

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI,
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1702

ANSWERED ON 01.08.2022

IRRIGATION FACILITY THROUGH CANALS

1702 MS. SAROJ PANDEY

Will the Minister of JAL SHAKTI be pleased to state:

- (a) the agricultural land area in terms of percentage, wherein irrigation facility through canals is currently available in the country and the extent of increase recorded in this regard during the last five years; and
(b) the action plan formulated by Government to provide irrigation facility through canals to maximum land area in order to increase crop production, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI

(SHRI BISHWESWAR TUDU)

(a) As per the latest data available with Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, in the year 2018-19 against the total agricultural land of 1,80,888 thousand hectare, 71,554 thousand hectare has been reported to be the net irrigation area. Out of this, 16,429 thousand hectare is through canals, while the balance is through tanks, tube-wells, other wells and other sources.

However, five years earlier, i.e. in the year 2014-15, net irrigation area is reported to be 68,384 thousand hectare, against the total agricultural land area of 1,81,829 thousand hectare. Out of this, agriculture land area with irrigation facility through canals is reported to be 16,184 thousand hectare.

Hence, irrigation facility through canals has increased from 8.90% in the year 2014-15, to 9.08% of agricultural land in the year 2018-19.

(b) Water being a State subject, it is for the States concerned to take up irrigation projects as per their priorities and funds availabilities. Role of Government of India in this regard includes being catalytic, providing technical support, and also providing assistance under ongoing schemes, for irrigation through various means such as canals, ground water in suitable areas, micro irrigation to achieve per drop more crop, tanks and water bodies, etc.

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As far as canal irrigation is concerned, Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana (PMKSY) was launched during the year 2015-16, with the aim to enhance physical access of water on farm and expand cultivable area under assured irrigation, improve on-farm water use efficiency, introduce sustainable water conservation practices, etc. The two components being implemented by this Ministry under the scheme consist of Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP), and Har Khet Ko Pani (HKKP). HKKP, in turn, presently consists of three sub-components, being Command Area Development & Water Management (CAD&WM), Surface Minor Irrigation (SMI), and Repair, Renovation and Restoration (RRR) of Water Bodies. Irrigation under each of the above components is proposed predominantly through canal network.

During the presently approved period of 2021-26, creation of additional irrigation potential of 13.88 lakh hectare is targeted under AIBP, whereas another 4.5 lakh hectare is targeted through SMI and RRR of Water Bodies. In addition, command area development of 30.23 lakh hectare has been envisaged under CAD&WM during this period.

Apart from PMKSY, a scheme consisting of 83 surface minor irrigation (SMI) projects and 8 major / medium irrigation projects in drought prone districts in Vidarbha and Marathwada and rest of Maharashtra (Special Package) has been approved in July, 2018. Irrigation potential creation of 3.73 lakh hectare through canal irrigation has been envisaged under the scheme, to be completed by March, 2023.

In addition, central assistance are also being provided for a few special projects envisaging irrigation through canals. These include Relining of Sirhind Feeder and Rajasthan Feeder in the States of Punjab and Rajasthan with a target of restoration of 1.68 lakh hectare, Polavaram irrigation project (National Project) in the State of Andhra Pradesh with ultimate irrigation potential of 2.91 lakh hectare, and Shahpur Kandi project (National Project) with an ultimate irrigation potential of 0.37 lakh hectare.

Further, details regarding canal irrigation projects being taken up by individual States, are being maintained by the concerned State Governments themselves.
