

Decrease in irrigation potential

3392. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the irrigation potential has been decreasing in the country from the last several years;

(b) if so, whether Government has assessed the factors responsible for decrease in irrigation potential in the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the corrective measures taken by Government to increase the irrigation potential in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT PALA): (a) to (d) No, The irrigation potential (cumulative) created in the country has been increasing over the years. The irrigation potential created upto the beginning of the First Five Year Plan was about 22.6 million hectares which increased to about 102.7 million hectares at the end of the Tenth Plan. Creation of irrigation potential of about 5.5 million hectares has been reported during the first 3 years of the Eleventh Plan *i.e.* during 2007-08 to 2009-10. However, during the Eighth Five Year Plan (1992-97) there was relatively lesser rate of creation of irrigation potential as compared to the Seventh Plan. One of the reasons for this decline was that a large number of river valley projects, both multi-purpose and irrigation, spilled over from plan to plan period, mainly because of financial constraints being faced by the State Governments. Government of India therefore introduced the Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) in the year 1996 with a view to providing financial assistance to States to complete various ongoing irrigation projects in the country. Since its formulation, the terms of the programme have been widened and liberalized over time. Government of India also provides assistance to the State Governments under the schemes "Repair Renovation and Restoration of Water Bodies" and "Command Area Development and Water Management" with the objective of stabilization and full utilization of created facilities. The rate of creation of irrigation potential in successive Plans is indicates in the following table.

Plan		Irrigation Potential Created in million hectare per year
1		2
Seventh Plan	(1985-1990)	2.26
Annual Plans	(1990-1992)	2.28
Eighth Plan	(1992-1997)	1.03

1		2
Ninth Plan	(1997-2002)	1.54
Tenth Plan	(2002-2007)	1.76
Eleventh Plan	(first three years <i>i.e.</i> from 2007-2010)	1.84

Water conservation in States

3393. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has recently convened a meeting of all the Chief Ministers to discuss various matters relating to water conservation in their respective States;

(b) if so, the decisions arrived at in the meeting; and

(c) the action plan drawn up by Government to implement these decisions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT PALA): (a) to (c) During the 55th meeting of the National Development Council (NDC) held on 24th July, 2010, in which Chief Ministers of various States participated, one of the agenda items for deliberation was "Managing India's Water Resources". Based on the deliberations, several decisions were taken and one of such decision was that the Planning Commission would prepare an integrated policy for water resources management that would be discussed in future NDC meeting.

Funds spent for projects of interlinking of rivers

3394. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received proposals from various State Governments for inclusion of certain rivers as part of the proposed inter-linking and intra-linking of the river projects;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the estimated cost of these projects and the funds spent so far; and

(d) the manner in which the inter-linking river projects is likely to solve the water crisis, flood and drought conditions in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT PALA): (a) to (c) National Water Development Agency (NWDA) has received 36 proposals of intrastate links from 7 States *viz.* Maharashtra, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Orissa, Bihar, Rajasthan and