

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3604
ANSWERED ON:15.05.2006
PARTICIPATORY IRRIGATION MANAGEMENT
Masood Shri Rasheed

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Participatory Management of Irrigation (PMI) launched with the objective of development of irrigation and cautious management of water in the country failed to achieve its objectives,
- (b) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the number of States in which the said programme has been implemented so far; and
- (d) the steps being taken by the Government for implementation of the same?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ)

(a) No Sir.

(b) Participation in Irrigation Management was initiated with the objectives of creating a sense of ownership of water resources and the irrigation system among the users, so as to promote economy in optimum water use as per crop needs; improving in service deliveries through better operation and maintenance; achieving equity in water distribution; and encouraging collective and community responsibility on the farmers to collect water charges and payment to Irrigation Agency.

However, the progress of formation of Water Users Associations (WUAs) in some States is slow due to prolonged deferment of maintenance of canal & paucity of operational and maintenance funds with States and low water rates which WUAs are supposed to collect and retain a portion thereof for maintenance of the system.

(c) So far, ten States namely, Andhra Pradesh, Goa, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Bihar and Maharashtra have either enacted their

Participatory Irrigation Management Acts or amended existing Irrigation Acts. Other States are in the process of taking policy initiatives/formation of draft bills etc.

(d) Water being a State subject, Ministry of Water Resources has taken several initiatives to bring awareness about the programme and imparting training to State Government officials. These include international, national and regional workshops/seminars and national level training programme on policy initiatives, drafting bills, initiating reform measures and building up of capacity of farmers and field functionaries for implementation of PIM in States. The Ministry has also circulated a Model Act on PIM/amendments to Irrigation Acts on PIM for guidance of State Governments.