

(f) whether anyone has been held responsible for the delay and the action taken against them; and

(g) how many Hydroelectric Power Projects have been handed over to private parties?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ):

(a) and (b) The estimated cost as techno-economically cleared by Central Electricity Authority in March, 1985 was Rs. 608.89 crore (Net) at September 1984 price level, excluding the cost of transmission system. The cost was updated in March 1990 at February 1989 price level to Rs. 887.23 crore (Net) including cost of associated transmission line. The project was expected to be completed and implemented within six years from the date of commencement of construction work and a period of one and a half year had been earmarked for development of basic infrastructure. The State Government of J&K cleared the project in January 1998 at a sanctioned cost of Rs. 3810 crore. The original estimated cost as adopted by Power Finance Corporation is Rs. 4000 crore and the project was planned to be completed by 31st December, 2004. The latest cost as estimated is of the tune of Rs. 4300 crore. Total expenditure incurred ending July 2006 is Rs. 3348.12 crore.

(c) As informed by the Project Authority, there is no such proposal.

(d) As per latest cost, balance of Rs. 951.88 crore is required for completion of the project.

(e) As per the Project Authority, there is no such proposal.

(f) As informed by the Project Authority, delay has been caused due to various reasons viz. land acquisition problem financial difficulties and occurrence of Force Majeure events in July-August, 2005.

(g) As informed by Central Electricity Authority, seven hydro-electric projects of total installed capacity of 2061 MW are presently under execution in private sector.

Prevention of erosion by the Ganga and Padma rivers

2719. SHRI MUKUL ROY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether State Government of West Bengal have approached the Central Government for financial and technical assistance for prevention of erosion by the Ganga and the Padma rivers in the district of Murshidabad;

(b) how much fund has been released to the State Government during the last three years; and

(c) how much fund has been actually utilized by the State Government?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) An amount of Rs. 35.02 crore has been released to the State Government of West Bengal during the last 3 years by Ministry of Water Resources out of which Rs. 16.44 crore only has been utilized by the State Government for taking up anti-erosion works in Ganga-Padma rivers.

Besides the above, the Farakka Barrage Project has also been entrusted with execution of anti-erosion works on Ganga-Padma rivers on the request of State Government. Rupee 71.00 crore has been released to Farraka Barrage Project during last 3 years (2003-04, 2004-05 & 2005-06); out of which Rs. 53.60 crore has been utilized.

Joint New Water project in Darjeeling

†2720. SHRI SAMAN PATHAK: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether work of Joint New Water project is going on in Darjeeling;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the amount provided for implementing the said project; and

(d) by when the said project is expected to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ):

(a) to (d) As per information provided by the Government of West Bengal, no Joint New Water project has been taken up in Darjeeling. However, one Darjeeling Water Supply Pumping Scheme is being implemented by Public Health Engineering Directorate. The funding pattern for implementing the project is given below:

Central Assistance	Rs. 10.00 crore
Municipal Affairs Deptt./Darjeeling Municipality	Rs. 10.00 Crore
State Plan (Urban)	Rs. 22.39 Crore
ARWSP	Rs. 6.67 Crore

The completion time for the scheme is 3 years.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.