

#### **Proper operation of canal system**

†439. SHRI RAGHUNANDAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that up to fifteen per cent rise in the irrigation capability of the country is possible from the water presently available through proper operation of canal system in the country;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto;

(c) whether Government has given concrete shape to any scheme to improve canal system under Eleventh Five Year Plan; and

(d) if so, the details thereof along with the amount spent on this scheme till August, 2010?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT PALA): (a) to (d) As per the report of the National Commission for Integrated Water Resources Development, the overall irrigation efficiency of the surface water projects could be enhanced from present level of about 35-40% to about 60% through improvement in water conveyance efficiency as well as water application efficiency. Findings of several studies reported from time to time also indicate that through proper management of the canal system, the irrigation efficiency could be increased up to 15%.

Due emphasis has been laid on extension, renovation and modernization (ERM) of the irrigation projects with a view to fully utilizing the created irrigation potential, improving the water use efficiency and enhancing the irrigation potential. Government of India provides assistance for ERM projects under Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP). So far 31 ERM projects have been provided assistance under AIBP and central grant of about Rs.1241.85 crores has been released to States including Rs. 554.85 crores during XI Plan. Government of India also provides assistance to States under the scheme "Command Area Development and Water Management (CAD&WM)" with the objective of ensuring optimal utilization of the created facilities and thereby improving the water use efficiency. Of the 146 projects which have been covered under CAD&WM, 49 projects have been included during XI Plan. Central grant of about Rs. 1015 crores has been released to States under CAD&WM during XI Plan.

Due emphasis has also been laid on better management practices which *inter-alia* includes participatory irrigation management (PIM). Formation of Water Users' Associations (WUAs) for PIM is also promoted under CAD&WM. Ministry of Water Resources has drafted a Model Bill for PIM and circulated to States. So far, 15 States have either enacted the legislation for PIM or have modified the existing Acts to incorporate the provisions for PIM. Formation of 56934 WUAs has been reported by the States.

Further, one of the five goals identified in the draft Mission Document of National Water Mission is "increasing water use efficiency by 20%".

#### **Reservoirs on rivers being built by China**

440. SHRI RANJITSINH VJAYSINH MOHITE-PATIL: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news-item that China plans to build 55 reservoirs on rivers flowing from the Tibetan plateau;
- (b) whether it has also come to the notice of Government that China's most ambitious projects is to build a dam on the Tsangpo (Brahmaputra) before it enters Assam;
- (c) whether the diversion of water of the Brahmaputra will impact India and Bangladesh especially during the summer months; and
- (d) Government's reaction with full details?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT PALA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government is aware of media reports regarding construction of 55 reservoirs on Tibetan rivers in China including Brahmaputra. The matter on construction of large scale dams on river Yarlung Zangbo also called Tsangpo impacting the flow of water in the downstream areas in India has been taken up with the Chinese authorities at the highest level. The Chinese side has categorically denied that it is constructing a dam on the Brahmaputra River for the purposes of water diversion.