

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

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2805

ANSWERED ON 08.08.2024

CLEANING OF OLD CANALS

†2805. SHRI GURJEET SINGH AUJLA

Will the Minister of **JAL SHAKTI** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has any proposal to clean the old canals so that the farmers can have water for irrigation; and
- (b) if so, whether there is a proposal for cleaning Upper Bari Doab Canal (UBDC) in Punjab and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI

(SHRI RAJ BHUSHAN CHOUDHARY)

(a) Water being a State subject, it is for the State Government concerned to plan, implement and maintain irrigation projects in its jurisdiction, including cleaning of old canals. Role of Government of India is limited to providing technical support, and in some cases partial financial assistance under its ongoing schemes. Further, this Ministry is also providing partial financial assistance for extension, renovation and modernization (ERM) of identified existing irrigation projects. However, providing partial financial assistance for cleaning of old canals is not included under any scheme of this Ministry.

(b) Government of Punjab has informed that canals in the State, including UBDC system, are being cleaned twice a year, before the rabi and kharif seasons as per the requirement, to ensure supply of water for irrigation purposes. It is also informed by the State Government that during the year 2024, cleaning of Main Line UBDC from RD 11000 to 57000 has been done. Further, cleaning of banks of Main Line UBDC from RD 11000 to 39992 is also reported under MGNREGA during 2024.

Government of Punjab has further informed that for future proposals, cleaning of canals, including distributaries/ minors, is proposed every year through MGNREGA labor, for smooth operations of these canals.
