

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF POWER**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.957
ANSWERED ON 05.02.2026**

DESILTATION AND SEDIMENT MANAGEMENT PROPOSAL PREPARED BY BBMB

957. SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR:

**Will the Minister of POWER
be pleased to state:**

- (a) the details of the desiltation and sediment management proposal prepared by the Bhakra Beas Management Board (BBMB) to State Government of Himachal Pradesh, along with its objectives, estimated cost, timelines and reservoirs covered;**
- (b) the date on which the said desiltation/dredging proposal was forwarded to the State Government of Himachal Pradesh for consultation or approval and whether any reminders or follow-up communications have since been issued and if so, the details thereof;**
- (c) the proposed plan for utilisation, disposal or commercial use of the desilted material, including sand, silt and other sediments and whether any revenue or ecological benefits are envisaged and if so, the details thereof; and**
- (d) whether BBMB proposes to engage any foreign agencies, international collaborations, or advanced technical know-how for execution of the project in a cost-effective, environmentally sustainable and time-bound manner and if so, the details thereof?**

A N S W E R

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER

(SHRI SHRIPAD NAIK)

(a): Bhakra Beas Management Board (BBMB) has prepared a proposal for desilting of Bhakra Reservoir at Luhnoo Ground in District Bilaspur, Himachal Pradesh. The proposal aims to address sediment accumulation and loss of reservoir capacity, promote sustainable reservoir management, and explore the beneficial utilisation of desilted material. The project covers the reach from Mandi Bharari Bridge to Luhnoo Ground, which has been identified as suitable for desiltation due to ease of access and favourable sediment characteristics. The proposal envisages desilting up to a depth of 2 metres during the available 8–9 months period in a year, when the reservoir water level recedes and the area becomes exposed. The proposal is based on a revenue model with no financial outgo for BBMB.

(b): The desiltation proposal was forwarded by BBMB to the Government of Himachal Pradesh on 29.10.2025 for approval. On 23.12.2025, the Government of Himachal Pradesh informed BBMB that Rule 33 of the Himachal Pradesh Minor Minerals (Concession) and Minerals (Prevention of Illegal Mining, Transportation and Storage) Rules, 2015 permits desilting of reservoirs and lifting/ transportation of minerals

generated after payment of royalty. Further, the Government of Himachal Pradesh on 31.12.2025 intimated BBMB the royalty, cess and taxes for the minerals to be extracted during desilting of Bhakra Reservoir. Thereafter, BBMB on 02.01.2026 has published an Expression of Interest (EOI) for extraction and auction of the silt.

(c): The desilted material, comprising sand, silt, and clay, is proposed to be commercially utilised by the successful bidder. Any unusable material will be disposed of at designated disposal sites in compliance with environmental norms. Under this revenue model, the successful bidder will pay applicable royalty, cess, and taxes to the State Government, thereby, generating revenue besides yielding benefits through improved reservoir capacity and sustainable sediment management.

(d): BBMB is receiving financial support under Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Project (DRIP) Phase II and III, a flagship project of Ministry of Jal Shakti, Government of India, being implemented with funding and technical support from the World Bank. The project aims for sedimentation management, formulation of sediment control strategies, treatment of sediment-generation hotspots and landslide-prone vulnerable reaches around the Bhakra and Pong reservoir areas and restoration of their live storage capacity.
