

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:657

ANSWERED ON:28.07.2010

GAP BETWEEN CULTIVATED LAND AND IRRIGATION POTENTIAL

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Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is huge gap between the total cultivated land and the irrigation potential created by all sources in the country;
- (b) if so, the details of cost and creation of irrigation potential ratio per acre during last two five year plans; and
- (c) the action plan formulated by the Government to bridge this gap and to generate maximum irrigation capacity?

Answer

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

(a) As per information provided by the Ministry of Agriculture, the total cultivated land during the year 2007-08 was 155.7 million hectare (Mha) whereas the net irrigated area was 62.3 Mha and gross irrigated area was 87.2 Mha. The irrigation potential created up to 2007-08 has been reported as 104.4 Mha.

(b) The total Plan expenditure for major, medium and minor irrigation projects and command area development works during the IX Plan X Plan were about Rs. 63,049 crores and Rs. 1,00,106 crores respectively and irrigation potential created during the IX Plan and X Plan were about 7.69 Mha and 8.82 Mha respectively.

(c) Water being a State subject, projects for creation of irrigation potential are planned and implemented by the respective State Governments. However, Government of India provides central grants to State Governments under Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme and Command Area Development & Water Management Programme. Ministry of Water Resources has also launched scheme for Repair, Renovation and Restoration of Water Bodies under which assistance is provided to the States.