

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1661
ANSWERED ON:05.12.2005
ACCELERATED IRRIGATION BENEFIT PROGRAMME
Jatiya Dr. Satyanarayan;Modi Shri Sushil Kumar

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government had launched an Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP) in 1996-97;
- (b) if so, the complete details thereof;
- (c) the activities carried out in Bihar so far under the programme and the amount spent thereon;
- (d) the present position of the programme;
- (e) the amended policy of the Government under the programme; and
- (f) the reaction of the Government on the proposal sent by the Government of Madhya Pradesh?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR HEAVY INDUSTRIES, PUBLIC ENTERPRISES AND WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Central Government launched the Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) in 1996-97 to provide Central Loan Assistance (CLA) with the objective to accelerate the implementation of such approved major/medium irrigation projects which were in an advanced stage of completion and beyond the resources capability of the State Governments. (c) The Government of Bihar has received CLA/grant of Rs. 476.83 crore upto November, 2005 under the programme for 8 major/medium irrigation projects. During 2005-06, Rs.10.764 crore has been released as grant. The ceiling fixed by the Planning Commission for the State of Bihar for 2005-06 for providing Central Assistance under AIBP is Rs.75 crore.

(d) An amount of Rs.18004.47 crore has been released as Central Loan Assistance/Grant under this programme upto November, 2005 for 188 major/medium irrigation projects and 4472 minor irrigation schemes. As reported by State Governments, 45 major/medium irrigation projects have been completed under AIBP as on date creating an irrigation potential of 3.25 million hectare through major/medium projects. Under minor irrigation, 3179 schemes have been completed and 121.15 thousand hectare potential created up to October, 2005.

(e) In order to make AIBP more effective, the guidelines of the programme have been revised from time to time and the important changes as per the latest guidelines effective from 1.4.2005 are:

(i) From Financial Year 2005-06 onwards, only the grant component of the Central Assistance (CA) would be released by the Central Government while the loan component of CA is to be raised by the State Governments from market borrowing. However, in case of fiscally weak states, Central Government would help raise the loan component also;

(ii) The completion period for projects under Normal Programme is fixed as 4 financial years and that under Fast Track Programme as 2 financial years;

(iii) Extension, Renovation and Modernization projects are to be included on a selective basis;

(iv) For Non-Special category States, only those Minor Irrigation Schemes with potential more than 100 hectare with preference to Tribal Areas and drought prone areas which wholly benefit dalits and adivasis are to be included under AIBP; and

(v) Flood/Drought-prone areas and tribal areas in the country to be identified in consultation with the Planning Commission shall be treated at par with Special Category States for funding under AIBP i.e., 90% grant and 10% loan.

(f) During 2005-06, the Government of Madhya Pradesh has sent proposals for 10 major/medium irrigation projects out of which 8 proposals have been returned to the State for certain clarifications and an amount of Rs.13.45 crore has been released as grant for two projects. The ceiling fixed by the Planning Commission for the State of Madhya Pradesh for 2005-06 is Rs.750 crore.