

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
AGRICULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1431

ANSWERED ON:14.07.2009

IRRIGATION INFRASTRUCTURE IN THE COUNTRY

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**Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the area under assured irrigation is showing a declining trend over the year;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) the details of the total area under irrigation and the growth rate thereof during each of the last three years and in the current year;
- (d) whether the Government has initiated any step to improve irrigation infrastructure in the country;
- (e) if so, the details thereof;
- (f) whether any plan of action has been drawn for switching over to more efficient small scale methods of irrigation and implementing irrigation projects within a fixed time frame; and
- (g) if so, the action taken in this regard?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS)

(a) to (c): Net and Gross irrigated area in the country has increased over the years. The details of net and gross irrigated area and growth rate for the years from 2002-03 to 2006-07 are as follows:

(Area in thousand hectares)

Year	Net Irrigated area	Growth over previous year	Gross Irrigated area	Growth over previous year
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2002-03	53653	-	73543	-
2003-04	56746	5.8	78308	6.5
2004-05	58816	3.6	81094	3.6
2005-06	59877	1.8	83416	2.9
2006-07	60857	1.6	85783	2.8

(d)to(g): The Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) extends financial assistance to the States for creation of irrigation potential by completion of identified ongoing irrigation projects. The Centre is providing grant to the irrigation projects as an incentive to the States for creating irrigation infrastructure in the country. 265 major/medium irrigation projects and 9852 surface water minor irrigation schemes have been included under AIBP till 31st March 2009. Out of these 265 projects, a total of 100 projects have been completed. Up to March 2009, 9852 Surface Water minor irrigation schemes were provided assistance under AIBP of which 5805 schemes have been completed.

The AIBP is also meeting the demands of the Bharat Nirman programme under which a major thrust on irrigation is included.

65 selected major/medium projects under AIBP are also receiving financial assistance under the Prime Minister's relief package for

agrarian distressed districts of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala and Maharashtra.

The Surface Minor Irrigation Schemes for North-Eastern States, Hilly States of Sikkim, Uttaranchal, Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Koraput, Bolangir and Kalahandi Districts of Orissa have also been provided Central Loan Assistance under this programme since 1999-2000. As per the existing AIBP criteria effective from December, 2006, grant amounting to 25% of the project cost for major and medium irrigation projects in non-special category States and 90% grant of the project cost for major/medium/minor irrigation projects in special category States (including Koraput, Bolangir and Kalahandi districts of Orissa) are provided to the selected projects. For the year 2009-10, projected grant requirement of AIBP is Rs.12285 crore for creation of an additional irrigation potential of 10.50 lakh ha. Budget allocation made available for 2009-10 for AIBP is of Rs.8000 crore.