

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2454

ANSWERED ON 10.08.2026

**TEESTA BARRAGE UNDERGROUND PIPELINE IRRIGATION SYSTEM UNDER
PMKSY-AIBP**

2454 Shri BISWAJIT SINHA (RAHUL SINHA):

Will the Minister of Jal Shakti be pleased to state:

- (a) the physical and financial status of Teesta Barrage Project under PMKSY-AIBP — envisaged to irrigate 3.42 lakh hectares across Coochbehar, Jalpaiguri, Darjeeling and Uttar Dinajpur including Central funds sanctioned, released and utilised and irrigation potential created;
- (b) whether Government has received the Detailed Project Report from West Bengal for a revised underground pipeline-based irrigation network to overcome land acquisition bottlenecks and its appraisal status at Central Water Commission; and
- (c) the timeline for approval and sanction under PMKSY-AIBP given that large tracts of North Bengal farmland remain unirrigated despite land being acquired under the project decades ago?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI

(SHRI RAJ BHUSHAN CHOUDHARY)

(a) Teesta Barrage Project (1st Sub stage of Stage-1 of Phase-I) with CCA of 3.42 lakh ha. was included under Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP) for providing central assistance in 1996-97. The project was granted the status of “National Project” in 2008. The revised cost estimate of Rs. 2988.61 Crores at 2008 Price Level was appraised by Advisory Committee of Ministry of Water Resources in its 95th meeting held on 20.01.2009. A total central assistance of Rs 447.124 crore provided to the project.

The project comprises of 3 headworks and 5 main canals, out of which all the headworks and 3 canals completed. 85% work of one canal completed and work for one canal has not yet started. Out of the ultimate irrigation potential of 5.27 lakh ha., an irrigation potential of 1.97 lakh ha. has been created. Total expenditure made on the project is Rs. 1465.67 crore.

The project was held up due to several land acquisition issues and was not considered under PMKSY-AIBP during 2016-17.

(b) Yes, a revised proposal with Piped Irrigation Network (PIN) has been received, which has been examined in Central Water Commission and observations communicated to Government of West Bengal for compliance.

(c) Regarding approval and sanction of the project under PMKSY depends on approved guidelines and the financial allocations for PMKSY for the period 2026-31, concurrent with the award period of the 16th Finance Commission.
