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Title: Need to release funds in a time-bound manner for Gosikhurd Irrigation Project in Maharashtra-Laid.

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMVAR (NAGPUR): Realizing the importance of the Gosikhurd Irrigation project for the Vidarbha region meant to irrigate about 10 lakh acres of land and solve the drinking water problem of large number of villages, Government declared it as a National Project for implementation with Central financial assistance. The project could not achieve the desired pace due to paucity of funds. With its declaration as National Project, the implementation process is expected to pick up. However, this would be possible if the required funds are released on time. I have requested the Government to release a sum of Rs. 1400 crore as the first year's contribution out of Rs. 5000 crore earmarked for this project by the Central Government. However, only Rs 400 crore were released in March, 2009. I would urge upon the Government to release Rs. 1500 crore during the current financial year and Rs. 1000 crore each during the next two years and Rs. 500 crore in the third year. Unless the funds are released on time on year to year basis it would not only hamper the progress but might also result in escalation in the cost of the project.