

Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP)

- An Overview

1.1 Irrigation

The Ultimate Irrigation Potential (UIP) of the country has been estimated by the Ministry of Water Resources (MoWR) at 139.9 million hectare (ha)¹. Against this, the Irrigation Potential (IP) created till the end of the X Plan was estimated at 102.77 million ha, of which 87.23 million ha had reportedly been utilized. With an average irrigation intensity of 140 per cent, the actual net irrigated area is estimated by the Planning Commission at around 62.31 million ha, which is only 43 per cent of the net sown area of the country of 142 million ha.

Box 1 Major, Medium and Minor Irrigation Projects

Major irrigation projects are those projects creating irrigation potential of more than 10,000 ha of Culturable Command Area (CCA). Medium irrigation projects involve creation of irrigation potential of 2,000 to 10,000 ha of CCA, while minor irrigation (MI) projects involve creation of irrigation potential of less than 2,000 ha of CCA.

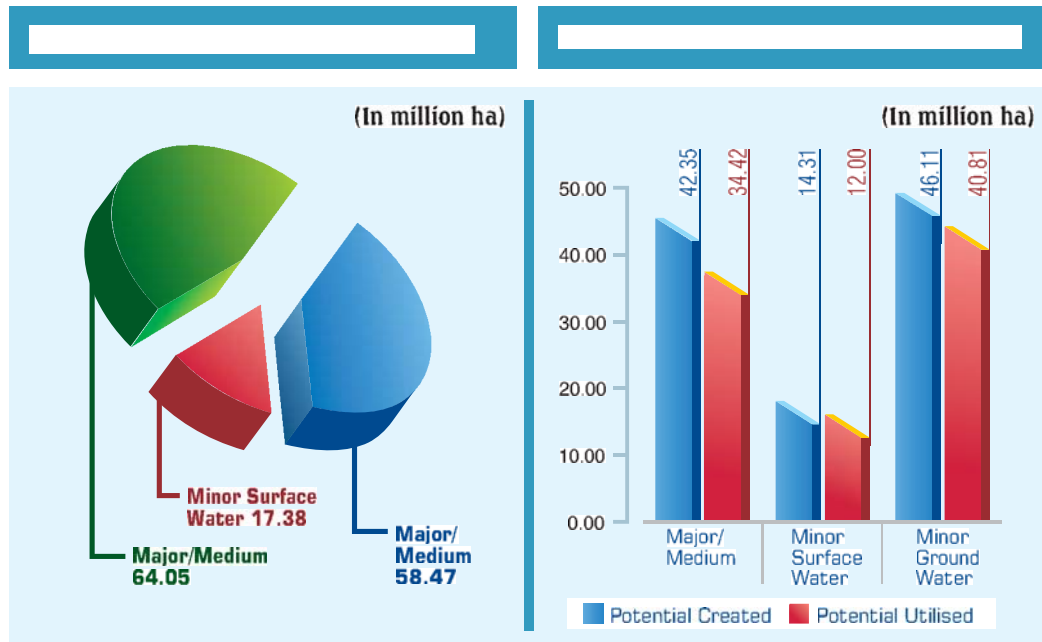
CCA is the area that can be reliably irrigated from a project and is fit for cultivation. In the case of multiple cropping, the area is computed as many times as the number of crops grown and irrigated in a year.

¹ Without inter-basin sharing of water

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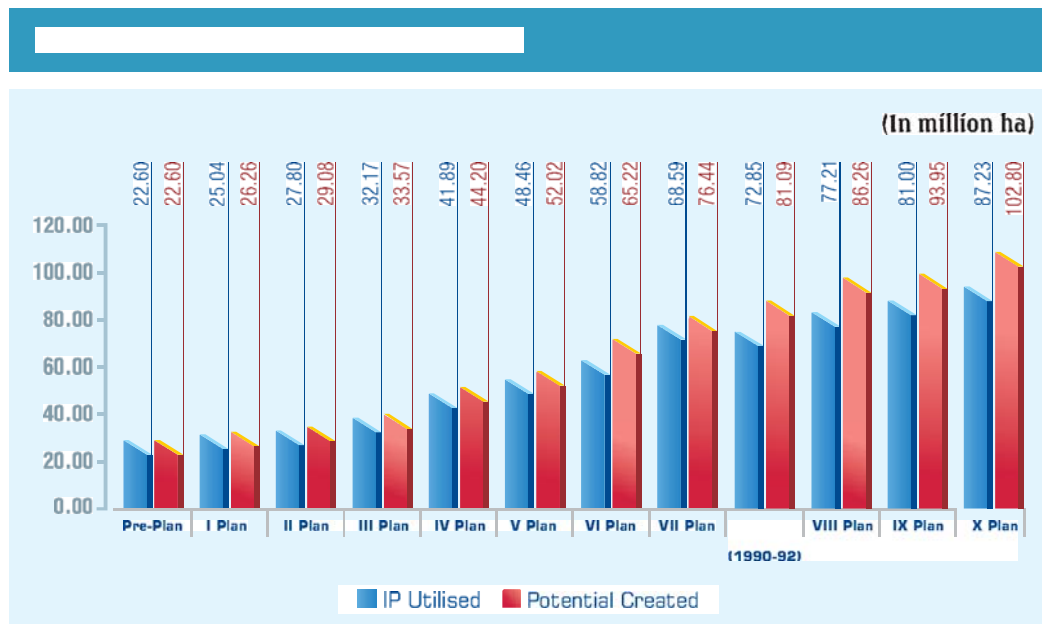
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A profile of the UIF, and potential created and utilized is given below:



