

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2208
ANSWERED ON:06.12.2012
AVAILABILITY OF IRRIGATION FACILITIES
Ahir Shri Hansraj Gangaram

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the availability of irrigation facilities for cultivable land in the country is not increasing as expected;
- (b) if so, the State-wise details of irrigated agricultural land in the country;
- (c) whether disparity in availability of irrigation facilities is continuously increasing in the country;
- (d) if so, whether the Government is contemplating to set up a special Central Fund to increase the area of irrigated land; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI HARISH RAWAT)

(a) & (b) As per Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperation, the gross irrigated area for the years 2005-06, 2006-07, 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10 was 84280, 86256, 87981, 88867 and 86423 thousand hectares respectively. State-wise details of cultivable area and gross irrigated agricultural land in the country is enclosed at annexure – I.

(c) The average net irrigated area of the country is 34.67% against net cultivable area 182466 thousand hectares. 10 States and UTs have net irrigated area more than average of 34.71 in 2009-10 and the remaining 25 States & UTs are below the average which shows disparity in availability of irrigation facilities in the country. The details of the average of states and UT's are given in Annexure-II.

(d) & (e) Government of India provides technical and financial assistance to State Governments with a view to encouraging sustainable development and efficient management of water resources through various schemes and programmes. Central grant is provided to States under various schemes / programmes of the Ministry of Water Resources namely "Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme", "Command Area Development and Water Management Programme", "National Project", and "Repair, Renovation and Restoration of Water Bodies". There is no proposal at present to set up a special Central fund.