

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
WATER RESOURCES  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4703  
ANSWERED ON:22.05.2006  
COMPLETION OF PENDING IRRIGATION PROJECTS  
Tripathy Shri Braja Kishore

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

- (a) the number of major and medium irrigation projects spilled over from Ninth Five Year Plan to Tenth Five Year Plan;
- (b) the cost over run due to delay in completion of such projects;
- (c) the number of projects targeted to complete during the current plan and the number out of them completed so far, State-wise; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government for timely completion of such projects as per the targets fixed?

**Answer**

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

(a) At the beginning of Tenth Five Year Plan there were 494 ongoing irrigation projects both approved and unapproved [173 major, 235 medium and 86 extension renovation and modernization (ERM)], spilled over from previous Plans, and as on 01.4.2006, there are 452 ongoing irrigation projects both approved and unapproved (157 major, 212 medium and 83 ERM).

(b) A comparison of the original approved cost of ongoing irrigation projects and latest estimated cost indicates that the escalation in cost in respect of approved ongoing irrigation projects due to delay in completion is of the order of about Rs. 90,000 crore.

(c) As indicated by State Governments, about 331 (93 major 180 medium and 58 ERM) irrigation projects, out of the total 494 irrigation projects ongoing at the beginning of Tenth Five Year Plan, were anticipated to be completed during the Tenth Five Year Plan. During the first 3 years of Tenth Five Year Plan, 38 irrigation projects (16 major, 19 medium and 3 ERM) were completed. The State-wise number of irrigation projects targeted for completion and completed is given in the Statement enclosed.

(d) Irrigation projects are languishing due to various reasons, the most important of them being inadequate provision of funds by the concerned State Governments. Keeping this in view, the Central Government launched the Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) in 1996-97 to provide Central Loan Assistance for such approved irrigation projects which are in an advanced stage of construction and beyond the resources capability of the States that can be completed in the next four financial years as per the guidelines of the programme.