of Lift Irrigation Schemes in Jalaun District, (h) Restoring capacities of canals, repairs, renovation and remodelling of canals and construction of new canals for the purpose of integration of canals etc. and (i) Taking up new 107 minor schemes.

(d) to (f) A Task Force constituted by the Planning Commission on Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme to examine the AIBP norms including sharing of costs and approval procedures has, inter-alia, recommended that the projects falling in desert areas identified in the component of Desert Development Plan (DDP) should be funded at par with projects in Drought Prone Area Programme (DPAP) area.