

1. One time grant for Sirhind Feeder Project:-

Investment clearance of Project for relining of Sirhind Feeder (Rs. 489.165 Crore) was accorded by Planning Commission vide letter No F.NO.2(4008)/2009-WR Dated 2^{3rd} November,2009. Sirhind Feeder benefits Rajasthan & Punjab with 45.85% Rajasthan & 54.15% Punjab Share. The funding pattern under A.I.B.P has been different for Rajasthan 90:10 (GOI : State) & for Punjab 25:75 (GOI :State). As both the States are being fed from the same channel, the funding pattern should be the same or Punjab may be given one time grant of Rs.159.68 Crore i.e. 65% share. It is not possible for Punjab to arrange funds for this project to the tune of Rs. 245.665 Crore under present sharing pattern. The matter was taken up by the Hon'ble C.M. Punjab vide D.O. No. Camp / Delhi/Special/09/06 dated 3rd August 2009 with the Hon'ble Prime Minister, India. Now during the annual plan 2012-13 working group meeting held at New Delhi on 24.04.2012, Sh. Avinash Mishra, Joint Advisor (Water Resources) has desired that the matter may be taken by Hon'ble Chief Minister, Punjab with Deputy Chairman Planning Commission. A DO addressed to Dr. Montek Singh Ahluwalia, Deputy Chairman Planning Commission has been written by Hon'ble Chief Minister Punjab vide No.CMO/Confi-2012/868 of 25.08.2012 requesting for allowing one time grant of Rs.159.68 Crore for this project. Copy is placed below.

2. Release of funds for Relining of Rajasthan Feeder & Sirhind Feeder:-

The projects amounting to Rs. 1441.265 crore for relining of Rajasthan Feeder & Sirhind Feeder has been approved by Government of India under AIBP. These projects were to be started during 2010-11. The case for release of Central Assistance of Rs. 195.282 Cr for Rajasthan Feeder and Rs. 48.286 Cr for Sirhind Feeder were submitted to G.O.I. during the year 2010-11 but Govt. of India has released only Rs. 105.84 Cr. for Rajasthan Feeder and no funds have been released for Sirhind Feeder project. It is not possible to take up these projects unless full grant is released by G.O.I. The grant is being delayed for one reason or the other. The project has already been delayed by about two years. It will unnecessarily result in cost overrun of the projects. The matter needs to be expedited at C.W.C. level for earlier release of balance grant of Rs. 89.445 Crore for Rajasthan Feeder and Rs. 48.286 Crore for Sirhind Feeder, so that the closure and execution of the work can be planned at the earliest. Both the projects are scheduled to be completed within a span of four years i.e. by 2015-16.

3. Release of one time special grant for Shah Nehar Project:

For release of one time special grant for Shah Nehar Project in view of the decision taken in the meeting of 10th July 2008 with CWC, it was decided that since retrospective funding is not possible as per AIBP guidelines, both the Govt. of Punjab and Govt. of Himachal Pradesh may approach Planning Commission for a special one time grant for payment of Govt. of Punjab share of expenditure incurred on the Shah Nehar Project during 2005-06 to 2007-08. Based on above decision, special one time grant of Rs. 62.42 crore to be paid to Himachal Pradesh, the matter has been referred by Principal Secretary Irrigation to Principal Advisor(WSR/SP-N), Planning Commission, Govt of India vide letter No. 2/62/2001-PJ(4)1734 dated 3/6/2011. The decision is awaited.

4. Extension , Renovation and Modernization of canals being fed from river Sutlej costing 734.46 Crore:

The project for 'Extension, Renovation and Modernization of canals being fed from river Sutlej' costing Rs. 734.46 crore has been accorded Investment clearance by Planning Commission Govt. of India. The proposal for release of grant under AIBP has been submitted to GOI vide Chief Engineer/Canal letter No. 9194/Canals dt. 13.6.12. A provision of Rs.60 Crore has also been made under the State Annual Plan 2012-13 and the Planning Department has given its consent to increase the provision to Rs.266.66 Crore. The matter needs to be expedited at C.W.C. level for earlier release of grant amounting to Rs. 59.850 Cr. for this project from finance department. The Project is proposed to be started during the year 2012-13 and completed by 2014-15.

