GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2062

ANSWERED ON 11.12.2025

PUNJAB RIGHTS OVER SUTLEJ AND BEAS RIVERS

2062. SHRI GURMEET SINGH MEET HAYER:

SMT. HARSIMRAT KAUR BADAL:

Will the Minister of **JAL SHAKTI** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government is aware of the proposed amendment to the Bhakra Beas Management Board (BBMB) under the Punjab Reorganisation Act that would dilute Punjab's representation by granting equal membership to Himachal Pradesh and Rajasthan resulting in situations where Punjab is deprived of its rightful saying in planning and operations, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the Union Government intends to protect Punjab's riparian rights over the Sutlej and Beas rivers, given that these waters flow through Punjab and the Board's decisions increasingly put the State in disadvantage and if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government acknowledges that due to the absence of Punjab officers and reduced decision-making power, Punjab itself suffers record inundation because there is no responsible authority from Punjab in BBMB to regulate, anticipate or control such situations, if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Union Government is aware that key members and officers from Punjab have been removed from the Board, if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Union Government has considered a reconstitution or restructuring of BBMB to ensure that Punjab retains control over critical decisions relating to water release and dam operations, if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the steps being taken by the Union Government to ensure that the Board's governance is reformed in a way that safeguards Punjab's interests, prevents future water "robbery" and upholds the State's sovereign water rights?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI

(SHRI RAJ BHUSHAN CHOUDHARY)

(a) to (f) The BBMB is regulating the waters of Ravi, Beas and Sutlej rivers and distribution of water of these rivers among partner states in accordance with Inter-state agreements entered into by partner states. Partner States project the irrigation and domestic requirements of their respective States in the monthly Technical Committee meetings (TCM) of Bhakra Beas Management Board (BBMB) which is then released by BBMB from the Reservoirs as per the decision taken in the aforesaid meeting of BBMB comprising

Chief Engineers from partner states (Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan), Central Water Commission (CWC), special invitees from Indian Meteorological Department (IMD), Agriculture department and senior officers from BBMB, etc. The Board's decision is taken and implemented only after obtaining consensus among all the stakeholders or partner states (Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan and Himachal Pradesh) and Government of India.

As of July 2025, the State of Punjab has a sanctioned share of 4,918 posts in the overall sanctioned strength of BBMB, of which 1,756 have been filled by Punjab. As per the convention, the post of Member (Power) is filled from the Govt. of Punjab.

The BBMB is represented, inter-alia, with Members from Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan and Himachal Pradesh. Further, the decisions in the Board are taken unanimously ensuring that the interests of all BBMB partner states, including Punjab, are best protected.

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