

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES,  
RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION  
**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3265**  
ANSWERED ON 15.03.2018

**CONSTRUCTION OF SYL CANAL PROJECT**

3265. SHRI B. SENGUTTUVAN

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Union Government is aware that the Punjab Government has unilaterally repealed the bilateral watersharing agreement with the Haryana Government over the construction of the Sutlej-Yamuna Link (SYL) Canal Project in Punjab reneging upon the Settlement Accord executed in 1985 and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Punjab Legislature unilaterally passed an Act repealing its agreement with the Haryana Government, the Punjab SYL Canal (Rehabilitation and Re-vesting of Proprietary Rights ) Bill, 2016 whereby it seeks to hand over the land acquired for the purpose of construction of the Link Canal to the original land owners on the ground that the availability of water is too inadequate in Punjab to share with Haryana and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Supreme Court has struck down the Punjab SYL Canal (Rehabilitation and Re-vesting of Proprietary Rights) Bill, 2016 and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the proactive role to be played by the Union Government to bring about the reconciliation between the States?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION & PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

- (a) Yes, Madam. On 12 July, 2004, the State of Punjab has enacted the Punjab Termination of Agreements Act, 2004 terminating and discharging the Government of Punjab from its obligations under the Agreement dated 31.12.1981 and all other Agreements relating to waters of Ravi-Beas.
- (b) Yes, Madam. The legislature for the State of Punjab, in March 2016, introduced Punjab Sutlej Yamuna Link Canal Land (Transfer of Proprietary Rights) Bill, 2016 seeking to de-notify the land acquired for the purpose of construction of Sutlej Yamuna Link Canal. No assent of Governor was however given to this Bill and therefore, it is not legislation and remains a Bill passed by Legislative Assembly.
- (c) An Interlocutory Application No. 7 of 2016 had been filed by the State of Haryana praying that the operation and implementation of Punjab Sutlej Yamuna Link Canal Land (Transfer of Proprietary Rights) Act, 2016 be suspended . The Hon'ble Supreme Court, on 17 March 2016, had directed that status quo shall be maintained by the parties with regard to the lands, works, property and portions of the SYL canal and all lands within the alignment of the SYL canal within the territories of the State of Punjab which are covered by the earlier judgement of the Hon'ble Court.
- (d) The matter is presently under consideration of the Hon'ble Supreme Court. The Union Government, however, has been earnestly engaging with the concerned State Governments in an effort to arrive at an amicable resolution of the issue.

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