

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
WATER RESOURCES  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1016  
ANSWERED ON:29.11.2012  
LAND UNDER IRRIGATION  
Singh Shri Sushil Kumar

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

- (a) whether any measures have been taken by the Union Government to reduce the dependency on rains for irrigation while trying to interlink rivers and canals in the villages to supply water;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the details regarding percentage of land under irrigation, State-wise;
- (d) the measures being adopted to spread the message of preservation of water among farmers by way of rain water harvesting during the monsoons so as to assist them in terms of water supply in the remaining months; and
- (e) the measures being taken by the Union Government to try and shift over to drip irrigation considering the issue of water shortage?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES( SHRI HARISH RAWAT)

(a) & (b) As per National Perspective Plan (NPP) for Water Resources Development envisages additional irrigation benefits of 25 million hectares from surface water, 10 million hectares increased use of ground water which will reduce the dependency on rains for irrigation including supply of water to villages.

(c) As per information available in the "State of Indian Agriculture 2011-12" report of Ministry of Agriculture, the Gross Irrigated area as a per cent of Gross Cropped Area state wise in 2008-09 is given in Annexure.

(d) Central Ground Water Board has been conducting mass awareness programmes for promoting rain water harvesting, artificial recharge and water conservation in different parts of the country involving various stakeholders including farmers. So far 455 mass awareness campaigns have been organized by the Board.

Awareness is also created through release of booklets, campaigns organized on Doordarshan, All India Radio and in print media on water conservation, release of postage stamp on Water and Meghdoot post cards, participation in Festivals, Fairs, Melas, Expos, IITF and tableau during Republic Day Parade, Jalyatra/ puppet show through NGOs/ Gram Panchayats, display of hoardings on water conservation/ rain water harvesting at prominent public places, transport vehicles etc.

Ministry of Water Resources has implemented Farmers Participatory Action Research Programme (FPARP) throughout the country with the help of appropriate Agricultural Universities, ICAR Research Institutes, ICRISAT and WALMIs to demonstrate that it is now possible to increase yield and income per drop of water using various techniques including rainwater harvesting.

(e) Ministry of Agriculture has launch an scheme " National Mission on Micro Irrigation" during the XI plan to improve methods of irrigation such as drip & sprinkler to save water, power and reduce water logging.