

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2090

ANSWERED ON:02.12.2009

REVIEW OF NORMS FOR AIBP

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Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether some State Governments have requested the Union Government for easing the norms for Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) as the existing norms are very stringent and large number of irrigation projects are deprived of the fund under the programme;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) whether a number of major and medium irrigation projects started during Ninth Five Year Plan onwards with Central grant under the AIBP are still incomplete;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to get these projects completed?

Answer

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

(a)&(b) Requests from the State Governments for modifications/further liberalization of guidelines of Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) and modification in the guidelines is a continuous process taken up by the Ministry of Water Resources from time to time. Guidelines for AIBP were last amended in December 2006 by the Central Government making them more liberal and oriented to giving major thrust to development of irrigation facilities in drought prone/tribal areas, in States having irrigation development below national average and in agrarian distressed districts of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala and Maharashtra included in the Prime Minister's relief package. Further liberalization of norms is under consideration with Central Government. In recent times, normally all the eligible AIBP release proposals received in time have received central assistance under AIBP.

(c)& (d) So far, 272 major/medium projects/project components have been funded under the AIBP. Out of these, 110 major/medium projects have been reported as completed and remaining projects/project components are in various stages of progress. Generally, the reasons for delay in completion of the projects are land acquisition problems, resettlement and rehabilitation problems, contractual problems, litigations, geological surprises delay in completion of work to be taken up by other agencies such as railway crossing etc.

(e) Irrigation is a state subject and planning, execution and funding of the irrigation projects is within the purview of the concerned state governments. The Ministry of Water Resources has a comprehensive monitoring set up which also monitors AIBP assisted projects. Field officers of the Central Water Commission visit the projects normally twice a year and submit a detailed monitoring report inter-alia containing bottlenecks in project implementation and also suggest remedial measures. Secretary (Water Resources) convenes review meetings with the senior officers of the State Governments and Central Water Commission from time to time to review physical and financial performance of the projects under AIBP. Apart from it, since December 2006, the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed by the state government contains year wise physical targets of potential creation under AIBP. The guidelines provides that if physical target of potential creation in a year is not achieved, the next instalment of grant will be released only on achieving physical target of potential creation. The MOU also specifies target date of completion of the project.