As per the investment clearance accorded by the Planning Commission vide letter No. 2(418)/2010-WR of 10.02.11, the work was to be completed upto 31.3.2013. As per AIBP policy, the projects can be completed in four years. No funds have been released by GOI for this project till date. The completion period needs to be extended upto 31.3.2015 and funds also need to be released. Matter has been taken up with Deputy Advisor (W.R.), Planning Commission vide Chief Engineer Canals memo No. 2012(6)Canals/13407 of 17.09.2012.

5. Investment Clearance Investment clearance for revised cost for rehabilitation of 1st Patiala Feeder and Kotla Branch(revised- major-ERM, estimated cost Rs. 199.39 Crore).

The cost of the project for rehabilitation of 1st Patiala Feeder and Kotla Branch which was earlier approved for Rs.123.30 crore has now been revised to Rs.199.39 crore during 7/2012. The project is proposed to be completed during 2012-13. However, work can be taken up and case for release of GOI grant can be taken up only after the investment clearance of the project is accorded by the Planning Commission. Matter has been taken up with Deputy Advisor (WR), Planning Commission vide Chief Engineer/Canals letter No. 2012(6) Canals/13047-48 of 5/9/2012.

6. Project Estimate for Rehabilitation, Extension, Renovation, Modernization of Various Canal Systems, Restoring Storage Capacity Of Reservoirs, Lining of Water Courses & Installation Of Tubewells along with Allied Work In Punjab State:

The Canal System in Punjab is more than century old. It requires rejuvenation, rehabilitation & modernization. As such a comprehensive Project for Rs. 4128.43 Crore for Extension, Renovation & Modernization of Canal Systems & Irrigation Infrastructure of the State has been sent to Central Water Commission, New Delhi for technical appraisal. Punjab is a major contributor of wheat and rice to the National Kitty but it is being done at the cost of ground water, as shortfall is causing over exploitation of ground water through tube wells. The project requires immediate clearance from CWC, so that matter may be taken up with Planning Commission, GOI, New Delhi for funding under special category State with funding pattern of 75% by GOI and 25% by State instead of 25% by GOI and 75% by State as per CWC norms or State be given one time special grant for these Projects.

7. Release of grant for 2012-13 under Water Sector Management Scheme on recommendation of 13th Finance Commission.

Case for release of grant under Water Sector Management scheme based on the recommendations of 13th Finance Commission for the year 2012-13 could not be submitted to GOI because GOI has refused to release the grant because the State has not formulated the Water Regulatory Authority. The matter was taken up by Hon'ble Chief Minister Punjab with the Union Finance Minister vide DO No. CMO/Confi-2010/453 of 4.5.12 to release the grant as water is a State subject and grants in aid / Devolution of States share in Central Taxes cannot be withheld. However, Union Finance Minister vide DO of 15.6.12 clarified that Finance Commission recommendations regarding share in Central Taxes and Grants in Aid are under Article 270 and 275 of the Constitution of India respectively. Therefore, Grants in Aid are not akin to share in Central Taxes. He had further clarified that the States are within their domain not to accept grants based on conditionalities. Similarly, the matter was also taken up with the Hon'ble Prime Minister vide Hon'ble Chief Minister DO No. CMO-Confi-2012/389 dt.22.04.12 in this regard. In reply to this the Union Minister for Water Resources has advised the State to implement the recommendations of 13th Finance Commission. The matter as such is pending with State Govt. Either the State has to constitute the State Water Regulatory Authority or otherwise matter needs to be taken up afresh with Govt. of India for release of Water Sector Grant for 2012-13 and thereafter.