

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
FINANCE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2562  
ANSWERED ON:04.12.2009  
LOAN TO SMALL AND MICRO IRRIGATION PROJECTS  
Jagannath Dr. M.

**Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:**

(a) whether the Government proposes to ask banks to offer loans for small and micro irrigation projects to reduce the dependence on monsoons; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA)

(a) & (b): Banks provide loans to small and micro irrigation projects. National Bank for Agriculture & Rural Development (NABARD) refines loans for Minor Irrigation which include small and micro irrigation loans also. NABARD's refinance for the last three years in this regard is as under:

2009-10:	Rs.125.52 crore (as on October 2009)
2008-09:	Rs.545.85 crore
2007-08:	Rs.403.68 crore

NABARD as a policy has included small and micro irrigation as one of the thrust areas for the year 2009-10. Further, consequent upon Government of India declaring 299 districts spread across 12 States as drought affected (based on the rainfall data provided by India Meteorological Department), NABARD has issued instructions dated 2 September 2009 on Drought Relief Measures by Banks, to its Regional Offices advising them, inter alia, that they may call upon State Cooperative Agriculture and Rural Development Banks (SCARDBs) to finance water saving devices and support water conservation measures (Drip, Sprinkler system of irrigation) so as to minimize the impact of drought on rural people and economy.