

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:256
ANSWERED ON:15.12.1999
SARDAR SAROVAR PROJECT
PUSHPDAN SHAMBHUDAN GADHAVI;VSM (RETD.) COL. CHOUDHARY

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) the present Status, revised cost and time schedule for the completion of the Sardar Sarovar project;
- (b) the expenditure incurred thereon, till date;
- (c) whether the project has witnessed abnormal escalation in term of time and cost overrun;
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the time by which the drinking water is likely to be made available to the participating States ?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (DR. C. P. THAKUR)

(a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF STARRED QUESTION NO.256 TO BE ANSWERED IN THE LOK SABHA ON 15.12.1999 REGARDING SARDAR SAROVAR PROJECT.

(a) to (e) The Sardar Sarovar Project was cleared for implementation by the Planning Commission in October, 1988 at an approved estimated cost (1986-87 price level) of Rs.6406.04 crore. The tentative revised cost of the project has not been finalised. As per the original plan of construction, the project was scheduled to be completed by June 1998. Supreme Court in its orders dated 5.5.1995, in connection with the case filed by the Narmada Bachao Andolan, directed to maintain the effective height of the dam at R.L. 81.5 meters. Subsequently, the Supreme Court by an interim order on 18.2.99 permitted to raise the height of the Dam upto RL 85 meters, excluding humps required for the safety of the Dam. The Government of Gujarat accordingly resumed work on the Sardar Sarovar Dam from 19.2.99 and have raised the height of the dam upto R.L.85 meters and provided 3 meter high humps for the safety of the dam. The expenditure incurred on the Sardar Sarovar Project upto September, 99 is Rs.8879.76 crore. The project had witnessed escalation in terms of time and cost overrun as the matter has been subjudice. The time overrun has resulted in escalation in the cost of construction, and in the cost of Resettlement & Rehabilitation due to increase in the number of beneficiaries/oustees. In addition, provision of a better R & R package to the oustees as compared to the package envisaged in NWDT award will also increase the cost of the project further. Completion of the dam will depend on the outcome of the case filed by the Narmada Bachao Andolan in the Supreme Court, pari passu implementation of resettlement & rehabilitation, availability of funds with the State Governments and mutual cooperation between the party States. Partial benefits of Sardar Sarovar Project will be available when the dam reaches an R.L. of 112.5 meters.