

INCREASE IN ALLOCATION TO THE STATE UNDER BADP

Border Area Development Programme covers 18 blocks in the four districts of the state. Funds are allocated to the states on the basis of the population, area of the border block and the length of the international border. The state receives a sum of about Rs. 11 crore under this programme every year. Besides some funds were received during the current and previous year for repair of Head works.

The conditions of the border areas in the state are different from the border areas of other states. The entire land in the border districts is under cultivation and these areas are heavily populated. A sum of Rs. 11 crore is therefore grossly inadequate for the 18 blocks and this programme has failed to make any significant impact in the border belt.

The state government accordingly feels that there is a need to enlarge the scope of BADP in the state and increase the allocation. The following specific proposals are submitted for consideration by the GoI and Planning Commission.

(1) District as a Unit under BADP – At present, a block is treated as Unit under the BADP. It restricts the coverage of the programme. It is suggested that instead of a Block, the border District should be taken as a unit.

(2) Increasing the annual Allocation – The State gets about Rs. 11 crore only for 18 blocks and a block on an average gets about Rs. 60 lakh. The schemes under BADP are formulated at the district level in consultation with peoples' representatives. As a result the funds earmarked for a block are distributed more or less uniformly in all the villages of the block. The BADP does not, therefore, have any impact on the border areas. The state government accordingly requests that the central government should increase manifold the BADP outlay.

(3) Upgradation for power infrastructure in Border Blocks – PSEB has formulated a scheme of Rs. 300 crore for upgrading the power infrastructure in the border blocks. The main components are –

- (a) Conversion of LT lines to 11 KV lines in all the blocks – Rs. 275 cr.
- (b) Release of domestic connection to rural BPL families – Rs. 15.50 cr.
- (c) New Substation in Bamial – Rs. 3.40 cr.

(d) Augmentation of substations – Rs. 6.00 cr.

The scheme will have a pay back period of 5-6 years. It will completely eliminate the commercial losses and reduce the transmission / distribution losses. The system would provide a stable supply and damage rate of transformers would be negligible. (Rs. 300 crore)

(4) School Education facilities – Secretary School Education has submitted a detailed project for Rs. 22.40 crore for providing additional class rooms, development of play grounds, library books etc. (Rs. 23 crore)

(5) ICT Project in schools- The State government has introduced computer education in the Secondary and Senior Secondary Schools. So far 6818 teachers have been recruited for 5223 schools. They are being paid @ Rs. 4500/- per month from the fee collected from the students. The State government has increased their monthly remuneration to Rs. 7,000/- per month, as a result of which the State government will have to bear the burden of Rs. 20.45 crore per year (Rs. 7000-4500 = Rs. 2500/-). The liability in regard to border blocks will be Rs. 1.91 crore per year. The cost of providing Hardware in the 637 schools will be Rs. 31.85 crore. GoI is requested to sanction this amount. (Rs. 33.76 crore)

(6) Animal Husbandry and Dairy Development – A sum of Rs. 32 crores is required for strengthening the infrastructure for Animal Husbandry and Dairy Department. The projects comprise of – construction of Animal shelters, strengthening of Veterinary hospitals, setting up of veterinary polyclinics etc. (Rs. 32 crore)

(7) Fisheries – A sum of Rs. 29 crores is required for conversion of derelict panchayat ponds into Employment, income generating fish Farming models. It will convert 1972 hectares of ponds into fish farms. (Rs. 29 crore)

(8) Mobile Dispensaries – We should provide one mobile dispensary for every 2 blocks in the border areas. The total cost at the rate of 50-55 lakh per dispensary works out to Rs. 5 crore for the 10 mobile dispensaries. (Rs. 5 crore)

(9) Technical and Medical Institutions – At present BADP funds can be used for upgradation of facilities in schools only and not in colleges and Technical and Medical Institutions. There is shortage of technical institutions in the border blocks. There are only 5 Polytechnic and 8 ITIs in the 18 border blocks. At least 5 Polytechnic Colleges and 10 ITIs should be opened in the area at an estimated cost of Rs. 20 crore. Besides 5 Nursing Institutions at an estimated cost of Rs. 10 crore could be opened. (Rs. 10 crore)

(10) Link Roads in villages in border areas – Approximately 3000 km of village link and other minor district roads falling in border blocks along the international border require rehabilitation/construction/improvement in view of the fact that heavy military equipment/trucks etc. ply on those roads. These roads were constructed to far less specification than warranted by the requirements of security forces out of states' own funds. Therefore, there is a need for providing special package for Rs. 600.00 crore at current price level (Rs. 20 lakh per km.) Total link road in 142 blocks in the entire state : 42070 km. (Rs. 600 crore)

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Item 4 – INDUSTRIAL INCENTIVES FOR THE BORDER DISTRICTS OF THE STATE

The four border districts of the state are heavily populated unlike the border areas of the other states in the country. The entire land is irrigated and is under cultivation. The people of these areas have seen three major wars and border tension on numerous occasions. There is, therefore, some sense of insecurity which impedes major investments in the industrial sector. Major category of industries situated in these areas are food processing, rice mills, solvent extractions, textile weaving and dyeing, paper and paper board, sugar and vanaspati etc. The number of units situated in these districts is lower than in other districts of the state.

The grant of fiscal and other incentives to the neighbouring states by the Union Government has led to shifting of industrial units from Punjab to these states. The problems of the border districts are not different from those of the neighbouring states. There is, therefore, a need to grant industrial incentive to the four border districts in the state. This will check the shifting of the industries to the neighbouring states.

The state government request for following two concessions –

- All Fiscal and other Incentives granted to industrial units for Himachal Pradesh and Uttranchal vide Notification No. 1(10)/2001-NER dated 7/1/2003 for a period of 10 years from the date of commencement of such units for all Border Districts.
- 100% Customs Duty exemption on import of plant & machinery for setting up such industrial units which come into production during a period of five years from the date of Notification of this package and exemption on raw material for a period of three years from the date of commencement of production of the unit.

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Item 5 – COMPENSATION TO FARMERS FOR LANDS SITUATED ACROSS THE BORDER FENCE

Land measuring 18500 acres is situated across the border fence in the four border districts. Access to this land is restricted. The farmers and labourers are allowed to go to their fields through the gates manned by BSF between 7:00 -8:00 AM and asked to return by 5:00 to 5:30 PM. They are also discouraged from growing tall crops like sugarcane, maize, jowar etc. The farmers are supplied electricity and water in the shifts and because of these restrictions they are not able to utilize the power and water fully. As a result of all this the farmers are not able to derive full benefit from their agricultural lands.

The farmers were compensated at the rate of Rs. 2500/- per acre per annum for the lands situated beyond the border fence from 1999-2000 to 2001-02. But no compensation has been paid thereafter. The present level of income from irrigated lands is around Rs. 20,000/- per year per acre. It can be safely presumed that because of various restrictions, the farmers are not able to get more than 50 % of the average income. They need to be compensated at the rate of Rs. 10,000/- per acre per year. The total annual compensation for 18,500 acres of land will work out to Rs. 18.50 crore. GoI should provide this amount either under BADP or from other sources.

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