

(c) whether Government has in the past, provided Central assistance under AIBP treating DDP areas at par with DPAP areas in cases of two projects in Punjab and one project in Karnataka; and

(d) if so, by when Government proposes to extend similar benefits to Sardar Sarovar Project and other eligible projects in the country?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Accelerated Irrigation Benefited Programme (AIBP) scheme formulated for the XII Plan proposes Central Assistance (CA) for projects benefiting Desert Development Programme (DDP) areas on a par with those benefitting Drought Prone Areas programme (DPAP) areas. The scheme requires clearance from the Union Cabinet.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) After approval of the proposal by the Union Cabinet, the eligible projects including Sardar Sarovar Project of Gujarat benefitting DDP areas on par with DPAP areas will be considered for providing CA as per the modified norms of AIBP.

Assistance to Himachal Pradesh for Shah Nahar irrigation project

2324. SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) by when the Shah Nahar Irrigation Project in Himachal Pradesh is likely to be completed;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Punjab Government has refused to pay Rs. 62.00 crore of its share to the project;

(c) whether the Planning Commission has recommended in 2012 that Rs. 62.00 crore be released to Himachal Pradesh as additional Central assistance; and

(d) if so, why this amount has not been released so far?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) The Shah Nahar Irrigation Project in Himachal Pradesh is scheduled to be completed by March 2013.

(b) and (c) On the issue of sharing of cost between the States of Punjab & Himachal Pradesh for the said project, both the States approached Planning Commission. It has been decided by the Planning Commission to provide Additional Central Assistance (ACA) of Rs. 62.42 crore to Shah Nahar Irrigation Project under Accelerated Irrigation Benefited Programme (AIBP) and accordingly this has been reflected in the approved allocation of Annual Plan 2012-13 of Himachal Pradesh issued by the Planning Commission.

(d) Planning Commission conveyed to include this proposal in the scheme of AIBP for XII Plan. The scheme of AIBP for the XII Plan is yet to be approved by the Union Cabinet.

Hike in water tariff for irrigation

2325. SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that, as per the recommendations of the 13th Finance Commission, all the States have to fix tariff for irrigation water as a percentage of non-Plan revenue expenditure for operation and maintenance of irrigation schemes;

(b) if so, the rationale behind these recommendations;

(c) whether any assessment has been carried out as to what would be the impact of this decision on the cost of production due to this hike in water tariff for irrigation; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) The Thirteenth Finance Commission has, *inter-alia*, recommended setting up a Water Regulatory Authority in each State to fix and regulate the water tariff system and charges for surface and sub-surface water used for domestic, agriculture, industrial and other purposes. The Thirteenth Finance Commission has also projected State specific recovery rates for irrigation, separately for special category and general category States, on the basis of revenue receipts as percent of Non Plan Revenue Expenditure and made that as an eligibility criteria for release of incentive grant.

(b) While recommending the setting up of a Water Regulatory Authority in each State, the Thirteenth Finance Commission observed that 'injudicious inter-sectoral and intra-sectoral distribution of water amongst various categories of water users, low