

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3686
ANSWERED ON:23.08.2004
PENDING IRRIGATION PROJECTS
Rao Shri Sambasiva Rayapati

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether 380-odd spill-over irrigation projects from Ninth Five Year Plan to the Tenth Plan, spanning across 23 States, have added a whopping Rs. 98,089 crore to the project implement cost;
- (b) if so, whether these projects were planned to make the economy weather-proof by ensuring that Indian agriculture was no longer too weather-dependent;
- (c) if so, the reasons for non-completion of these projects; and
- (d) the steps being taken to complete projects in the Tenth Plan?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV)

- (a) 383 major/medium irrigation projects have spilled over from Ninth Five Year Plan to Tenth Five Year Plan with balance cost of Rs. 75,482 crore.
- (b) & (c) Agriculture has a dominant role in the country's economy and its growth and sustainability is possible inter-alia with reduction in dependence on the vagaries of weather through irrigation. There are various reasons for non-completion of the irrigation projects which are mainly paucity of funds, land acquisition, resettlement & rehabilitation, contractual problems and non-resolution of inter-State issues.
- (d) The Government now envisages to complete all the ongoing irrigation projects within 3-4 years. The Central Government through Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) is already providing funds for the expeditious completion of ongoing major & medium irrigation projects.