

BORDER AREA DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (BADP)

1. BADP guidelines – Border Area Development Programme is aimed at balanced development of border areas. It covers 17 states bordering Pakistan, China, Nepal & Bangladesh. The border block is the basic unit of BADP. The allotment of funds to the states and within states to the districts is based on – (a) length of international border; (b) population of border blocks & (c) areas of border blocks. All these factors have equal weightage . BADP funds can be utilized practically for all works relating to education, health, agriculture and allied sectors, social sectors and infrastructural needs. The works prohibited under BADP are works of private organizations, welcome gates memorials and works relating to religious activities.

Government of India has earmarked about a sum of Rs 520 crore under BADP for the year 2006-07 for the 17 states. Rs. 397 crore has been earmarked for normal Special Central Assistance (SCA). A sum of Rs. 40 crore has been earmarked specially for optimal utilization of water of Eastern Rivers of Indus Rivers system in J&K and Punjab. A sum of Rs. 83 crore has been earmarked for special area schemes.

2. Coverage of BADP in Punjab – There are 18 border blocks in the state in the 4 districts. The details are placed at Annexure ‘C’. The position in brief is –

SN	District	Blocks		Population		Area (in Sq km)	
		Total	BADP	Total	BADP Blocks	Total	BADP Blocks
1	Gurdaspur	16	7	21,04,011	5,86,239	3564	1288
2	Amritsar	8	2	21,57,020	2,52,168	2682	837
3	Tarn Taran	8	3	9,39,057	3,02,714	2414	1006
4	Ferozepur	10	6	17,46,107	7,93,519	5303	3066
	Total	42	18	69,46,195	19,34,640	13963	6197

3. Funds received by the state under BADP – At present funds under BADP are received under 3 heads – (a) normal special central assistance (SCA) amounting to Rs. 11 crore; (b) special projects and (c) specific area scheme. The special central assistance as explained above is given on the basis of border length, population and area of the border blocks to the states. The special projects scheme is in existence quite for some time and special projects benefiting the border areas are allocated funds under this scheme. For example, the state received funds for repair of 3 head works – Madhopur, Hussainiwala and Harike amounting to Rs. 19.94 crore during the two years 2005-06 and 2006-07.

The specific area scheme is a new scheme introduced in the year 2006-07. Projects like modern villages, mobile dispensaries, community based livelihood projects, infrastructure projects, solar/mini hydel/bio-gas/wind energy based power projects, tourism, sports facilities and also link roads in border areas. The funds received by the state government during 2005-06 and 2006-07 are given in the sheet enclosed herewith. The position in brief is –

2005-06				
				(Rs. lacs)
SN	District	Normal SCA	Special Project (Head works)	Total
1	Amrtisar	442.14	-	442.14
2	Tarn Taran			
3	Gurdaspur	284.88	200.00	484.88
4	Ferozepur	601.49	-	601.49
	Total	1328.51	200.00	1528.51

2006-07					
					(Rs. lacs)
SN	District	Normal SCA	Special Project (Head works)	Specific Area Schemes	Total
1	Amrtisar	151.98			151.98
2	Tarn Taran	194.78			194.78
3	Gurdaspur	247.41	441.00	174.24 (Pantoon Bridge)	862.65
4	Ferozepur	484.83	1353.00	76.10 (Tourist Amenities Hussainiwala)	1913.93
	Total	1079.00	1794.00	250.34	3123.34

This year we have got a sum of Rs. 2.50 crore for specific area scheme. A sum of Rs. 76 lakh has been released for tourism amenities at Hussainiwala. A sum of Rs. 1.74 crore has been sanctioned for Pantoon Bridge in the Gurdaspur district. We are sending some more proposals for model villages and mobile dispensaries.

4. Deepening of BADP in the state – As explained above, BADP is a comprehensive programme covering almost all needs of the people situated in the border blocks. The State gets about Rs. 11 crore. The State Government requests for deepening of BADP in the State. The following specific proposals are being submitted to the Planning Commission for their consideration and approval.

(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.

(4) Compensation to Farmers – Land measuring 18500 acres is situated across the border fence in the four border districts. The farmers have restricted access to the land across the border. They are allowed to go to their fields through the manned BSF gates around 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. By conservative estimates farmers should be getting Rs. 20000 to 25000 from the irrigated land per year. If we assume that because of these restrictions farmers are able to get only 50 % of the income from the lands, then the farmers should be compensated at the rate of Rs. 10000 per acre per year from their land. The total estimated amount of compensated per acre at the rate of

10000 per acre for 18500 acres works out to Rs. 18.55 crore say Rs. 20 crore per year.

(5) **Debt Relief** – The package of rural indebtedness includes an amount of Rs. 198.79 crores which has been requested for reviving the Primary Agriculture Cooperative Societies and Primary Cooperative Agriculture Development Banks which had stopped functioning, as these organizations had incurred huge losses. Most of these organizations are situated in the border districts of Punjab.

(6) **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.

(7) **ICT Project in schools-** The State government has introduced computer education in the Secondary and Senior Secondary Schools. So far 6600 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. 8,000/- per month, as a result of which the State government will have to bear the burden of Rs. 28 crore per year (Rs. 8000-4500). The liability in regard to border blocks will be Rs. 3.55 crore per year. The cost of providing Hardware in the 488 schools will be Rs. 25 crore. The Planning Commission can be requested to sanction this amount.

(8) **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.

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

(10) **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.

(11) **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.

(12) **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.