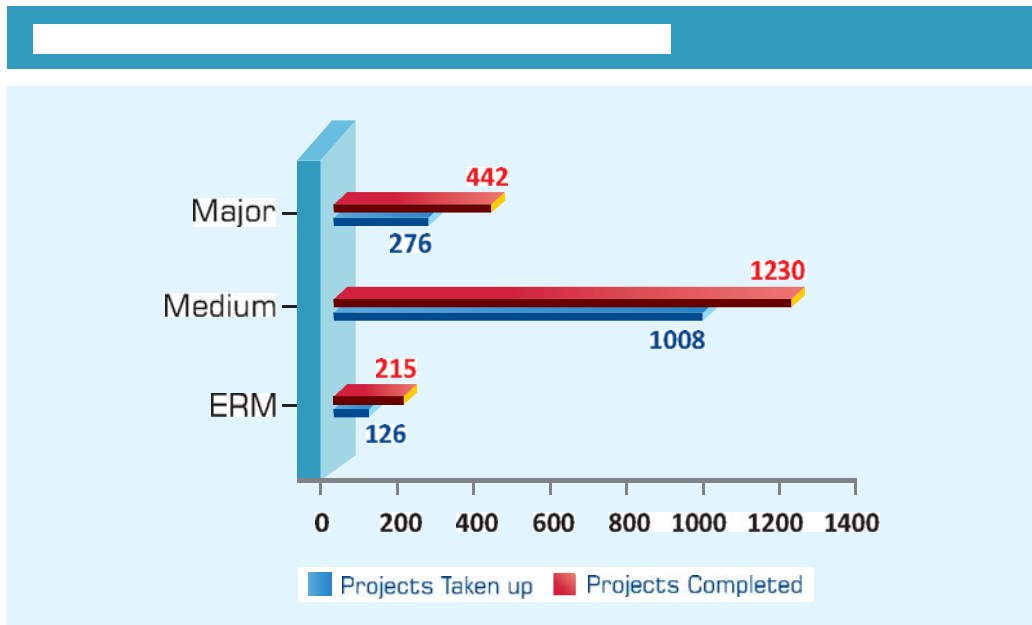
(Source: XI Five Year Plan; includes anticipated potential created/ utilized for X Plan)

The build-up of creation of irrigation potential during the various Plan periods is summarized below:



(Source: XI Five Year Plan; includes anticipated potential created/ utilized for X Plan)

In numerical terms, 1887 major, medium, and ERM² projects were taken up, of which 1410 projects were reported as completed³, as summarized below:



(Source: Report of the Working Group on Water Resources for the XI Plan)

1.2 Initiation of AIBP

Under the Constitution, water (including irrigation) falls in the State list of subjects and the powers of the Government of India (GoI) are limited to regulation and development of inter-State rivers to the extent necessary in the public interest.

However, the rate of creation of additional irrigation potential, which was 2.04 million ha per annum during the VII Plan, came down sharply to 1.03 million ha per annum during the VIII Plan. Responding to this sudden decline in the rate of creation of irrigation potential as well as allocation of funds to the irrigation sector in the States' Annual Plans, the GoI launched the Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) in 1996-97 as an Additional Central Assistance (ACA) programme for accelerating the implementation of large major and multi-purpose irrigation projects which were beyond the resource capability of the States, and to complete ongoing major and medium irrigation projects which were in an advanced stage of completion. This was later extended to cover surface water minor irrigation projects in Special Category (SC) States, and such projects satisfying specified criteria in other States.

² ERM : Extension, Renovation and Modernisation

³ This includes pre-Plan projects and projects in various Plan periods.

