

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:212
ANSWERED ON:06.03.2006
IRRIGATION PROJECTS THROUGH PRIVATE SECTOR
Verma Shri Ravi Prakash

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a number of irrigation projects are running behind their original schedule as on date;
- (b) if so, whether the Government is considering to invite private participation to complete such irrigation projects in the States;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) if not, the remedial steps proposed to be taken by the Government in this regards?

Answer

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

- (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 212 FOR ANSWER ON 6.3.2006 REGARDING IRRIGATION PROJECTS THROUGH PRIVATE SECTOR

- (a) Yes; Sir.

(b) Irrigation is a State subject and the planning, execution, funding, operation and maintenance of irrigation projects are primarily the responsibility of the State Governments based on their priorities. There is no proposal under consideration of Ministry of Water Resources to invite private participation to complete irrigation projects in the States.

- (c) Does not arise.

(d) 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. An amount of Rs. 18,378 crore has been released under AIBP as Central Loan Assistance/grant upto January, 2006 in respect of 191 major/medium irrigation projects and 4180 Surface Water Minor Irrigation Schemes. With the assistance provided under AIBP, 49 major/medium irrigation projects/project components and 3179 Surface Water Minor Irrigation Schemes have so far been reported as completed. The Central Water Commission is monitoring all the major/medium irrigation projects under AIBP and other selected major/medium irrigation projects on a regular basis.