

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE
RAJYA SABHA
QUESTION NO 27.11.2009
ANSWERED ON
DEPENDENCE OF AGRICULTURE ON RAINS .

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Smt. Jaya Bachchan

Will the Minister of COALCOALAGRICULTURE be pleased to state :-

- (a) whether it is a fact that over two-thirds of the agricultural land is still dependant on rains;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that China has only one-third of its agricultural land unirrigated;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that developed countries depend very little on rains; and
- (d) if so, the action Government has taken to create infrastructural projects in the recent past to relieve agriculture of its dependence on rains?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION)

(SHRI K.V. THOMAS)

(a): During 2006-07, 43.38% of net area sown was irrigated and thus only 56.62% area were dependent on rains.

(b): As per Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) Statistical Year Book 2007-08, 62.6 % of arable land and permanent crops were unirrigated during 2006.

(c): As per FAO Statistical Year Book 2007-08, percentage of unirrigated land in arable land and permanent crops in 2006 in following developed countries are given below:

Name of the developed country % share of net unirrigated area in arable land & permanent crops

New Zealand	43.1
Japan	45.6
Korea, Republic of	52.3
Italy	60.0
Netherlands	63.0
Spain	78.2
France	86.3
United States	86.9
Sweden	93.8
Switzerland	94.2
Australia	94.7
Germany	96.0
United Kingdom	97.0
Belgium	97.3
Canada	98.4

(d): The Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) extends financial assistance to the States for creation of irrigation potential and by completion of identified ongoing irrigation projects. 272 major/medium irrigation projects and 10236 surface water minor irrigation schemes have been included under AIBP till 11th November 2009. Out of these, 109 major/medium projects and 6640 surface minor irrigation schemes have been completed. An additional irrigation potential of 59.39 lakh hectares has been created till March 2009.

65 major/medium irrigation projects under the Prime Minister's relief package for agrarian distressed districts of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala and Maharashtra have been selected for receiving financial assistance under AIBP. So far 38 projects have been funded under AIBP.

The Surface Minor Irrigation Schemes for North-Eastern States, Hilly States of Sikkim, Uttaranchal, Jammu

and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and undivided 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 undivided 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 hectare. Budget allocation made available for 2009-10 for AIBP is of Rs.8000 crore.

Since February 2009, scheme of National Projects has also been implemented for funding high priority projects of international and interstate importance. So far, 14 projects have been identified as National Projects, which are at different stages of planning and execution. Active central assistance at the rate of 90% of the eligible balance cost of irrigation and drinking water component of these projects is being provided.