

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION  
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2875

ANSWERED ON 08.08.2024

**CAPACITY OF INDIRA GANDHI FEEDER CANAL**

†2875. SHRI KULDEEP INDORA

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

- (a) whether the Indira Gandhi Canal Project was constructed for irrigation and drinking water purposes with a capacity of 18000 cusecs of water while its current capacity is not more than 11000 cusecs of water and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Ganga Canal was constructed in Sri Ganganagar district of Rajasthan for the same purposes with the capacity of 11000 cusecs of water while its current capacity is not more than 9000 cusecs of water due to which the farmers are not receiving adequate water for irrigation purpose and if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether the Government proposes to formulate any concrete action plan in this regard so as to ensure that the farmers and general public do not face any water related problems and if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

**THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI**

(SHRI RAJ BHUSHAN CHOUDHARY)

- (a) The Rajasthan Feeder (Indira Gandhi Feeder) originates from Harike headworks in Punjab and supplies drinking and irrigation water to the state of Rajasthan. It is constructed with a capacity of 18,500 cusecs. Over the time its carrying capacity has reduced. A committee under the chairmanship of Member (Design and Research), Central Water Commission has assessed the present carrying capacity of Rajasthan Feeder as 15,180 cusecs. The Committee has further observed that Rajasthan state requires maximum discharge of 18,500 cusecs in the monsoon period only, and that too for few days, for storing surplus water from the releases for utilising it throughout the year. Thus, to meet the requirements of the Rajasthan State, the period of carrying 15,180 cusecs discharge may be increased to compensate for less carrying capacity of the canal.
- (b) As per the information provided by concerned State Governments, relining of Gang Canal (also known as Bikaner Canal) has been done between year 2001 and 2005. Further, the carrying capacity of the canal is reported to be 3,027 cusecs, which is sufficient to deliver water as per the share of Rajasthan State.
- (c) Water, being a State subject, it is for the State Government concerned to formulate any concrete action plan so as to ensure that the farmers and general public do not face any water related problems. Further, it is the State Government concerned which is mandated to plan, implement, run and manage water resources projects within their respective jurisdiction. Government of India provides technical support, and partial financial assistance for the identified irrigation projects under its ongoing schemes.

In September, 2018, Government of India approved relining of Rajasthan Feeder (RD 179000 to 496000), with estimated cost of Rs. 1,305.27 crore, out of which Rs. 620.41 crore is to be provided by Government of India as grant. Likely date of completion of the project is June, 2025. Implementation of this project would help in addressing the problem of water logging in Muktsar, Faridkot and Ferozpur districts in South-West Punjab, and help retrieve agriculture land affected by water logging, and to improve land productivity. The relining also targets to conserve water to the tune of about 560 cusecs, to be used to stabilise /improve irrigation in Rajasthan.

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