

# CASH BEFORE DELIVERY

**The news:** Arunachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh are taking advance payments from developers of hydel projects yet to receive environmental clearances and using them to partly meet expenses other than rehabilitation

**The background:** State-owned firms cannot usually make advance payments; and the payments are to be used to fund rehabilitation of people displaced by the projects

**The implications:** There are fears that environmental clearance will become merely cosmetic in cases where the state has already received advances from project developers