

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2417
ANSWERED ON:08.12.2011
DECLINE IN CANAL IRRIGATION
Kashyap Shri Baliram

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the percentage of irrigation being done through canals in rural areas of the country has declined;
- (b) if so, the steps being taken by the Government for promotion of irrigation through canals;
- (c) whether the canal department charges fees from the farmers without releasing water in canals on many occasions;
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government for digging and cleaning of canals?

Answer

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

- (a) The operation and regulation of water in canals is carried out by the project authorities under the respective State Governments. The details about the status of flow in canals are maintained by project authorities. However, the share of potential created from Major, Medium and Minor Surface Irrigation Projects as a percentage of total potential created in the country has declined from 71% in Pre-plan period to 55% at the end of X Plan, the details are given at Annexure-I.
- (b) To improve the irrigation potential through major and medium as well as surface water minor irrigation projects, Central Government has been providing Central Assistance to eligible projects under Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP).
- (c) & (d) The charges proposed for irrigation facilities are decided by the concerned State Governments.
- (e) Government of India provides financial assistance under AIBP for eligible Major/Medium Extension, Renovation & Modernization (ERM) projects for creation of additional potential.