

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
WATER RESOURCES  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4014  
ANSWERED ON:21.03.2013  
SANCTIONING OF MULTIPURPOSE PROJECTS  
Gangaram Shri Awale Jaywant

**Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:**

(a) whether the Government is preparing/proposes to prepare any scheme for the simplification of the process of according approval to the major multi-purpose irrigation/ flood/power projects in the country in view of the delays of several years being taken in clearing them presently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government is likely to accord priority in providing Central assistance for irrigation projects to the States having lesser area under irrigation; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI HARISH RAWAT)

(a) & (b) The Guidelines for Submission, Appraisal and Clearance of Irrigation and Multipurpose Projects were prepared by Central Water Commission (CWC) in 1989. The Planning Commission also simplified the procedure of investment clearance to the projects other than those on inter-State rivers from time to time. Subsequently the procedure of project appraisal of Irrigation, Flood Control & Multipurpose Projects for both major and medium projects, having inter-State ramification, had been revised to accommodate various subsequent changes in guidelines of the Planning Commission and the first revised Guidelines in this respect were issued in 2002 by CWC. Further, these Guidelines have been modified by CWC in 2010. CWC has recently introduced a Web based system for appraisal of projects to reduce the processing time.

(c) & (d) The Union Government provides Central Assistance (CA) under Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) to the States as per guidelines for completion of ongoing projects. As per the latest amendments to AIBP guidelines made in December 2006, the condition that an ongoing project has to be completed before inclusion of a new project under AIBP has been relaxed for projects benefitting states with lower irrigation development as compared to national average.