

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
WATER RESOURCES  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:879  
ANSWERED ON:08.08.2013  
CANAL IRRIGATION  
Kumar Shri Kaushalendra

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

- (a) the percentage of irrigation capacity likely to be increased after smooth operation of canal irrigation system in the country;
- (b) whether the Government has any action plan for improvement and extension of canal irrigation system under the current Five Year Plan; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER FOR WATER RESOURCES (SHRI HARISH RAWAT)

(a) As per the report of National Commission for Integrated Water Resources Development, the overall irrigation efficiency of the surface water projects could be enhanced to about 60% through improvement in water conveyance efficiency as well as water application efficiency. A study of a few irrigation projects was taken up by Central Water Commission (CWC) with a view to assess the Water Use Efficiency (WUE) of irrigation projects. One of the main findings of the study is poor or non maintenance of canals/distributaries/minors of irrigation systems and no regulation gates on head regulators of minors resulting in improper operation. Further, reportedly, there is also a lack of operational plan for distribution of irrigation water in some of the projects. This results in an inequitable distribution of water in Command area with head reaches generally getting much higher share of water. This aspect is taken care of under existing Command Area Development & Water Management (CAD&WM) Programme.

(b) & (c) Due emphasis has been laid on Extension, Renovation and Modernization (ERM) of the irrigation projects with a view to fully utilize the created irrigation potential, improve WUE and enhance the irrigation potential. Government of India provides assistance for ERM projects under Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP). However, water being a state subject, the responsibility of planning, development, execution and management of the all type of water resources projects rest with concerned State Governments. State-wise list of ERM of major and medium irrigation projects accepted (7 Nos.) by the Advisory Committee of MoWR during current XII Plan which will stabilize irrigation potential of 2,41,625 ha and create additional irrigation potential of 1,58,051 ha is enclosed at Annexure-I and Status of ERM projects under various stages of appraisal (8 Nos) is enclosed at Annexure-II.

Government of India also provides assistance to States under the scheme 'Command Area Development and Water Management (CAD&WM)' with the objective of ensuring optimal utilization of the created facilities and thereby improving the WUE. Further, 13th Finance Commission also provides some maintenance grants.