

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:773
ANSWERED ON:24.11.2009
SCHEMES FOR IRRIGATION
J Helen Davidson

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has introduced any new schemes apart from the existing ones for taking up new irrigation projects in rural areas;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise including Tamil Nadu;
- (c) if not, whether the existing schemes cater to the needs of rural farmers; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS)

(a) to (d): Irrigation is a state subject and planning, execution and funding of the irrigation projects is within the purview of the concerned State Government as per their own priority. No new scheme has been introduced by the Central Government for taking up new irrigation projects in the rural areas. However, Ministry of Water Resources has recently launched a scheme of Repair, Renovation and Restoration of Water Bodies in the country including Tamil Nadu. Under this scheme, about 1 lakh water bodies having a Culturable Command Area (CCA) of 9 lakh hectare at a cost of Rs.4000 crore including central share of Rs.1250 crore would be covered. The main objective of the scheme are:

- # Comprehensive improvement of selected tank systems including restoration.
- # Improvement of catchment areas of tank.
- # Community participation and self-supporting system for sustainable management for water bodies covered by the programme.
- # Ground Water Recharge.
- # Capacity Building of communities, user groups standing committee for Panchayats and State Government/Central Government Agencies concerned with the planning, implementation and monitoring of the project.
- # Increase in storage capacity of water bodies.
- # Improvement in agriculture/horticulture productivity and increase in recharge of ground water in downstream areas of water bodies.
- # Environmental benefits through improved water use efficiency; irrigation benefits through restoration of water bodies, supplementation of the groundwater use and promotion of conjunctive use of surface and ground water.
- # Development of tourism, cultural activities, etc.
- # Increased availability of drinking water.

Besides, Ministry of Water Resources is also implementing the Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) which extends financial assistance to the States for creation of irrigation potential by completion of identified ongoing irrigation projects. As per the present pattern of assistance under the AIBP, the Centre is providing grant to the irrigation projects as an incentive to the States for creating irrigation infrastructure in the country. The AIBP has to now meet the demands of the Bharat Nirman programme under which a major thrust on irrigation is included. AIBP also provides assistance to the irrigation projects under the Prime Minister's Package for agrarian distressed districts. Apart from the above, Ministry of Agriculture is also implementing the Micro Irrigation Scheme in the country which aims at to improve the irrigation efficiency.