

[17 April, 2001]

RAJYA SABHA

Completion of irrigation projects

3459. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are some on-going irrigation projects in the country which have not been completed;

(b) if so, whether Government are taking any steps to mobilise resources for speedy completion of on-going irrigation projects in the country; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Centre has launched Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) since 1996-97 for providing Central Loan Assistance (CLA) for completion of those irrigation projects which are in advance stage of completion or mega projects which are beyond the resource capability of the States. CLA amounting to Rs. 5755 crore for 143 major and medium projects in 23 states and Rs. 121 crore for 2220 surface minor irrigation schemes in 10 special category of states has been released since inception of the AIBP in 1996-97. This programme has been able to expedite the creation of additional irrigation potential to the tune of 786 th. ha. upto March, 2000 through major and medium schemes. 20 major/medium projects have since been completed with the help of this programme.

Earthquake in Gujarat vis-a-vis Sardar Sarovar Project

3460. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the 90 mt. high water storage arrangement of the Sardar Sarovar Project could be partially responsible for the disastrous earthquake in Gujarat;

(b) if not, what could be the explanation; and

(c) whether Government are contemplating a scientific enquiry into the matter?