

Financial assistance under AIBP to Himachal Pradesh

1540. SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of financial assistance provided under AIBP to Himachal Pradesh for major and medium irrigation projects, scheme-wise;
- (b) whether the entire funding has been sanctioned for all such schemes; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) The details of Central Assistance (CA) released under Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) to the major and medium irrigation projects of Himachal Pradesh is given in the Statement (*See below*).

(b) and (c) The State Government submits its fund requirement based on Annual Work Plan and the eligible amount of funding is released to the project authorities as per the budget allocation and as per the guidelines of AIBP7 .

Statement

*Details of CA released under AIBP to Major and Medium
Irrigation Projects of Himachal Pradesh*

Sl. No.	Name of the Project	Total CA released upto 2011-12 (Rs. in crores)
1	Shahnehar Irrgn. Project	203.855
2	Sidhata	62.580
3	Changer Lift	57.238
4	Balh Valley (Left Bank)	55.221

Tapping of underground water

1541. SHRI JOY ABRAHAM: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware of indiscriminate tapping of groundwater resources in the country;

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to control and regulate the indiscriminate digging of wells to exploit groundwater resources;

(c) whether Government is aware of several accidents wherein children are trapped inside open borewells and tubewells;

(d) what safety measures are taken by Government to protect children from borewell related accidents; and

(e) whether Government would consider mapping of groundwater resources in the country to protect its reserves and environment?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) The ground water is continuously being tapped in the country for drinking, irrigation and various other purposes.

(b) To ensure that there is no over-exploitation of ground water, a Model Bill has been circulated to all the States/UTs to enable them to enact ground water legislation for its regulation and development. Besides, Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) under the Ministry of Water Resources has issued directives to Chief Secretaries of States and Administrators of UTs having 'Over-exploited' blocks to take measures to promote/adopt artificial recharge to ground water/rainwater harvesting. CGWA has also taken up with various Central and State organizations for adopting rainwater harvesting and recharge to the ground water.

(c) and (d) Government is aware of occurrence of such accidents caused due to open bore wells. 'Water' is a State subject, therefore any punitive action, against the erring contractors/landowners is taken by the concerned State agencies. The Hon'ble Supreme Court has issued directives in the year 2010 to Chief Secretaries/Administrators of all the States/Union Territories to adopt certain measures such as registration of drilling agencies capping the wells properly, erection of signboards and fencing, filling of pits and channels after completion of drilling operation, filling of abandoned wells by clay/sand/boulders/pebbles etc. Further, the landowners before taking up any construction works must inform to the concerned authorities. The Hon'ble Supreme Court has also directed that in rural areas, monitoring and execution should be done by Panchayati Raj Institutions and in urban areas by the Municipal Corporations/Public Health Departments. Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) under the Ministry of Water Resources has also

forwarded copy of Supreme Court Orders to the Chief Secretaries of Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Haryana and Punjab, Director General, Geological Survey of India, Chairman, Oil and Natural Gas Commission in 2010 with the request to carry out surveys in their respective States/Organization.

(e) CGWB under the Ministry of Water Resources has planned to undertake Aquifer Mapping in the country during the Twelfth Five Year Plan. Based on aquifer mapping exercise, sustainable ground water management plans would be developed for the aquifers.

Schemes for flood control in Uttarakhand

†1542. SHRI BHAGAT SINGH KOSHYARI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Central Government has started any special schemes for flood control in the hilly areas, particularly in Uttarakhand;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (c) the details of funds allocated, if any, for flood control, to the hilly States of the country including Uttarakhand; and
- (d) if no such funds have been allocated, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) to (c) No, Sir. The Central Government has not started any special scheme for flood control in hilly areas particularly in Uttarakhand.

However, the Government of India had approved a Flood Management Programme (FMP) during Eleventh Plan for providing Central assistance to all the State Governments for works related to flood management, anti-erosion, drainage development, flood proofing, restoration of damaged flood management works and works related to anti-sea erosion. Under this programme, a total of 420 schemes were approved during Eleventh Plan and the Central assistance of Rs. 3566 crore was released upto 31.03.2012 as per State-wise details given in the Statement (*See below*).

(d) Does not arise in view of the information provided under parts (a), (b) and (c) above.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.