

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3541
ANSWERED ON:29.07.2009
IRRIGATION OF LAND BY CANALS
Gorakhnath Shri

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) the names of the States in the country where the rivers and canals are the main sources of irrigation;
- (b) the percentage out of the total agricultural land irrigated by rivers and canals in the country, State-wise;
- (c) whether the water in canal has reach to the last of the beneficiaries; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor alongwith the steps being taken by the Government to address the issue?

Answer

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

(a) As per the available information, an irrigation potential of 104.4 million hectares (mha) has been created in the country upto March 2008. The irrigation potential created from major and medium irrigation is 43.01 mha and that from minor surface irrigation is 14.57 mha. The irrigation potential created through canal system of major and medium projects is more than those from minor irrigation in case of States of Andhra Pradesh, Chattisgarh, Goa, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Manipur, Orissa and Rajasthan.

(b) The percentage of the irrigation potential created through major & medium irrigation projects, State-wise is at Annex.

(c) & (d) The findings of a study carried out by Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad, Bangalore, Calcutta and Lucknow in respect of gap between the irrigation potential created & irrigation potential utilized indicate that there are cases where the water does not reach beneficiaries at the tail end of canal. The reasons identified in the study include siltation of canal, weeds growth in canal, inadequate maintenance and tendency for over irrigation by farmers in upper reaches etc. Ministry of Water Resources is implementing Command Area Development & Water Management Programme for efficient utilization of created facilities. Due emphasis has also been laid on Participatory Irrigation Management (PIM).