



International Environmental
Law Research Centre

SARDAR SAROVAR PROJECT

CONDITIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION CLEARANCE

**Planning Commission, Government of India, 5 October 1988, Letter No. 2 (194)/88-I& CAD
addressed to The Secretary, Planning Department, Government of Gujarat, Gandhinagar**

*This paper can be downloaded in PDF format from IELRC's website at
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Subject: Sardar Sarovar Project in Gujarat, Acceptance of

Sir,

I am directed to convey that the Sardar Sarovar Project, estimated to cost Rs 6,406.04 crores (Rupees six thousand four hundred six crores and four lakhs) as per the salient features vide Annexure-I enclosed herewith has been considered acceptable for investment subject to the conditions laid down below:

(i) The State shall comply with the conditions as laid down in the O.M. No. 3-87/80-IA dated 8.9.1987 issued by the Ministry of Environment and Forests while according the environmental clearance and the approval for diversion of forest lands for this project respectively.

(ii) Looking to the size and importance of this project, the state government will give sufficient priority to this project in the eighth Plan by ensuring adequate funding to match with the construction schedule as indicated in the concurrence of State Planning and Finance Department vide Government of Gujarat in Narmada Development Department's letter No. NPP/1084/GOI-4/Pat.V/J dated 3.10.1988. The State will also complete other ongoing projects at advance stage in time to ensure that there is no difficulty in funding the peak requirements of the Sardar Sarovar Project.

(iii) A programme of drainage and ground water balance studies has been completed for Mahi Narmada-Doab. Such a programme must be completed for the areas beyond the Mahi. The Bhal, Saurashtra, Kutch, Sami-Harij and other areas require this as a precondition. The State should submit to Planning Commission a detailed programme of studies, with milestones of achievements, duly vetted through Central Water Commission for monitoring the same by Planning Commission.

(iv) The State should take suitable advance measures, as may be necessary, to ensure that annual revenue to be accrued from this project covers at least annual operation and maintenance charges including depreciation charges by setting the water rates suitably.

(v) The State should set up a special group of experts to study the siltation aspect in the main canals under all operating conditions since such siltation, if occurs, is likely to pose a serious problem during the actual operation of this project and may require a huge expenditure for desilting as well as result into serious operational difficulties.

(vi) The State should draw up a detailed time schedule for completion within five years the investigation, detailed survey, planning and working out the detailed cost estimates for micro-level network system for the balance area of the total command of this project.

(vii) Past experience of irrigation projects have revealed the main branch of canals are completed upto the end but, in absence of micro-level networks to take irrigation water upto outlet, corresponding irrigation benefits do not start accruing in spite of huge financial investment made. To avoid this, the State should draw up an implementation schedule, segmentwise, for completion of canal network in such a way that a segment of the canal network, taken up from the head reaches, is completed in all respects so as to make the irrigation waters available, for the designed potential of that segment, upto the outlet in that particular segment.

2. The project may be executed as per the approved outlay from year to year.

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