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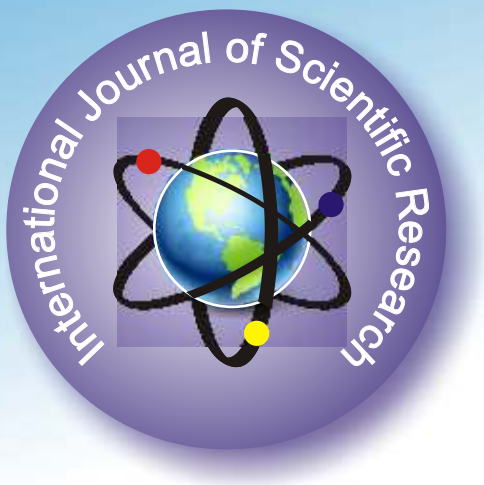

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A Study On Irrigation Projects In Maharashtra State

* Dr. Pawar, Ashok S. ** Dr. Rathod Sunita J.

Abstract

Initially the objective of irrigation was confine to supply water to crops whenever it requires. Many regions of the earth experiences uneven distribution and irregularity of rainfall. There are densely populated regions on the earth surface depend on agriculture. In such regions, provisions of irrigations is important aspects. There are 628 projects in the Marathwada region. This projects growing nicely or satisfactory progressed but still there is problem in front of this projects, like cost escalation, expenditure, time lag, funds, budgetary sources, etc. The state Government has spent Rs.8,000 crore each year on irrigation project in the past 10 year, but development on the ground has been minimum.

Keywords :

Introduction:

Increase in agriculture production and productivity depends, to a large extent, on the availability of water. Irrigation is one of the most important inputs for enhancing productivity and is required at different critical stage of plant growth of various crops. Therefore the massive investment was made on irrigation during the planning period. From Rs 442 crore in the first plan, the expenditure on irrigation rose to Rs.2, 32,311 crore (at current prices) in the Eleventh plan in India.

Objectives of the Research study:

Following objectives are determined for the present research

1. To study the position of irrigation projects in Maharashtra state.
2. To study the position of irrigation projects in Marathwada region.
3. To study the Irrigation Projects under Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme.
4. To study the concept of White paper on irrigation projects.

Hypothesis

1. Government expenditure on irrigation projects has been increasing per year.
2. Expenditure on irrigation projects has been increasing under the AIBP.
3. Irrigation Potential created up to June 2011 has been increased.

Research Methodology:

An adoption of sound research methodology is a vital part of any research study. For the present study secondary data technique used for the study.

Secondary method:- annual reports of irrigation corporation and irrigation projects, economic survey of India and Maharashtra, research books, thesis from university library, research journals, magazines, news papers, etc.

The state government has undertaken various major, medium and minor irrigation projects to create maximum irrigation potential. However there is wide gap between potential created and utilize in major medium and minor projects. The total potential utilized in the state during 2010-11 was 46.58 lakh ha. Of which, 27.44 lakh ha. Was from major irrigation projects 6.16 lakh ha. Was from medium irrigation projects and remaining 12.18 lakh ha. Was from minor irrigation projects (state sector and local sector). The details of irrigation projects taken up and the irrigation potential created from in the Maharashtra state is given in the following table:

	Items	Irrigation Projects				
Sr. No	Number of Projects as on 30th June 2011	Major	Medium	Minor (state sector)	Minor (local sector)	total
1	Completed	32	186	2549	63,145	65,912
2	Ongoing	54	72	559	6.681	7,366
3	Irrigation Potential created up to June 2011.	26.72	8.53	12.99	15.46	63.70
4	Actual utilization on during 2010-11.	19.32	4.47	5.76	3.88	35.43

SOURCE:- Economic survey of Maharashtra 2011-12, P. No. 87.

The above table shows the irrigation projects both completed and ongoing during the year 30 Jun 2011. The total completed irrigation projects is 65,912. and 7,366. Ongoing projects the actual utilization of projects 35.43 Percent. The Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme(AIBP) was initiated from (1996-97) under the program central assistance was given up to 2005-06 and from 2006-07. The central assistance is given as grant-in-aid. For irrigation projects in the states the details are given in the following table

Irrigation Projects under Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme. (AIBP)

Sr. No	Year	Large and Medium	Minor	Expenditure (Rs In Crore)
1.	2006-07	24	96	1,140.63
2.	2007-08	36	117	2,207.53
3.	2008-09	37	121	2,734.27
4.	2009-10	23	--	2,349.47
5.	2010-11	16	46	2,363.94
6.	2011-12	12	06	1,326.60

* Dept. Economic,Dr. B.A.M.U., Aurngabad
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The above Table shows the trends of expenditure under the AIBP from 2006-07 to 2011-12 in the given period expenditure is increased in the year 2011-12.

