

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2343
ANSWERED ON:08.12.2011
SUTLEJ YAMUNA LINK CANAL
Bishnoi Shri Kuldeep

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware that due to delay in completion of Sutlej-Yamuna Link Canal (SYL), the agricultural fields of South Haryana are facing acute shortage of water for irrigation purposes resulting in heavy losses in agricultural crops;
- (b) if so, the reasons for the delay in this regard; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government for the completion of the SYL?

Answer

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b)&(c) The orders dated 15.01.2002 of the Hon'ble Supreme Court directed the State of Punjab to complete the Sutlej-Yamuna Link (SLY) Canal in its territory within one year. However, the canal works were not completed. As per further direction dated 04.06.2004 of Hon'ble Supreme Court, the Central Government nominated its Agency for execution of the canal and set up a Committee. However, on 12.07.2004 the State of Punjab enacted the Punjab Termination of Agreement Act, 2004, terminating the Agreement of 1981 and other agreement on sharing of Ravi-Beas Waters. Central Government was also informed that any step taken in furtherance of the agreement of 31.12.1981 would be against the legislative mandate of the Act. A Presidential Reference questioning the constitutional validity of the Act was made on 22.07.2004. Central Government requested Learned Attorney General of India in March 2010 to take up the matter suitably. The State of Haryana has also filed an early hearing application for Presidential

Reference on 20.08.2010 and an Execution application for implementation of two judgments dated 15.01.2002 and 04.06.2004 in the SYL suit on 19.02.2011. The Presidential Reference has not come up for detailed hearing so far.