

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
WATER RESOURCES  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2008  
ANSWERED ON:23.08.2012  
IRRIGATION FACILITIES IN MAHARASHTRA  
Mutterwar Shri Vilas Baburao

**Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:**

- (a) the percentage of land in Maharashtra where irrigation facilities are not available;
- (b) whether the condition of farmers in Gadchiroli district and Marathwada region is pitiable due to dependence on rain water;
- (c) if so, the details of irrigation projects lying pending in these regions along with the reasons therefor;
- (d) the steps taken by the Government for speedy completion of these projects; and
- (e) the time by which these projects are scheduled to be completed?

**Answer**

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

- (a) Maharashtra has a geographical area of 308 lakh ha. out of which the culturable area is 225 lakhs ha. Till 30th June, 2011, Irrigation potential of 48.25 lakh ha. has been created through State Sector Schemes ( 21.44 %) @ 78.56% area is not having irrigation facilities.
- (b) No. The culturable area of Gadchiroli Dist. is 2.52 lakh ha. and so far irrigation potential of 41530 ha has been created (16.48%). As for Marathwada, these figures are 56.44 lakh ha. and 10.79 lakhs ha. (19.11%) respectively.
- (c) 2 Major, 6 Medium and 5 Minor Projects (total 13 Nos) having Irrigation Potential 92.122 thousand ha. are pending for want of forest clearance.
- (d) Govt. of Maharashtra Water Resources Deptt. has been consistently trying to get approval for clearance of forest land required for Irrigation Projects. Water Resources and Forest Ministers of Govt. of Maharashtra, have been taking frequent review meetings with concerned officers since 2004. 3 Projects have received final approval from Forest Deptt. having Irrigation Potential about 7671 ha., in Gadchiroli distt. in the last four years.
- (e) As reported by the Government of Maharashtra the project will be completed after getting final approval from Ministry of Forest & Environment, Govt. of India and depending on the availability of funds.