Importance of Irrigation Projects:

Irrigation constitutes one of the most effective technical means of raising agricultural production in the developing countries. India is not exception to this. Most of the population of the country is engaged directly on agricultural activities. No doubt the agriculture sector stands as a backbone of the economic development of the country. According to Simon Kuznets, there are three contributions of agriculture to economic growth viz. 1.Product contribution 2. Market Contribution 3.Factor contribution. According to him, "If agriculture itself grows, it makes a products contribution, if it trades with others, it renders market contribution, if it transforms resources to other sectors, these resources being productive factors, it makes a factor contribution". The Agricultural and allied activities sector, which has contributed about 12.8 per cent to GSDP in Maharashtra state during 2010-11.

Irrigation Project in Marathwada Region:

The state government has undertaken various major, medium and minor irrigation projects to create maximum irrigation potential. The total completed irrigation projects in the state are 65,912 and 7,366 projects are ongoing in the state and 628 irrigation projects in Marathwada region. The potential capacity (water storage capacity) of the irrigation projects is 7064.51 (Mm3). Out of 628 irrigation projects 9 projects are major, 57 medium and 543 minor projects in the Marathwada region. The balance cost of ongoing irrigation projects as on 1 April 2011 the balance cost of projects Rs. 13,580 crore of the projects 183. For the remove backlog outlay of governments Rs 47.54 crore. Means 10.94 percent out of total outlay.

The Godavari Marathwada Irrigation Development has taken to onus of irrigating the traditionally drought affected region of Marathwada in Maharashtra. Established on October 1, 1998, in Aurangabad, state owned GMIDC is implementing a Rs. 7,935 crore projects that has been targeted for completion by 2006. All the ongoing irrigation projects in the eight districts of the Marathwada region and in Ahmednagar and Nasik districts that were being implemented before the formation of GMIDC are now under the corporation's purview. The scope of the project is to accelerate the construction of irrigation and hydel power projects and to utilize irrigated water for human & industrial consumption. The project also aims at promoting activities such as fisheries, tourism, horticulture and floriculture in the command area of the irrigation sites.

The project is being financed through open market borrowings (Bonds) and contribution from the government of Maharashtra. Till March 2011 GMIDC had spent Rs. 3,994 crore on the project while Rs. 3,942crore represents the future requirements of funds, in nominal terms.

Survey of Literature

Though the researcher has gone through the number of articles, books and reports, the review of all is neither possible nor expected too. The view of some of the selected report and the books pertaining to the subject are given below

A. Review of reports

1. Maharashtra state irrigation commission report of 1962. The commission was headed by Shri S.G.Barve. he has strongly felt that the water resources of the state, both the surface & underground should be fully exploited within the shortest possible period.

B. Review of books

1. Shri. M. P. Pandey, an author of the book entitled. "The Impact of Irrigation on Rural Development" a case study. The author noted the facts that the irrigation facilities are having over all positive change in the group pattern.

2. Dr. Kallur M. S. in his study entitled "Irrigation and Economic Development." The author is of the opinion that the more emphasize should have been given the minor irrigation projects.

Subject choice:

The main issues facing the state government today is to mobilize funds for completing the ongoing irrigation projects. The reasons are spreading of budgetary resources thinly over too many project Rs. 12,100 crore were mainly invested a new projects and not ongoing projects. The state Government speaking about a white paper on irrigation projects. A white paper is a statement made by the government to clarify its position on an issue and place the figure on record. A statement comes in the backdrop of allegations that cost escalation in irrigation projects-ranging from 40 % to 2000 % should be probed. It is also said that if the white paper on irrigation projects it will uncover 26,400 crore scam. The investment on irrigation schemes creates favorable impact on economic life of rural households. From the point of view it is necessary to assess irrigation development and problems of irrigation projects. The study is confined with this view.

Conclusions: -

1. The total number of irrigation projects in Maharashtra state is 65,912 but there is large number of minor project in local sector that is 63,145.
2. Ongoing project is 7,366. in the Maharashtra state.
3. The state Government has spent Rs.8,000 crore each year on irrigation project in the past 10 year, but development on the ground has been minimum.
4. The massive investment was made on irrigation during the planning period. From Rs 442 crore in the first plan, the expenditure rose to Rs.2, 32,311 crore (at current prices) in the Eleventh plan in India.
5. According to Simon Kuznets, there are three contributions of agriculture to economic growth viz. 1.Product contribution 2. Market Contribution 3.Factor contribution.
6. For the remove backlog outlay of governments Rs 47.54 crore. Means 10.94 percent out of total outlay.
7. 628 irrigation projects in Marathwada region.
8. State owned GMIDC is implementing a Rs. 7,935 crore projects that has been targeted for completion by 2006. All the ongoing irrigation projects in the eight districts of the Marathwada region.
9. The state Government speaking about a white paper on irrigation projects. A white paper is a statement made by the government to clarify its position on an issue and place the figure on record.

Recommendation: -

1. Expenditure should be increased at current price level.
2. Minor project should be expanding at local sector.
3. Maximum projects should be under AIBP.
4. Irrigation projects should be developed in Marathwada region.
5. Outlay of Government for remove backlog should be increased.
6. Cost escalation in irrigation projects should be reduced.
7. There is big time lag in completion of irrigation project it should be reduced.
8. Budgetary resources should be invested over to new ongoing projects.

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