

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1578
ANSWERED ON:15.07.2009
TEESTA IRRIGATION PROJECT
Roy Shri Nripendra Nath

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the work on Teesta Irrigation Project in West Bengal is progressing at a slow pace;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) the funds allocated and released for the project during the last three years and the current year;
- (d) the steps taken by the Union Government to expedite the progress of the project; and
- (e) the time by which the project is likely to be completed?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT H. PALA)

(a)&(b) Teesta Irrigation Project was approved by the Planning Commission in the year 1975 at an estimated cost of Rs.69.72 crore. The latest estimated cost of the Project is Rs.2988.61 crore. The cumulative expenditure incurred on the project upto the end of March, 2009 is Rs.1153.43 crore. The reasons attributed to the slow progress of the project are:-

(i) Inability of State Government to provide adequate funds to the project in time.

(ii) Delay in acquisition of land for canal system.

(c) The details of Budget provision made by the Government of West Bengal and expenditure incurred on this project by them during the last three years are given below:-

(Rs. in crore)

Year	Budge provision		Expenditure incurred
2006-2007	94.10	39.954	
2007-2008	94.85	62.01	
2008-2009	115.79	57.54	

The budget allocation provided by Government of West Bengal during 2009-10 is Rs.237.19 crore.

(d) Irrigation is a state subject and the irrigation projects are planned, funded and implemented by the concerned State Governments from their own resources as per their own priorities. However, Central Government provides financial assistance to the State Governments under the Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) for expeditious completion of ongoing projects as per the guidelines of the programme in force from time to time. The Central Loan Assistance/Grant released for Teesta Project is Rs. 152.924 crore so far. Further, this project has been included in the list of National Projects and is eligible for 90 per cent Central Grant as per the guidelines of the National Projects.

(e) The project is planned to be completed by March,2015 as per information received from the Government of West Bengal.