

No.1/99-PSPB-R.O.(BADP)-2008/7255

Government of Punjab
Department of Planning
(Border Area Development Programme Division)

To

The Principal Advisor,
(State Plans), Planning Commission, GoI,
Yojana Bhawan, Parliament Street,
New Delhi.

Dated the Chandigarh 24th July, 2008.

Subject: Release of funds for the special project “Augmentation and Extension of Water Supply & Sewerage for Border Area Towns in Punjab”.

Madam,

Kindly refer to the subject cited above.

2. Hon’ble Chief Minister, Punjab vide his letter dated 28/3/08 (copy enclosed) had inter-alia drawn the attention of Hon’ble Union Home Minister to the development of border towns under Border Area Development Programme. In response, Hon’ble Union Home Minister vide his letter 2-3/6/2008 advised the Hon’ble Chief Minister to make a consolidated proposal to the Planning Commission for grant of additional funds under Border Area Development Programme for Water Supply, Sewerage etc. projects and assured all help in pursuing the matter with the Planning Commission, Government of India. Subsequently, Hon’ble Chief Minister sent another letter to the Hon’ble Union Home Minister on 19/6/2008, in respect of which Hon’ble Union Home Minister has conveyed (vide his letter dated 24/06/2008) that he was getting the matter examined. Copies of correspondence between Hon’ble Chief Minister and Hon’ble Union Home Minister are enclosed for ready reference.

3. Accordingly a detailed project proposal for “Augmentation and Extension of Water Supply & Sewerage System” in 10 towns of Punjab has been prepared at an estimated cost of Rs 134.52 Cr : Water Supply - Rs 14.53 Cr, Sewerage - Rs 52.44 Cr and Sewage Treatment Plant - Rs 67.55 Cr. The town-wise break up and the copy of the estimate is enclosed herewith.

4. Under the Border Area Development Programme, Ministry of Home Affairs has made a meager allocation of Rs 22.18 Cr during 2008-09 which is not sufficient enough to meet the critical needs of the 18 border blocks abutting the international border. Unlike other States, Punjab has a number of towns located in close vicinity of the International Border which were till partition, very thriving commercial centres. However, over the years these towns have declined due to their unfavorable location and today are in urgent need of upgradation of their infrastructure. In view of the resource constraint, it would not be possible for the State Government to finance the critical project of Water Supply and Sewerage at a total cost of Rs 135.00 Cr.

5. You are, therefore, requested to approve the proposal and sanction the funds for the Development of Water Supply and Sewerage in 10 Border Towns in Punjab as a special project during 2008-09.

Yours faithfully,
Sd/-

Secretary Planning