

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:122

ANSWERED ON:27.02.2006

ASSISTANCE TO STATE GOVERNMENTS FOR IRRIGATION PROJECTS

Dhotre Shri Sanjay Shamrao;Reddy Shri Karunakara G.

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the work on many irrigation projects in the States particularly Maharashtra have been held up due to non-release of funds by the Union Government resulting in revision of time schedule and cost overrun in respect of these projects;

(b) if so, the details of such projects, State-wise; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to release the funds to enable the State Governments to complete these projects expeditiously?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.122 FOR ANSWER ON 27-02-2006 REGARDING ASSISTANCE TO STATE GOVERNMENTS FOR IRRIGATION PROJECTS

(a) No, Sir. Irrigation is a State subject and the planning, execution, funding, operation and maintenance of irrigation projects are primarily the responsibility of the State Governments based on their priorities. This situation is also applicable to irrigation projects in the State of Maharashtra.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Central Government launched the Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) in 1996-97 to provide Central loan assistance for such approved irrigation projects proposed by the States which are in an advanced stage of construction and beyond the resources capability of the States that can be completed in four financial years. Since 2004-05, grant component has been introduced under the Programme and from 2005-06, the grant portion of the central loan assistance only is provided by the Centre and the loan portion has to be raised by the State Governments by market borrowing. The release of Central assistance under AIBP is in the form of supplementation of the resources of the State Governments within the overall State Plan allocation and it is provided subject to the ceiling fixed by the Planning Commission. The time and cost overruns in the irrigation projects cannot be attributed to release of Central assistance under AIBP by the Central Government.