

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4615
ANSWERED ON:22.05.2006
IRRIGATION PROJECTS OF WEST BENGAL
Panda Shri Prabodh

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of proposals for irrigation projects sent by the Government of West Bengal to the Union Government for approval during the last three years;
- (b) the details of projects sanctioned and funds allocated/released to the State Government; and
- (c) the details of projects pending for approval as on date alongwith the reasons for delay?

Answer

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

(a) No proposal for new Irrigation Projects have been sent by the Government of West Bengal to Central Water Commission (CWC) for approval during the last three years. However, a preliminary report on Dwarkeswar - Gandheswari Reservoir Project with estimated cost of Rs.130.00 crore was received in CWC in January, 2004 seeking "in-principal consent" of CWC for preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR). The said proposal was considered by the Screening Committee of CWC and "in-principal consent" for preparation of DPR incorporating CWC's observations was conveyed to the West Bengal by CWC in March, 2004.

(b) Irrigation being a State subject, the projects are planned, funded and executed by the State Government as per their own requirement and priority. However, Central Government launched the Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP) during 1996-97 with a view to provide Central Loan Assistance (CLA) to Major & Medium irrigation projects of the country so as to complete them expeditiously. Details of CLA/Grant released for the projects of West Bengal under AIBP is given at Statement-I.

(c) There are no new projects pending for approval as on date in CWC. However, two revised project estimates are under appraisal as given below:

(i) 6th revised estimate of Teesta Barrage Project (sub- stage-I under stage-I of phase-I): The estimate was received in CWC in September, 2004 and observation of CWC on the same was communicated to project authorities in January, 2005 for compliance.

(ii) Modernisation of Kangsabati Reservoir (Phase-I) – ERM Project: The project was received in October, 1996 and comments on the same were sent to the State Government for compliance.