

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1333
ANSWERED ON:26.11.2001
ENVIRONMENTAL TECHNOLOGY ON WATER FRONT
N.T. SHANMUGAM

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have sought Swedish co-operation in environmental technology to tackle water related problems in waste water treatment in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government are aware that due to rapid growth of population the water resources for irrigation are fast depleting; and
- (d) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to overcome the crisis?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SMT. BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY)

(a) & (b) Swedish cooperation in environmental technology to tackle water related problems in waste water treatment in the country has not been sought by the Ministries of Water Resources; Urban Development; and Environment & Forests, Government of India. Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA) assistance has been sought for urban reforms in India.

(c) Yes, Sir. Due to rapid growth of population, the demands of water for domestic and industrial purposes have increased. As such, the percentage of water available for irrigation has decreased.

(d) Development of water resources in the country since independence has resulted in an increase of foodgrain production from less than 50 million tonnes to 200 million tonnes in 1999. This has been made possible with the creation of a live storage capacity of 177 Billion Cubic Metre (BCM) by construction of large dams upto 1995.

With the help of these storages created and other minor irrigation schemes, an irrigation potential of 90 Million hectare (Mha) has been created up to the end of the Eighth Plan against the ultimate irrigation potential of 139.9 Mha in the country.

Irrigation being a State subject, the responsibility of survey & investigations, planning, development, funding, execution and management of all types of water resources projects including flood control & drainage to harness the water resources within the States primarily rests with the concerned State Government according to their own priorities and from their own plan resources. In order to meet the growing demand of water in the country, projects, to add an additional storage capacity of about 75 BCM, are under construction and for 132 BCM are under planning. This will facilitate additional irrigation potential to meet the future demands.

Further, to help the State Governments in their efforts to harness the water from natural resources, the Government of India has launched Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) since 1996-97. Under the programme, financial assistance in the form of repayable loan is being extended to State Governments to help them complete the ongoing irrigation projects in a time bound manner so that the benefits could accrue at the earliest. Assistance is also being extended to State Governments under Command Area Development (CAD) Programme for bridging the gap between potential created and utilized. Government of India is also promoting rain water harvesting through Watershed Management Programme, for which technical and financial assistance is provided to the State Governments and other implementing agencies. Central Ground Water Board has also taken up pilot studies for artificial ground water recharge.