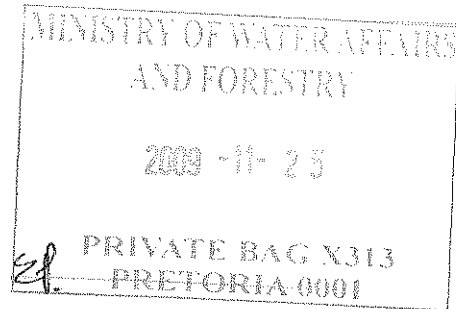




water affairs

Department:
Water Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA




Enquiries: J Fourie
Telephone: 012-336-8092
Reference: 16/5/2/AWL/M1

MINISTER OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY: QUESTION 137 FOR WRITTEN REPLY

A draft reply to the above-mentioned question asked by Mrs A T Lovemore (DA), is attached for your consideration, please.


DIRECTOR-GENERAL (Acting)
DATE: 24/11/09

DRAFT REPLY APPROVED/AMENDED


MS B P SONJICA, MP
MINISTER OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

DATE: 24. 11. 2009

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NO 137

DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 13 OCTOBER 2009
(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO 21)

■137. Mrs A T Lovemore (DA) to ask the Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs: [Written Question No 878]

- (1) Whether her department has stipulated an acceptable loss of water from irrigation canals; if so, what is this acceptable loss;
- (2) whether an assessment of acceptable loss is regularly made and reviewed of (a) the loss of water from irrigation canals and (b) the average losses from (i) earth and (ii) concrete canals; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (3) whether any measures have been introduced to reduce water losses; if not, why not; if so, what measures;
- (4) whether consideration has been given to the removal of alien vegetation from the banks of irrigation canals in order to reduce water losses from these canals; if not, why not, if so, what are the relevant details?

NW1029E

---00000---

REPLY:

(1) Yes as much as the water loss from irrigation canals differ from one irrigation scheme to the other, a national acceptable average loss is in the order of 25%.

(2) Yes, assessments of water losses are made on a regular basis and my Department is striving towards monthly assessments to be conducted through a Water Use Efficiency Accounting Reporting system. (a) This system accounts for water losses per scheme including both earth as well as concrete canals (lined and unlined). (b) (i) & (ii) These losses account to an average of about 28%. At this stage it is not possible to determine the water loss of earth and concrete canals separately as water measurement appliances (measurement structures/instrumentation) were not installed for this purpose.

(3) Yes, the Water Use Efficiency Accounting systems have been developed and introduced in major irrigation schemes. At this stage the automated reports are generated through the systems at 14 schemes on a monthly basis.

(4) Yes, the removal of alien vegetation from the banks of irrigation canals is the responsibility of each of the irrigation schemes. The management of these schemes strive to remove the vegetation as soon as possible, if and when necessary.