

NEW DAM INAUGURATED

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The Minister of Irrigation has inaugurated the Rutba dam project in the Houran valley, built by the State Establishment for small dams at a cost of ID 2.5 million.

The Minister said more dams would be built in the region.

The dam's capacity is 32 million cubic metres, 24 million of which will be from flood and rain water. The dam's length is 884 metres, its lower width is 4.6 metres, its upper width 9 metres and its height 19 metres.

ALLOCATIONS FOR IRRIGATION PROJECTS

Allocations of the 1981 investment programme for the Ministry of Irrigation realized an 80 per cent increase over that of 1980, the Minister of Irrigation has announced.

A group of new projects have been announced for implementation by the Ministry, while other projects are already under actual implementation. The ID 485 million Mosul dam is considered the largest irrigation project in Iraq.

Referring to construction works in more projects, the Minister elaborated that preliminary work has already started in the Mosul and Dohuk dams, while work is progressing in the Haditha dam.

Regarding irrigation and land reclamation projects, the Minister explained that contracts have been awarded for setting up the first phase of Kirkuk irrigation scheme which covers an area of 350 donums, construction of 7 regulators on the Euphrates river and reclamation of an area of 700,000 donums of land. Moreover, the State Organisation for Soil and Land Reclamation achieved during the past year reclamation work of huge areas of arable lands throughout the country.

He also declared that 1982 will witness the execution of Al-Jazirah irrigation project covering an area of 1,000,000 donums and the Amara irrigation project (550,000 donums) whose design works have also been finalized by the Ministry.

PREPARATION FOR WINTER SOWING

The Agricultural and Agrarian Reform Council of Basra Province has completed plans for winter sowing of 56,000 donums of farming lands. More than 1,000 water pumps have been installed in various fields for irrigation purposes, and 480 new fields have been prepared for sowing.

The Agricultural machines station in Qadissiya Province has completed the ploughing of 42,000 donums of land for winter sowing of wheat and barley in the Hilla-Diwan-Daghrra drainage project area. Six thousand donums of land in two other farming lands were also ploughed. Currently, another 10,000 donums of land are under ploughing and the work is expected to be completed in October.