

Completion of irrigation projects

536. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that several irrigation projects have been hampered due to financial crunch and various irrigation projects are pending for approvals;

(b) if so, Government's response there to and the steps taken so far by the Union Government for early completion of all the ongoing irrigation projects;

(c) Whether Government have explored the possibilities for increasing the irrigation capacity in the coming years keeping in view the irrigation demand in the country; and

(d) if so, the details of initiatives formulated by Government to meet the demand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) The responsibility of planning, funding and execution of irrigation projects primarily lies with the State Government concerned as irrigation is a State Subject. The priority for irrigation sector funding has declined from about 22.54% in first Plan to about 6.28% in Tenth Plan. Also States take up large number of irrigation projects and the resources are invariably thin spread.

Irrigation and Flood Control projects, which are located on inter-state rivers and tributaries, are being techno-economically appraised by Central Water Commission. The projects are further being considered in Advisory Committee for Irrigation, Flood Control and Multipurpose projects of Ministry of Water Resources for acceptance and according investment approval by Planning Commission.

(b) to (d) The guidelines for the Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme have been relaxed in December 2006 and assistance is provided to the states in the form of either 90 per cent grant or 25 per cent grant for completing the irrigation projects.

Under Bharat Nirman, 10 million hectare is proposed to be brought under irrigation during the four-year period 2005-2009. The Working Group on Water Resources for the Eleventh Five-Year Plan has suggested a target of creating 16 million hectare of irrigation potential. The State Governments have to provide adequate funds under the State Plan for achieving these targets.

Work on Rajamunda-Panikoili on NH 215

†537. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for the work on National Highway 215, between Rajamunda and Panikoili, Orissa approved in 2002, not being commenced so far;

(b) the amount allocated so far for construction of this highway;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (c) whether any target has been fixed for completion of this highway;
- (d) the amount allocated this year for expansion and up keep of various National Highways of Orissa and during the last three years; and
- (e) the total amount spent thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (c) All works approved for National Highway No. 215 during 2002 were commenced and completed. Allocations are made State-wise and not National Highway-wise. Since its declaration as National Highway 215, Rs. 133.92 crore have been spent on development & maintenance of this National Highway. However, the development and maintenance of National Highways is a continuous process.

(d) and (e) The amount spent for development and maintenance of various national highways in the State of Orissa during the last 3 years and during the current year is as follows:

(Rs in crore)				
Year	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Allocation to State PWD	108.37	110.53	117.15	127.41
Expenditure by State PWD	105.15	108.19	116.00	43.25 upto 31st July 2007
Expenditure by NHAI	296.88	364.19	206.32	69.31 upto 31st July 2007

Development of ports in Kerala

538. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether competent authority had sought Central assistance during May, 2007 for developing ports in Kerala;
- (b) if so, the details of the ports, total investment and the amount of Central assistance sought, port-wise;
- (c) the details including the decision taken in detail on the above request, port-wise, decision-wise;
- (d) whether the above request consists of any proposal to declare Kerala as a Maritime State;
- (e) if so, the action taken on any of the above proposals; and
- (f) if not, the detailed reasons for not taking any action on the above proposal?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) (Government of Kerala has submitted a Memorandum dated the 23rd May, 2007 requesting for Central assistance for development of some Non-Major Ports in the State of Kerala. Details are given below: