

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES,
RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3361
ANSWERED ON 15.03.2018

NATIONAL DATABASE ON WATER BODIES

3361. SHRIMATI KIRRON KHER

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

- (a) the recommendations of the Standing Committee on Water Resources which have been implemented by the Government under AIBP;
- (b) whether the Government plans to set up the national database on water bodies after a census on water bodies as recommended by the Committee;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government to ensure utilisation of the irrigation potential created through this programme and to increase strength of the regional staff and promote better monitoring of the programme?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) & (d) Details in this regard are at **Annexure**.

(b) & (c) Yes, Madam. The objective of the census is to build up a Central level database on water bodies having information on their use, storage capacity, status of filling etc.

Annexure referred to in reply to parts (a) & (d) of Unstarred Question No. 3361 to be answered in Lok Sabha on 15.03.2018 regarding “National Database on Water Bodies”.

Main recommendation/observations of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Water Resources related to AIBP and RRR of Water Bodies contained in their Fourteenth Report on ‘Review of the Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) and steps taken by the Government for implementation of the same:

1. Recommendation

Sincere and rigorous efforts need to be made by the Ministry for not only achieving the goals of envisaged under the AIBP but also for ensuring the sustainability of irrigation projects so as to achieve optimum irrigation development and utilization of Irrigation Potential created in the country.

Steps taken by the Government

Water resources projects are planned, funded, executed and maintained by the State Governments as per their own resources and priority. In order to supplement the efforts Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation (MoWR, RD & GR) provides financial assistance to State Governments to encourage sustainable development and efficient management of water resources through various schemes such as Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) etc. under Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY).

During 2016-17, ninety-nine (99) ongoing Major/Medium Irrigation Projects under PMKSY-Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) having balance cost of Rs. 77595 cr. and Ultimate potential of 76.03 lakh ha. have been prioritized in consultation with States, for completion in phases by Dec., 2019 along with their Command Area Development & Water Management (CADWM) works. For completion of these projects in a mission mode, funding mechanism under Long Term Irrigation Fund (LTIF) through NABARD has been approved by the Government for both Central and State share as per above estimated cost. Further, Polavaram project of Andhra Pradesh is also funded under LTIF through NABARD.

2. Recommendation

To tackle the issue with a long-term perspective and planning to avoid repeated modifications in guidelines and adhocism in future.

Steps taken by the Government

As mentioned at reply to recommendation at para1 above, during 2016-17, PMKSY – AIBP component has been reviewed and the process has been simplified for the prioritized projects. Some of main provisions are as below:

- 20% cost escalation on latest approved estimated cost (AIBP component) of project as on March 2012 is allowed for which, no separate clearance/TAC clearance/Investment clearance is required for funding these projects.
- Fast track proforma clearance from CWC may be sufficient for projects where revised cost may be more than the 20% over and above approved cost as on 01.04.2012 and no separate investment clearance from MOWR is required.
- Cost escalation above 20% is to be borne by the concerned State Government. However, the States can avail the same through NABARD.
- CADWM works to be implemented pari passu with AIBP works.

3. Recommendation

To promptly initiate action in consultation with the concerned State Governments to sort out the issues/hurdles and efforts be made for timely completion of the 5 National Projects which are currently under execution. The remaining National Projects, which are at various stages of implementation, be completed as per the scheduled timeline.

Steps taken by the Government

Sixteen Projects have been declared as national projects so far. These projects are taken up for execution after the concerned States obtain techno economic clearance, other statutory clearances and investment clearance.

Out of these, five projects, namely Polavaram project of Andhra Pradesh, Saryu Nahar Pariyojana of Uttar Pradesh, Gosikhurd Irrigation Project of Maharashtra, Teesta Barrage Project of West Bengal and Shahpur Kandi Dam Project of Punjab have been taken up for execution. Gosikhurd and Saryu Nahar Pariyojna are included under 99 prioritized projects. Polavaram Project is also being funded under LTIF.

The progress of Teesta project has been affected due to land acquisition issue. The State Government has constituted a High Level Task Force to suggest appropriate cause of action for execution of balance works.

The works of Shahpur Kandi dam project was stopped in 2014 due to interstate issues between Punjab and Jammu & Kashmir. An agreement has been signed by Secretaries of Irrigation Department of both the States in this regard. Implementation of the projects is dependent upon ratification of agreement and approval of revised cost estimates.

4. Recommendation

To take initiatives to avoid delayed release of funds under Central Assistance and also its subsequent reduction. To ensure timely and proper implementation of CAD&WM programme and take fresh measures to ensure that objectives of the Programme are achieved.

Steps taken by the Government

Status in this regard is already given at Para 1 & 2 above.

5. Recommendation

To remove the encroachment and for repairing, renovating and restoring the water bodies.

Steps taken by the Government

Secretary(MOWR, RD & GR) vide D.O. letter dated 26.02.2016 and 07.11.2016 requested State Governments to take several measures for protection of water bodies including encroachment issue.

Further, detailed draft guidelines for conservation and protection of water bodies have also been circulated to Central Ministries and States/UTs.

6. Recommendation

The Ministry to devise a mechanism to prevent the lapses causing further delay as well as to have stringent measures to obviate such time and cost over-runs and to prevent any further diversion / misuse/waste of fund under AIBP.

The Ministry to have a separate component in AIBP fund for incentivising the States who are using modern water saving technologies and are implementing the projects under AIBP in a time bound manner.

Steps taken by the Government

In order to ensure that the funds released to the projects are used for intended purpose, utilization certificates and audited Statement of Expenditure are sought from the States along with CA proposals.

CWC regularly monitor the physical and financial progress of the projects. Apart from this, third party monitoring is also carried out by Project Management Unit established under the Mission. NABARD also carries out monitoring of selected projects.

As all the prioritized projects are targeted for completion in a short time frame and State share is being provided at interest rate of about 6% p.a. with interest subvention by the Central Government, no further incentivisation is envisaged at this stage.

7. Recommendation

The Ministry to devise strategies and take urgent steps to not only increase the creation of Irrigation Potential IP created but also to ensure proper utilisation of the Irrigation Potential.

To reconcile the data with respect to the Irrigation Potential since the inception of the projects State-wise, Year-wise and, Project-wise and maintain them at one place so as to have a holistic picture of the progress, actual gap between irrigation potential targeted, created and utilized.

Steps taken by the Government

As mentioned at reply at para 2 above, CAD works are being implemented paripassu with AIBP works of 99 prioritized projects for proper utilization of potential so created. Further, Ministry has constituted a Committee/Working Group regarding reassessment of Ultimate Irrigation Potential, Irrigation Potential Created and Irrigation Potential Utilisation in the country.

8. Recommendation

To take remedial action for removing all the bottlenecks in monitoring and strictly implement all the criteria/guidelines for monitoring the projects/Schemes under the AIBP.

To adopt carrot and stick model for penalizing those States which are not adhering to the terms and conditions and incentivizing those - which follow them scrupulously.

To take initiative to increase the number of Regional offices and the staff strength in CWC so as to avoid their adverse impact on monitoring mechanism.

To develop a modus operandi for having systematic synergy between the physical visits made and online monitoring methods.

Steps taken by the Government

Thirteen regional offices of Central Water Commission, established in different parts of the country are monitoring the physical and financial progress of AIBP Projects.

Further, one nodal officer from the State for each of the 99 priority projects has been identified for updation of the physical and financial progress of the project regularly in the Online Management Information System developed. CWC also monitors the data of the MIS regularly.

Further, third party monitoring of these projects are also carried out for assessment of physical and financial progress of these projects.

9. Recommendation

To set up and maintain well-established infrastructure/arrangements for obtaining better resolution imageries within this financial year.

To institute a system for ensuring the safety/security of data while using online monitoring mechanism.

Steps taken by the Government

Bhaskaracharya Institute for Space Application and Geoinformatics (BISAG) under Department of Science & Technology, Government of Gujarat has been entrusted with the work of analyzing year wise / season wise cropped area in the command of these 99 projects using remote sensing technologies. Further, MIS is protected as per protocol by NIC.

10. Recommendation

To provide States/UTs with incentives for increasing the participation of WUAs in management of water resources and Irrigation Projects.

To increase their effort to facilitate the formation and involvement of WUAs/local communities by increasing the incentives as well as nominate one person in each WUA to coordinate all the activities for promoting coordination, cooperation and participation among the farmers.

Steps taken by the Government

The 'Guidelines for Central Assistance for CAD works in prioritized AIBP funded Irrigation Projects' have been circulated in January, 2017. The provision under Non-Structural Intervention include one-time functional grant to registered Water Users' Associations (WUAs) and one-time infrastructure grant to the registered WUAs for strengthening Participatory Irrigation Management (PIM). A provision for hand-holding support for strengthening PIM by select Social Facilitator (an NGO, or similar entity having substantial experience in influencing village level social activities and reforms) per project, to be engaged through the process of empanelment, has also been kept in the Guidelines.
