

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5898
ANSWERED ON:08.09.2011
LEGISLATION ON IRRIGATION IN TRIBAL AREAS
Mahendrasinh Shri Chauhan

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether owing to various legislations, the tribal areas lack irrigation facilities due to which poor people living there have to depend on rains for agriculture;
- (b) if so, the manner in which the Government is contemplating to give relaxation in legislation for providing these irrigation facilities; and
- (c) the details of the action taken in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) to (c) There is no central legislation that precludes provision/extension of irrigation facilities to the tribal areas.

Several measures for development and improved management of water resources, including in the tribal areas, are undertaken by the respective State Governments which include creation of storages, restoration of water bodies, rain water harvesting, artificial recharge to ground water, and adoption of better management practices etc.

Central assistance is provided to State Governments for completion of ongoing major and medium irrigation schemes under Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP). Central assistance under Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme is also provided for surface minor irrigation schemes (both new as well as ongoing) of States of north east, hilly States and drought prone KBK districts of Orissa. For non-special category States, minor irrigation schemes which serve tribal areas and drought prone areas are also provided assistance under AIBP as per approved guidelines. The central assistance of 90% of the project cost is provided as grant for projects benefiting tribal areas.

There is also another Scheme namely 'Repair, Renovation and Restoration of Water Bodies' for which central assistance is provided to State Governments. Under this Scheme, the projects benefiting tribal areas receive central assistance to the extent of 90% of the project cost.