

Long Term Irrigation Fund – long term benefits for Indian irrigation

The *2016-17 Union Budget* made a path breaking announcement in the sector of irrigation - setting up of Long Term Irrigation Fund (LTIF) in NABARD with an initial corpus of Rs 20,000 crore for funding of irrigation projects which were languishing incomplete for want of funds for many years. Pursuant to this announcement, displaying complete professionalism and speed NABARD sanctioned Rs. 21,488 crore to National Water Development Agency (NWDA) as loan towards Central share for 64 projects. Against this, a disbursement of Rs. 1500 crore was also made to NWDA on 21 October 2016 in New Delhi. Subsequently, NABARD has sanctioned loan amount of Rs.10,853 crore to Gujarat and Maharashtra states. Loan assistance of Rs 2981 crore has also been sanctioned towards Central Assistance to NWDA for the historical Polavaram project in Andhra Pradesh. With this, the cumulative sanctions by NABARD have reached **Rs. 35,322 crore** under LTIF. **Cumulative amount disbursed by NABARD has reached Rs 5671 crore.**

With the aggregate sanctions under LTIF so far, cumulative area to be irrigated under these projects would reach an impressive 46.48 lakh ha.