

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANAGA REJUVENATION
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2213
ANSWERED ON:24.07.2014
AIM OF AIBP
De(Nag) Dr. (Smt.) Ratna

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANAGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the aims and objectives of Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP);
- (b) whether any study has been conducted to assess the utility of AIBP and benefits accrued therefrom;
- (c) if so, the details thereof along with the measures proposed to maximise the benefits;
- (d) whether the funds allocated under AIBP during last three years and the current year were fully utilised; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor including funds allocated and spent year-wise?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION;
PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND TEXTILES (INDEPENDENT CHARGE).(SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR)

(a) The aim of Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) is to extend financial assistance to the states to help them complete some of the incomplete ongoing irrigation projects, which are in an advanced stage of completion so that envisaged irrigation potential of the project is realized and optimally utilized. A major thrust is on the irrigation projects under the Prime Minister's Package for agrarian distressed districts. A part of the AIBP funds are also earmarked for the scheme of National Projects for dedicated funding to the projects having international, interlinking and large irrigation potential aspects.

(b) & (c) Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) carried out an evaluation study of AIBP to assess proper utilisation of funds, management system, benefits accrued such as irrigation potential created / utilized, bottlenecks in implementation and to suggest improvements for speedy completion of projects under AIBP.

The study by MoSPI covered 79 Major, 69 Medium, 12 ERM, 5 FTP, 3916 Surface Minor Schemes in 27 States. It showed that AIBP has helped acceleration in project implementation, creation and utilization of irrigation potential. It has also led to timely provision of quality irrigation, leading to higher cropping intensity, productivity, employment and income generation in the command areas. The study also showed that AIBP intervention has minimized drought impact, protected areas from high floods and provided drinking water and hydro-electricity in the project areas. In many projects irrigation has recharged aquifers in and around the command areas thereby enhancing groundwater levels. Thus the economic and social returns to public investment under AIBP justify the investment. Based on the above and the experience of this Ministry, in implementation of the scheme the following policy changes have been incorporated in AIBP to maximize benefits.

(i) There is wide gap in the irrigation potential created and utilized. To address this issue, Parri passu implementation of Command Area Development with AIBP was approved in the XII plan to maximize the utilisation of irrigation potential.

(ii) Land required for construction during the year is not in physical possession of the authorities, in hydraulic continuity etc. To encourage the State Governments to address this bottleneck, guidelines have been framed to avoid inclusion of green field projects; only projects in advanced stage of completion are included under AIBP.

(iii) The central funding has been reduced from 90% to 75%, keeping in view the overall availability of funds and liability spilling over from the XI Plan to the XII Plan.

(d) & (e) The second installment of AIBP grant and first installment of next year grant is released on receipt of utilisation certificate from State Governments.

The funds allocated under AIBP during last four years and utilized during last three years is at Annexure-I.