

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2364
ANSWERED ON:24.11.2010
CREATION OF IRRIGATION POTENTIAL
Majhi Shri Pradeep Kumar

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has revised the targets of creation of irrigation potential during the current five year plan;
- (b) if so, the details in this regard;
- (c) the details of the irrigation potential so far created in the current plan;
- (d) whether creation of irrigation potential has decreased after VIIth Plan in the country;
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (f) the corrective measures taken by the Government to increase the irrigation potential in the country?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): The initial target of creation of irrigation potential of 16 million hectare (mha) during XI Plan has been revised to 9.5 mha after the Mid Term Appraisal of the XI Plan. The revised target of creation of irrigation potential of 9.5 mha includes 5 mha through major and medium irrigation and 4.5 mha through minor irrigation.

(c): As per information provided by State Governments, the details of the irrigation potential created during the XI Five Year Plan are as under.

Year Irrigation Potential Created (million hectare)
Major & Medium Irrigation Minor Irrigation Total

2007-08 0.84 0.89 1.73

2008-09 1.02 0.91 1.93

2009-10 1.12 0.73 1.85

(d) to (f): The total irrigation potential created upto the end of VII Plan was 76.44 mha. The rate of irrigation potential creation per year during the VII Five Year Plan and Subsequent Plans are as under:

Plan Irrigation Potential Created in
million hectare per year

VII Plan (1985-1990) 2.26

Annual Plans (1990-1992) 2.28

VIII (1992-1997) 1.03

IX Plan (1997-2002) 1.54

X Plan (2002-2007) 1.76

XI Plan (first three years i.e. 1.84
from 2007-2010)

Various schemes for creation of irrigation potential are conceived, planned and implemented by the respective State Governments. A large number of river valley projects, both multi- purpose and irrigation, spilled over from plan to plan period, mainly because of financial constraints being faced by the State Governments. Government of India introduced Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) in the year 1996 with a view to provide financial assistance to States to complete various ongoing last mile irrigation projects in the country. Since its formulation, the terms of the programme have been widened and liberalized over time. Government of India also provides assistance to the State Governments under the schemes "Repair Renovation and Restoration of

Water Bodies" and "Command Area Development and Water Management" with objective of stabilization and full utilization of created facilities.