

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:278

ANSWERED ON:11.12.2006

IRRIGATION SCHEMES FOR SMALL AND MARGINAL FARMERS

Yerrannaidu Shri Kinjarapu

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) Whether the Government has prepared any new irrigation schemes for the benefit of small and marginal farmers;
- (b) If so, the details thereof;
- (c) The amount allocated and proposed to be allocated therefor;
- (d) The time by which these schemes are likely to be implemented; and
- (e) The number of farmers likely to be benefited therefrom?

Answer

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

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 278 FOR ANSWER ON 11.12.2006 REGARDING IRRIGATION SCHEMES FOR SMALL AND MARGINAL FARMERS

(a)to(e) Following schemes are launched by Government of India for the benefit of small and marginal farmers:

(1) Minor irrigation schemes for Scheduled Tribes under Article 275(1)

In consonance with the commitment made in the National Common Minimum Programme

(NCMP) that the Government will launch a comprehensive National Programme for Minor Irrigation of land owned by Dalits and Adivasis, the Ministry of Tribal Affairs initiated a special programme during 2005-06 to provide 100 percent financial assistance to States for taking up minor irrigation schemes for Scheduled Tribes land. Planning Commission had made an allocation of Rs.50 crore under the Article 275(1) of the Constitution in the budget of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs exclusively for providing minor irrigation facilities in the tribal areas of the States. During the current year, the Planning Commission has earmarked an amount of Rs.150 crore for Minor Irrigation of tribal owned lands out of Rs.400 crore allocated under Art. 275(1) of the Constitution of India.

(2)Water Harvesting Schemes for SC/ST farmers financed by NABARD under Banking division of Ministry of Finance.

The Finance Minister in his Budget Speech 2004-05 announced the Water Harvesting Scheme for SC/ST farmers. NABARD under the Banking division of Ministry of Finance is implementing the scheme. The scheme to provide 24500 water harvesting structures at an estimated cost of Rs.49 crores with 50% subsidy. The scheme is under operation since 2004-05 and Rs.64 lakh was released as subsidy in 2004-05. In 2005-06, Rs.8.50 crore was provided in RE for subsidy. Rs.16 crore is kept as budgetary support for subsidy for the year 2006-07. Under the scheme, location specific rainwater harvesting structures have been proposed with suitable lifting devices. 3366 water harvesting structures have been reported constructed by December, 2005.

(3) Scheme on Micro Irrigation

Government has launched a Centrally sponsored scheme on Micro Irrigation in January, 2006 for implementation throughout the country. Under the Scheme, 50% subsidy is provided for the system cost out of which 40% will be borne by the Central Government and 10% by the State Government. The remaining 50% will be borne by the beneficiary either through his or her own resources or soft loan from financial institutions. The scheme includes both drip and sprinkler irrigation for all horticulture and also non- horticulture crops like sugarcane, wheat, oil seeds, cotton except oil palm, etc. All categories of farmers are covered under the scheme ensuring at least 25% of the beneficiaries are small and marginal farmers. During 2005-06 and 2006-07, a sum of Rs.280.49 crore and Rs.520.00 crore respectively are allocated. Release of fund is being made on the basis of approved Annual Action Plan received from different States.

(4)In addition to the above, the Ministry of Rural Development is implementing the Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojna (SGSY), Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana

(SGRY), National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA), Integrated Watershed Development Project (IWDP), Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP) and Desert Development Programme (DDP) to provide Irrigation facilities to rural people including small and marginal farmers.