⁴ States in the North Eastern Region (including Sikkim), Jammu & Kashmir, Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh

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(AIBP)**1.3 Scope and Coverage of AIBP**

The scope and coverage of AIBP as well as the terms of assistance, have undergone several amendments from time to time. From December 2006 onwards, AIBP's coverage is as follows:

- Major, medium and ERM projects cleared by the Planning Commission, which are in an advanced stage of construction, and not receiving any other form of financial assistance, and which can be completed in the next four financial years, are covered. A "one for one" condition is stipulated, whereby fresh projects in a state can be included under AIBP only on completion of ongoing projects, with exceptions being made for projects in drought-prone and tribal areas, districts identified under the Prime Minister's package for agrarian distress, and States with lower irrigation potential than the national average.
- Surface Minor Irrigation (MI) projects in the SC States and drought-prone KBK⁴ Districts of Orissa are fully covered, provided they have a Benefit Cost Ratio (BCR) of more than 1:1 and a development cost of less than Rs. 1.5 lakh/ ha. MI projects in other States serving tribal and drought areas could also be covered. The minimum coverage under MI schemes is 20 ha for individual schemes/ 50 ha for group schemes in SC States, and 50 ha in other States.

1.4 Funding Pattern

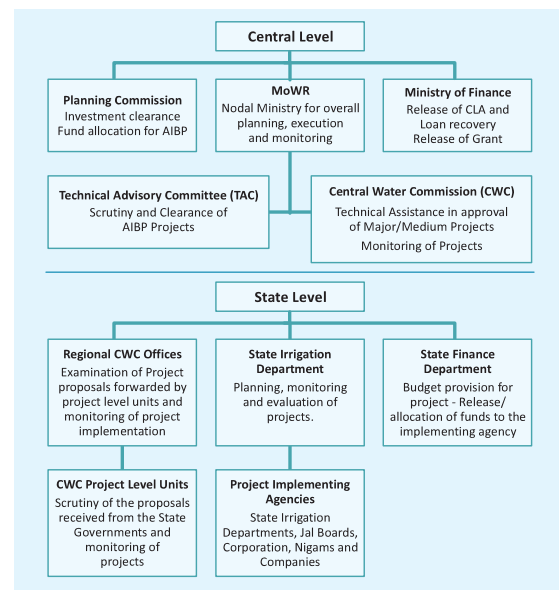
The funding pattern of projects under AIBP has also undergone several changes from time to time. From December 2006 onwards, grant is provided at the rate of 90 per cent of the project cost for projects in Special Category States, KBK Districts and tribal, drought prone and flood prone areas, while for other projects, the grant is 25 per cent of the project cost. The grant is released on a year-wise basis, with funding for subsequent years based on receipt of Utilisation Certificates (UCs) for past years. 90 per cent of the grant is released in advance, with the remaining 10 per cent on reimbursement basis.

1.5 Organisational Setup

The nodal ministry in the GoI for AIBP is the Ministry of Water Resources (MoWR). A chart depicting the role of various authorities at the Central and State level in planning, funding, and executing the programme is given below:

⁴ Areas falling under the erstwhile Koraput, Bolangir, and Kalahandi Districts of Orissa

Figure 1 - Organisational Setup for AIBP



1.6 Projects approved under AIBP

A summary of the major, medium and minor irrigation projects approved under AIBP is given below:

Table 1 - Number of AIBP Projects

Period	Major, Medium and ERM Projects	Minor Irrigation (MI Projects)
1995-96 to 2002-03	172	2963
2003-04 to 2007-08	81	3892
Total	253	6855

A list of Major, Medium and ERM Irrigation Projects covered under AIBP is given in **Annexure-1**.

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1.7 Financial Outlay and Expenditure

A profile of funds released under AIBP and expenditure reported there against is given below:

Table 2 - Financial Outlay and Expenditure on AIBP

(Amount in Rs. Crore)

1995-1996 to 2002-03	1,13,848	—	1,13,848	2,30,000	1,63,500	1,63,500
2003-04 to 2007-08	55,250	20,000	35,250	1,05,000	80,000	1,05,000
Total	1,69,098	20,000	1,89,098	3,40,000	2,43,500	2,68,500

(Source: Central releases (CLA and grant) are based on the records of the Ministry and CWC, while figures of States' share and reported expenditure have been compiled from information provided by the State Governments to the State Accountants General.

(It may be noted that details of releases of State Share and reported expenditure for all projects were not provided to audit by the Governments of Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra, as they were reportedly not maintained). Details of state-wise releases and reported expenditure during 2003-08 are given in **Annexure-II**.

AIBP was a significant source of funding for all major/ medium/ ERM projects. Out of the total expenditure during 2002-07 on all major/ medium/ ERM projects of Rs. 66,449 crore, expenditure on AIBP funded projects amounted to Rs. 27,914 crore (42 per cent) as shown below:

