

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
WATER RESOURCES  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:797  
ANSWERED ON:28.11.2005  
IRRIGATION POTENTIAL  
Singh Shri Prabhunath

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

- (a) whether targets were fixed for creation of irrigation potential under major and medium irrigation projects;
- (b) if so, details thereof;
- (c) the extent to which irrigation potential have been created so far together with reasons for the shortfall, if any, in the irrigation potential; and
- (d) the steps taken to complete the projects and to achieve the targets of irrigation potential?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR HEAVY INDUSTRIES, PUBLIC ENTERPRISES AND WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A target of creation of 9.936 million hectare of irrigation potential under major & medium irrigation projects was set for the Tenth Five Year Plan.

(c) Upto the end of 2004-05, an irrigation potential of 3.367 million hectare is likely to be achieved under major & medium irrigation projects.

(d) Irrigation development is a continuous process and the responsibility of planning, execution and funding of all types of irrigation projects primarily rests with the State Governments. However, for early completion of ongoing major & medium irrigation projects, Government of India provides Central Loan Assistance (CLA) to the State Governments under the Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP) since 1996-97. CLA under AIBP is also provided for minor irrigation schemes of the special category States comprising the North Eastern States & Sikkim, the hilly States of J & K, Himachal Pradesh & Uttarakhand as well as the drought prone Kalahandi, Bolangir & Koraput districts of Orissa with effect from 1999-2000. The criteria of AIBP have further been relaxed to include new minor irrigation scheme with potential more than 100 hectare in non-special category State with preference to tribal areas and drought prone areas. The special dispensation of loan/grant have also been extended to drought prone areas, flood prone areas and tribal areas at par with special category States. Further, creation of irrigation potential of 10 million hectare is also envisaged under Bharat Nirman during next four years.