

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:926

ANSWERED ON:27.02.2006

SHARING OF RAVI- BEAS WATER

Bishnoi Shri Jaswant Singh;Kripalani Shri Srichand

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) Whether there is a provision in the Ravi-Beas Water Sharing Agreement of 1981 that Punjab can utilize more water than Rajasthan's requirement until Rajasthan is in a position to utilize its entire share of water;

(b) if so, whether the Government proposes to direct Bhakra-Beas Management Board to release the remaining 0.60 MAF water to Rajasthan enabling it to utilize the same in the Indira Gandhi Nahar Project; and

(c) if not, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ)

(a) Agreement dated 31.12.1981 among the Chief Ministers of Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan on sharing of surplus Ravi-Beas water provided the following:

"(ii) Until such time as Rajasthan is in a position to utilize its full share, Punjab shall be free to utilize the waters surplus to Rajasthan's requirements. As Rajasthan will soon be able to utilize its share, Punjab shall make adequate alternative arrangements expeditiously for irrigation of its own lands by the time Rajasthan is in a position to utilize its full share. As a result, it is expected that during this transitional period when Rajasthan's requirements would not exceed 8.0 MAF, 4.82 MAF of water should be available to Punjab in a mean year when the availability is 17.17 MAF."

(b) & (c) Release of remaining 0.6 MAF water to Rajasthan is dependant on the decisions taken by Bhakra Beas Management Board in which the two States are inter alia represented. Punjab Legislature on 12.07.2004 enacted a Punjab Termination of Agreements Act, 2004 terminating the said agreement dated 31.12.1981 and all other agreements on Ravi-Beas waters. As a Presidential Reference in the matter is before the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, its outcome could clarify the position of the agreement after which the concerned States could amicably settle the issue.

In the meanwhile, during the 25th Meeting of the Northern Zonal Council held on 25th October, 2005 in Shimla, Chief Minister, Punjab and stated that Rajasthan could be given its due share of water provided the State completes construction of the required canals and has the required capacity. Subsequent to this, Hon'ble Minister of Water Resources in his letters dated 24.01.06 has requested both the Chief Ministers of Punjab and Rajasthan to take further necessary action in the matter at a bilateral level and get the long pending issue resolved early.