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**STANDING COMMITTEE
ON AGRICULTURE
(1996-97)**

ELEVENTH LOK SABHA

MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (1997-98)

TWELFTH REPORT



सत्यमेव जयते

**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI**

April, 1997/Chaitra, 1919 (Saka)

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TWELFTH REPORT
STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
(1996-97)

सर्वोच्च न्यायालय
भारत
(ELEVENTH LOK SABHA)
संसदीय प्रकाशन, दिल्ली

MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (1997-98)

*Presented to Lok Sabha on 11th April, 1997
Laid in Rajya Sabha on 22nd April, 1997*



LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

April, 1997/Chaitra, 1919 (Saka)

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COMPOSITION OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON
AGRICULTURE (1996-97)

Shri Santosh Kumar Gangwar — *Chairman*

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3. Shri S. Balshekar — *Deputy Secretary*
4. Shri Mange Ram — *Under Secretary*
5. Shri Uttam Chand Bhardwaj — *Reporting Officer*

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairman, Standing Committee on Agriculture having been authorised by the Committee to submit the Report on their behalf, present this Twelfth Report on Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Water Resources for the year 1997-98.

2. The Standing Committee on Agriculture was constituted on 1st August, 1996. One of the functions of the Standing Committee as laid down in Rule 331E of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha is to consider the Demands for Grants of the concerned Ministries/Departments and make a report on the same to the Houses. The report shall not suggest anything of the nature of cut motions.

3. The Committee took evidence of the representatives of the Ministry of Water Resources on 1st April, 1997. The Committee wish to express their thanks to the officers of the Ministry of Water Resources for placing before them, the material and information which they desired in connection with the examination of Demands for Grants of the Ministry for the year 1997-98 and for giving evidence before the Committee.

4. The Committee considered and adopted the Report at their sitting held on 10th April.

NEW DELHI;
10 April, 1997
20 Chaitra, 1919 (Saka)

SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR,
Chairman,
Standing Committee on Agriculture.

CHAPTER I

MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES— AN INTRODUCTION & OVERVIEW

Role & Functions

'Water'—being a State subject, the role of the Central Ministry of Water Resources has been advisory to the State Governments for sustained development of water resources in the country. The overall role and responsibility of the Union Ministry of Water Resources is to lay down policy guidelines and programmes for the development and regulation of the nation's water resources, both surface and ground, in a holistic approach. The major role entrusted to this Ministry encompasses sectoral planning, co-ordination, policy guidelines, technical examination of major and medium projects, technical assistance, monitoring of selected projects, monitoring the changing behaviour of water resources, facilitation of external assistance and resolution of water disputes. In major and medium irrigation, Central Government's participation has been indirect, such as running national level institutions, operating pilot schemes, offering consultancy and training etc. In minor Irrigation and Command Area Development, Central Government participates in a more direct and concrete manner by providing matching grant to sponsored schemes and extending assistance in form of Central assistance or block loans.

Financial Allocations

1.2 In the Water Resources Sector, the Central Budget enables the Ministry of Water Resources and its related Organisations to play an overall guiding and co-ordinating role in relation to schemes, projects and programmes which take place essentially in the States. The only project *viz.*, Farakka Barrage Project, which is primarily a navigation project, is under this Ministry because in terms of the skills and disciplines involved, it is similar to other hydraulic projects within the ambit of this Ministry. Irrigation being a State subject, all irrigation projects including multipurpose are planned, formulated, executed and funded by the State Governments out of their plan resources by according *inter-se* priority. In the Water Resources Sector, the substantial

provisions are made in the State Plan. Thus, the Budget of the Central Government is supplemented substantially by funds provided in the Budgets of the various State Governments.

1.3 The total plan outlay of the Water Resources sector as a whole for Eighth Plan was Rs. 32525.29 crores out of which the outlay in the Central Plan was Rs. 1500.00 crores (excluding 166.00 crores under transport sector for Farakka Barrage Project) and Rs. 31025.29 crores in the State Plans. Thus Plan outlay for the Central sector schemes was only 4.6% of the total outlay in the Water Resources sector. The corresponding percentage in the Seventh Plan outlay was 4.9%. With this meagre amount, it could not be possible for the Ministry of Water Resources to play its mandated role more effectively in the development and management of this sector. It may be mentioned here that though the Ministry had originally submitted a proposal of Rs. 5886.00 crores as outlay in the Central Plan of the Water Resources sector, only Rs. 1500.00 crores was approved by the Planning Commission during the Eighth Five Year Plan. A review of the performance during the Eighth Plan shows that the total expenditure in Eighth Plan Central Sector was Rs. 2111.93 crores. In addition, an amount of Rs. 59.27 crores was spent during the Eighth Plan in the Transport Sector for Farakka Barrage Project.

1.4 There has been adverse criticism inside and outside the country regarding the performance of the irrigation sector in India. The criticism is mainly directed towards non-completion of projects on scheduled time, gap in creation & utilisation of irrigation potential, increasing cost of irrigation development, waterlogging and salinity caused in the commands and damages to life and property in the flood plain zones, etc. These issues have been examined in detail in the Ministry. The anomaly which has erupt into the development of the sector has mainly been due to gradual reduction in plan allocation. In the First Five Year Plan, the plan allocation to the sector was about 18.7% of the overall plan size of the country which was reduced to 9.4% in the Seventh Plan and further to 7.5% in the Eighth Plan. The allocation for major & medium sector was much less than required even for the completion of ongoing schemes. Funds allocated to the Central Sector were so meagre that it has not been possible for the Ministry and its Organisations to take desired policy and programme initiatives and provide adequate technical inputs and guidance for the development and the management of the sector.

1.5 The ultimate irrigation potential as assessed by the Ministry is 113.50 million hectares comprising 58.50 million hectares under major and medium projects and 55 million hectares under minor irrigation.

1.6 The anticipated irrigation potential created at the end of the Eighth Plan will be 91.07 million hectares comprising 33.82 mha. under Major and Medium Irrigation and 57.25 mha. under Minor Irrigation against this ultimate irrigation potential. Upto the end of the Eighth Five Year Plan period (1992-97) the irrigation potential utilised will be 82.94 million hectares, 30.56 million hectares through major and medium projects and 52.38 million hectares from minor Irrigation.

1.7 For the optimal utilisation of irrigation potential created, the Ministry has been making efforts through a Centrally Sponsored Command Area Development Programme which was launched in 1974. The thrust and importance accorded to this programme can be noticed from the fact that 55.33 per cent (*i.e.* Rs. 830 crores out of Rs. 1500) of the total plan allocation under the Eighth plan were allocated to this programme. All the remaining potential has to be developed at the soonest possible, say by the end of the Tenth Plan.

Priorities

1.8 Ninth Plan will lay emphasis on recognising water as a scarce national resource to be utilised prudently. Towards this end the following will be the thrust areas :—

- (i) Early completion of ongoing irrigation projects for accelerated irrigation benefits by providing higher plan allocations to the irrigation sector under State and Central Plans.
- (ii) Proper operation and proper maintenance of existing irrigation schemes by providing adequate funds for the purpose.
- (iii) Encouraging community/farmers participation in irrigation management for taking over operation and maintenance of distribution system at distributory/minor levels.
- (iv) Reducing the gap between the irrigation potential created and its actual utilisation by strengthening the existing centrally sponsored Command Area Development Programme.

- (v) Rationalising pricing of water supplies for agriculture in a phased manner.
- (vi) Restoration of old Minor irrigation works particularly irrigation tanks through modernisation/community participation.
- (vii) Encouraging construction of new minor irrigation works consistent with water availability and prudent irrigation practices.
- (viii) Promoting conjunctive use of surface and ground water and optimum use of rainfall to supplement the same.
- (ix) Optimising water use efficiency through adoption of water efficient devices and modern scientific practices in irrigated agriculture.
- (x) Encouraging research & development and use of remote sensing techniques in the water resources sector.
- (xi) Strengthening and modernising hydrological observation and flood forecasting networks in all river basins in the country and discouraging encroachment in flood plain zones.
- (xii) Taking concrete steps towards implementation of a national perspective on water development through inter-river basin transfers of surplus water.
- (xiii) Reviewing the existing approach to assessment of utilisation of irrigation potential in terms of the irrigated area and introduce an assessment based on the number of waterings of uniform water depth per hectare in an irrigation system and, then, gradually moving towards assessment on volumetric measurement.

CHAPTER II

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (1997-98) OF MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES

A Critical scrutiny—Sector-wise

2.1 The Central Budget enables the Ministry of Water Resources and its allied organisations to play an overall guiding and co-ordinating role in relation to schemes, projects and programmes which take place essentially in the States for the development of water resources in more scientific and holistic approach to make the optimum utilisation of it for better and efficient use in agriculture and allied sectors. Since all the irrigation schemes, programmes and projects are planned, formulated and executed by the State Governments, the major share of funds required are allocated *in their State Plans itself*. The role of the Central Government being essentially of a *catalytic nature* does not offer much in terms of finance to the irrigation schemes, programmes and projects but techno-appraisal of these schemes. Relative to overall planning, policy formulation in overall national perspective, coordination etc. the Budget of the Central Ministry of Water Resources is largely an establishment oriented Budget. In these areas, not much can be offered by way of explanation of the Budget provisions for salaries, office expenses etc. However, the activity control of the Budget can be explained in some details in respect of the programmes, schemes and activities of the various organisations directly associated with the Ministry under the different sectors.

2.2 The proposals for the Ninth Plan (1997-2002) and the Annual Plan (1997-98) have been framed keeping the following inputs in view :—

- (i) The thrust areas identified for the water resources sector.
- (ii) Recommendations of Working Groups constituted by the Planning Commission for Ninth Five Year Plan on various aspects of water resources namely major & medium irrigation programme, minor irrigation, command area development, participatory irrigation management and flood management programmes.

- (iii) Recommendations made by the Lok Sabha Standing Committee on Agriculture and the Consultative Committee of the Parliament relating to the Ministry of Water Resources.
- (iv) Recommendations made in the national conferences of the Ministers of irrigation/Water Resources of the State Governments, and
- (v) Recommendations/observations made in important national and international conferences/Seminars/workshops on issues concerning Water Resources Sector.

2.3 Based on the above, the Ministry of Water Resources proposed an overall outlay of Rs. 12672.14 crores in the Central Plan of the water resources sector. This included a requirement of Rs. 230.61 crores under Transport Sector for Farakka Barrage Project and Rs. 5000.00 crores for Central Loan Assistance to the State Governments under Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP). AIBP was launched during 1996-97 for early completion of those ongoing major & medium irrigation projects and multi-purpose projects which are beyond the resources of the State Governments or are at the advanced stage of construction and need some additional funding for completion. It has been envisaged that an amount of Rs. 9287.18 crores would be required in the Central sector outlay for projects/schemes spilling over from previous plans and to be continued during the Ninth Five Year Plan. In the Ninth Five Year Plan, an additional requirement of Rs. 3384.96 crores has also been envisaged for new schemes to be taken up for different developmental programmes of the organisations under the Ministry of Water Resources. This proposed outlay for new schemes of the Ninth Five year Plan also includes an amount of Rs. 500.00 crores for Central sector plan assistance to the North-Eastern States as declared by the Prime Minister for construction of Pagladiya project in Assam by Brahmaputra Board and for reconstruction of infrastructures damaged by floods in Brahmaputra and its tributaries. For the Annual Plan (1997-98), the Ministry has a requirement of Rs. 2430.71 crores under the Central plan, of which Rs. 1000.00 crores is for Central Loan Assistance under AIBP and Rs. 100.00 crores for Central sector assistance to the North-Eastern States as declared by the Prime Minister. Out of the overall outlay for the Annual Plan 1997-98, the continuing schemes require a provision of Rs. 1874.74 crores and the proposed new schemes require Rs. 556.12 crores.

2.4 Against the outlay proposed as above, the Planning Commission had originally agreed to an outlay of Rs. 395.00 crores which was subsequently reduced to Rs. 341.00 crores, comprising Rs. 325.97 crores for continuing schemes and Rs. 15.03 crores for new schemes. Thus, the approved outlay for 1997-98 is even lower than the outlay of Rs. 366.93 crores (excluding provision for AIBP) for 1996-97. In view of the above and also keeping in view the resource situation, the Ministry desired that the outlay be raised to the originally agreed one, i.e., Rs. 395.00 crores. In this connection, Ministry (WR) has also written a letter to Dy. Chairman, Planning Commission and the Union Finance Minister.

I. Major and Medium Irrigation-Sector

2.5 All the major and medium irrigation projects are planned, formulated and executed by the concerned States by providing required funds out of their State Plans. The major role of the Central Ministry of Water Resources under the major and medium irrigation is to provide technical guidance and scrutiny of major and medium projects by its specialised organisations like Central Water Commission, Central Water and Power Research Station, Central Soil Materials Research Station and National Institute of Hydrology. The general infrastructural and research support to sectoral development at the state level is provided by the CWC.

So far 292 major and 944 medium irrigation projects have been taken up by the various State Governments and out of these 158 major and 768 medium projects have been completed till date leaving 134 major and 176 medium projects still ongoing.

II. Sub-Sectoral Plans

Major and Medium Irrigation

2.6 In the VIII Plan (1992-97) an outlay of Rs. 22415.00 crores was earmarked for the major and medium irrigation sub-sector with corresponding target of creating of an additional irrigation potential of 5.09 million hectares through major and medium irrigation projects. Out of this outlay, only Rs. 95.00 crores was earmarked in the central plan and Rs. 22320.00 crores in the State Plan. However, as per annual plans approved by the Planning Commission during VIII Five Year Plan, the total allocation for the major and medium sector under Central

Plan has been Rs. 106.70 crores (excluding R&D component). It is anticipated that the corresponding expenditure during the VIII Plan would be of the order of Rs. 140.93 crores. Based on experience/performance during the VIII Plan and the felt need of taking up of more programme initiatives during the IX Five Year Plan by the Ministry of Water Resources and its Organisations under the Water Resources Sector, the Ministry proposed an overall Plan outlay of Rs. 571.51 crores for IX Plan in respect of major & medium irrigation under Central Sector. This outlay contains a provision of Rs. 220.97 crores for continuing schemes and Rs. 350.54 crores for new schemes.

2.7 The approved outlay of Ministry of Water Resources under Central Sector for 1996-97 was Rs. 44.69 crores against Major and Medium Sub-sector. The proposed outlay for Annual Plan 1997-98 is Rs. 101.49 crores out of which Rs. 51.71 crores is for continuing schemes and Rs. 49.78 crores for new schemes. The outlays proposed for the IX Five Year Plan and Annual Plan (1997-98) are meant for the existing institutions under Ministry of Water Resources for various programmes, schemes and activities.

Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP)

2.8 This programme was announced by the Union Finance Minister in this Budget speech of 1996-97 and an allocation of Rs. 900.00 crores was provided in the budget estimate of the Ministry of Water Resources for the year 1996-97 to launch the scheme. Under its programme, the Central Government has to provide, on matching basis, additional central assistance by way of loans to the States for the timely completion of selected major and medium irrigation and multi-purpose projects. Out of Rs. 900.00 crores, Rs. 800.00 crores were earmarked as Central Loans Assistance to the States to accelerate the completion of irrigation projects where the project cost exceeds Rs. 1000.00 crores and is beyond the resource capability of the State. The remaining Rs. 100.00 crores were provided for irrigation projects which could be completed with a little additional funding and the farmers could get the benefits of assured water supply. However, the budgetary estimates of Rs. 900 crores provided under the said programme for 1996-97 were revised to Rs. 500 crores by the Ministry of Finance as the schemes was approved late. The programme is to be continued in the IX Plan as well. Rs. 5000.00 crores has been proposed for the scheme under central plan of the Ministry for the IX Five Year Plan. A provision of Rs. 1300.00 crores has however been made for the Annual Plan of 1997-98.

2.9 The guidelines for selection of projects under the programme are as follows :—

- (i) The programme should be broad based.
- (ii) Only those projects will be considered which have the investment clearance issued from the Planning Commission.
- (iii) The projects which are already receiving assistance from Domestic Agencies such as NABARD etc., will not be considered. However, the components of such projects which are not covered under such assistance, will be considered for inclusion under the programme.
- (iv) Projects with larger irrigated area per unit of additional investment will be preferred.
- (v) Phased completion of projects so as to accrue benefits with comparatively smaller investment.

2.10 The scheme has been modified in March, 1997 by the Government and as per the revised guidelines, the projects costing Rs. 500 crores or more could be included in the scheme under Category-I against the existing ceiling of Rs. 1000 crores and more. The Central Loan Assistance (CLA) would now be released in two instalments of 50% each. However, the second instalment will be released only after the States have incurred matching contribution for the first instalment. The case of North Eastern States and other hilly areas the matching contribution will be 50% of the CLA released.

2.11 The State Governments forwarded 176 proposals for Central Loans Assistance under AIBP. The proposals received from the State Governments were examined by the Ministry as per guidelines of the programme. Out of these, 52 projects were processed and central Loan Assistance was approved and released.

2.12 The terms and conditions of the Loan/advances given under the programme are :

- (i) The loan carries 13% interest per annum during 1996.97. The interest rate for subsequent years will be equal to the interest rate prescribed by the Ministry of Finance from time to time.

- (ii) The loan is repayable in 20 equal instalments together with interest on the outstanding balance commencing from the following years. However, 50% of these loans will enjoy a five year initial grace period, after which repayment of these loans will be effected in 15 years. The loans annually payable (by way of principle and interest) will be recovered in 10 equal monthly instalments commencing from 15th June.
- (iii) The loan is being provided on matching basis and as such, the State have to provide, out of its own resources, matching budget for the projects. The Central assistance is in the form of reimbursement on quarterly basis after the expenditure is actually incurred on the identified projects for construction in accordance with the agreed schedule of construction. However, during 1996-97 the first instalment at 50% of the annual approved amount was released in advance to enable the States to mobilise the projects.

2.13 Following are the reactions of some of the State Governments :

- (i) State Governments want to dispense with the provision of matching contribution as they content that the funds are being released to them as interest bearing loans.
- (ii) States want that these funds should be given as grants instead of loans.

Rashtriya Pariyojna Nirman Nigam Limited (RPNN)

2.14 RPNN Limited, a PSU under the administrative control of the Ministry of Water Resources has been provided with Rs. 5.00 crores loan (Rs. 2 crores plan and Rs. 3 crores non-plan) during the current year 1997-98. This company as defined under SICA, has become a sick company suffering huge losses every year mainly due to interest burden, over-head expenditures etc. The Ministry of Finance turned down the revival package submitted by the Ministry of Water Resources on the plea that return on the required investment would be on a very low side and suggested for the phased liquidation of the same. The Standing Committee on Agriculture time and again have emphasised and recommended for revival and revamping of the company.

2.15 The position of accumulated loan, interest and losses till March 1991 and March 1996 is given below :

	March 1991	March 1996
Loan	Rs. 40.94 crores	*Rs. 76.29 crores
**Accumulated Interest	Rs. 3.83 crores	Rs. 62.48 crores
Accumulated Losses	Rs. 37.53 crores	Rs. 173.50 crores

* Exclusive of Rs. 20 crores over draft bank facility but inclusive of Rs. 13 crores loan from other PSUs.

** Exclusive of bank interest.

2.16. Government of India is providing financial help to RPNN Limited every year in the form of loans and advances to meet the establishment expenditure since this Company was declared sick by the Ministry of Finance. The latter also recommended for the phased liquidation of the Company. The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Agriculture have time and again in their reports commented upon categorically on this issue for the early revival and revamping of this Company. They have advised the Ministry many a time to pursue this cause with Ministry of Finance to get their approval so that the same may be got cleared from the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs.

II. Minor Irrigation

2.17 Minor Irrigation basically consists of (1) surface water and (2) ground water. The ultimate potential of surface water as assessed by the Ministry is 17 million hectares. The ultimate potential of ground water has been tentarely assessed as 64.05 million hectares. Thus the total ultimate potential is likely to be irrigated comes to 81.05 million hectares. Against this total ultimate potential, upto the end of 1994-95 the created potential is likely to be 54.79 m.ha. and out of this created potential 50.22 m.ha. is likely to have been utilised leaving a gap of 4.57 m.ha. unutilised.

Irrigation Schemes are designed, planned and funded by the States from their own budgetary resources. Creation of potential through minor irrigation schemes is thus entirely looked after by the States. The Central Government, of course plays a guiding and co-ordinating role. However, special emphasis has been planned to be given in the

Ninth Plan to development of irrigation potential from ground water in the Eastern States. It has also been planned to increase sustained ground water resources availability through recharge programme for which a Centrally Sponsored Scheme has been formulated (at present it is at consultation stage for approval in the Planning Commission for an estimated cost of Rs. 101.50 crores).

2.18 In the VIII Five Year Plan, an outlay of Rs. 290.30 crores has been provided for the Minor irrigation sub-sector (excluding R & D Component) under the central plan. Out of this, Rs. 35.00 crores was for surface water & Rs. 255.30 crores was for ground water schemes. The anticipated expenditure during VIII Plan is expected to be Rs. 211.18 crores. In accordance with the recommendations of the Working Group, it is envisaged that during the IX Five year Plan Rs. 2137.20 crores would be required under the Central Plan for this sub-sector. The proposed amount includes Rs. 490.95 crores for schemes spilling over from earlier plans and to be continued in the IX Five Year Plan. Also an amount of Rs. 1646.25 crores has been proposed for new schemes to be taken up during IX Five Year Plan. Rehabilitation and maintenance of existing surface water works and construction of new tanks are the major schemes to be taken up during the IX Five Year Plan for improving irrigation support through minor irrigation schemes. As a part of this, a centrally sponsored scheme with 75:25 share between the centre and the States has been proposed for rehabilitation and maintenance of existing minor irrigation works. The proposed outlay for the Annual Plan (1997-98) under central Plan for MI sub-sector is of the order of Rs. 391.57 crores comprising Rs. 113.27 crores for continuing schemes and Rs. 278.30 crores for new schemes.

2702 Major Head

Artificial Recharge of Ground Water

2.19 About the rapidly depleting level of ground water, the Committee expressed its serious concern. The Committee found that last year *i.e.* 1996-97 Rs. 99 lakhs were provided for implementing the above scheme *i.e.* Artificial Recharge of Ground Water. During the current year *i.e.* 1996-97 also Rs. 74 lakhs have been earmarked to implement the same scheme in various States and Union Territories.

2.20 Long term observation of ground water levels has revealed decline of more than 4 meters in certain pockets in various districts in the State of Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar

Pradesh and West Bengal. There are 101 districts in various States where decline of more than 4 meters has been observed in localised pockets.

2.21 The recent ground water resource assesment carried out by the Central Ground Water Board in association with the States has brought out that ground water is being over-exploited in excess of the annual recharge rate leading to depletion of the resource in some of the areas in various States. About 231 blocks out of 4272 blocks in the country except the State of Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat and Maharashtra, where the resource assessment has been done on the basis of mandals, taluks and watersheds have been identified as 'over-exploited' where level of ground water development is over 100% in excess of annual replenishable recharge. Besides 6 mandals in Andhra Pradesh and 12 talukas in Gujarat are over-exploited. The assessment has also brought out the 'Dark' (Critical) category blocks here the level of ground water development is between 85 and 100%.

2.22 In order to arrest the decline in ground water levels leading to depletion of the resource, the Board under the Ministry of Water Resources have taken up the following measures aimed at enhancing the availability of ground water and also regulating the development of the resources.

Feasibility Studies on artificial recharge of ground water

2.23 Feasibility studies for recharging ground water were carried out by the Board in Mehsana and coastal Saurashtra area of Gujarat. These studies have established the possibilities of recharging ground water through spreading channels, vertical shafts, injection wells and check dams.

2.24 The infiltration studies in Kandi belt of Ghaggar river in Haryana, Punjab and Chandigarh have revealed that most parts adjacent to the river and stream bed in the area are suitable for recharge through ponds and spreading basins. Experiments in Kurukshetra area of Haryana showed that the area is suitable for recharge through injection wells, where recharge to aquifer can be effected at the rate of 58 litres per second.

Central Sector Scheme on Ground Water Recharge

2.25 The Central Ground Water Board is presently implementing a Central sector scheme on ground water recharge. Under the scheme

pilot recharge studies have been taken up in the State of Maharashtra, Karnataka, NCT of Delhi and UT of Chandigarh. Under this model scheme, measures like construction of percolation tanks, recharge shafts, cement plugs and injection wells and conversion of existing village tanks into percolation tanks in Amravati and Jalgaon districts of Maharashtra, construction of percolation tanks, recharge well fields, roof to rain water harvesting structures and water shed treatment in Kolar district of Karnataka, roof top rain water harvesting structure in Chandigarh are being experimented. These studies would help in developing scientific techniques for undertaking recharge projects and replicating the technology in areas with similar hydro-geological conditions. Further, the operation of these facilities would result in conservation of water and augmentation of recharge.

*Centrally Sponsored Scheme for assisting the States
for artificial recharge*

2.26 In order to encourage the States for implementing artificial recharge in problem areas, the Board have proposed a Centrally sponsored scheme for assisting the States for artificial recharge. Under this scheme, Central assistance on matching basis is proposed to be provided to the States of taking up pilot investigational and operational recharge projects in over-exploited blocks in the country. The scheme envisages taking up for investigations for locating 500 sites each for spreading basins and percolation tanks and 1000 sites for subsurface dykes and relating structures and construction of spreading structures at 600 sites, percolation tanks at 200 sites and subsurface dykes and related structures at 1040 sites. Besides these, the Board would also conduct 20 pilot studies with a view to developing technology providing guidelines to the States. The total cost of the scheme has been estimated as Rs. 101.50 crores with Central share of Rs. 52.30 crores. The scheme is yet to be approved.

III. Command Area Development

2.27 Based on the recommendation of Irrigation Commission's report in 1972 for the systematic development of Commands of irrigation projects, the Central Government approved a Centrally Sponsored Command Area Development Programme in December, 1974 with the twin objectives of (1) improving and optimising the utilisation of the created irrigation potential, and (2) increasing agricultural production and productivity. At present, there are 203 irrigation projects

under the Programme at the end of the year 1996-97 spread over 22 States and 2 Union Territories having Culturable Command Area of 21.38 million hectares.

2.28 The main components of the CAD Programme are as follows :—

- (i) Development of field channels and field drains within the command of each outlet;
- (ii) Land levelling on an outlet basis;
- (iii) Enforcement of a proper system of 'Warabandi';
- (iv) Supply of inputs and services, including credit;
- (v) Development of ground water to supplement irrigation;
- (vi) Development and maintenance of the main and intermediate drainage system; and
- (vii) Irrigation system upto the outlet of one capacity.

Financing Pattern

2.29. The financing of CAD Programme is done through the following sources :—

- (i) Central assistance to the States on matching basis for certain selected activities of the programme;
- (ii) States' own resources; and
- (iii) Institutional Finance.

2.30 As per the existing financing pattern, grants are given on matching basis for the establishment cost of CAD Authorities including management subsidy for farmers' organisations. In addition assistance on matching basis is also provided for activities such as planning, implementation and supervision of on-farm development (OFD) activities, introduction of warabandi including setting up of wireless communication network, adaptive trials, demonstration, training, evaluation studies and crop compensation, etc. Subsidy is also given on matching basis on the Integrated Rural Development Programme

(IRDP) pattern to small, marginal and scheduled tribe farmers on the loans for land levelling and shaping, construction of field channels and field drains, sprinkler and drip irrigation and development of ground water. While the cost of construction of field channels from outlets to 5-8 ha. block is shared equally between the State and Central Government as grant, that within 5-8 ha. block is shared as 50% grant between the Government of India and State Governments and balance 50% as loan between the two Governments (From 1.04.1997 onwards the entire amount is given as grant instead of grant and loan and to be shared equally between the Government of India and State Governments). Loans are also available on matching basis for the purchase of equipment and machinery for carrying out OFD works and development of ground water, equity support to Land Development Corporations and Farmers' Service Societies etc. For financing the ineligible farmers in carrying out on farm development work a Special Loan Account (SLA) is operated by the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) with contribution by the Central Government, State Government and NABARD in the ratio of 37.5 : 37.5 : 25% respectively.

2.31 In the VIII Five Year Plan, an amount of Rs. 830.00 crores was originally allocated by the Planning Commission for CAD Programme. However, the amount has subsequently been reduced to Rs. 700.00 crores and further to Rs. 609.00 crores on the basis of Annual Plan allocations of the VIII Plan. Due to lowering of plan outlay for the programme, the targets envisaged for VIII Plan had to be lowered as well.

2.32 In the IX Plan, while targets have been fixed at a higher level, it has also been also envisaged that the Central sponsorship may be made on 80 : 20 basis instead of 50:50 basis between Centre and the States for effective implementation of CAD activities. Accordingly, Rs. 2797.00 crores has been provided under Central Plan of the Ministry for CAD Programme. In addition, Rs. 118.00 crores has been proposed for a new scheme namely, 'Participatory Irrigation Management' with the objective of promoting farmers participation in maintenance and management of those irrigation schemes which are not covered under existing Centrally Sponsored CAD Programme. The proposed outlay for Annual Plan 1997-98 under Central Plan of the Ministry in respect of CAD Programme and Participatory Irrigation Management are Rs. 559.00 crores & Rs. 24.00 crores respectively.

IV. Flood Control Sector

2.33 Out of the country's total geographical areas of 328 million hectares, 40 million hectares has been assessed by Rashtriya Barh Ayog as flood prone out of which 32 million hectares has been estimated as protectable. The flood management programmes have been in existence since March, 1954. Upto March, 1993 an area of about 14.4 million hectares has been given reasonable protection by means of embankment (16199 Kms.), drainage channels (32003 Kms.), town protection work (906 nos.) and by raising villages (4721 nos.) with an expenditure of Rs. 3,494.6 crores upto March, 1993.

2.34 Prior to the VIII Plan the main emphasis was given on two objectives namely: (i) modification of floods improvements, building reservoirs, detention basins and afforestation etc.; and (ii) modification of susceptibility to flood damage through regulation of economic activity in the flood plains, flood forecasting and disaster preparedness, town and village protection works and raising of villages etc. In order to meet these objectives, structural as well as non-structural measures were adopted. The worst affected areas by flood every year are Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal and Assam.

2.35 The Ministry of Water Resources is of the firm view that complete protection from all floods by structural methods is not economically feasible because these measures are costly, take a long time and have their own limitation. Funds required for their upkeep are also not adequately spared by the States and as a result after some time these structural measures become ineffective. The Ministry is, therefore, imparting more emphasis on non-structural measures like (i) flood proofing, (ii) flood plain zoning, and (iii) flood forecasting. Keeping the importance of these non-structural measures, Central Ministry enhanced its outlays in the 8th Plan for implementing the same.

2.36 In the VIII Plan, an outlay of Rs. 368.00 crores was provided for this Sub-sector (excluding R&D component) under Central Plan. As against this, the anticipated expenditure during the VIII Plan would be about Rs. 251.16 crores. Central sector plan funds for flood control programmes could not be fully utilised due to delay in availability of funds in the Annual Plan particularly for the Annual Plan of 1996-97 which was finalised extremely late for unavoidable reasons. Nevertheless, flood management at rationally economic costs would be necessary to give a reasonable degree of protection from flood

losses since absolute flood control and protection in all flood prone areas in India for all magnitudes of floods is not possible to be achieved due to various reasons. Nevertheless, flood management at rationally economic costs would be necessary to give a reasonable degree of protection from flood losses since absolute flood control and protection in all flood prone areas in India for all magnitudes of floods is not possible to be achieved due to various reasons. In view of the stupendously large cost of such measures that would be needed, priority-wise undertaking of a combination of structural and non-structural measures in a phased manner has been kept in view for framing the proposals for IX Plan and Annual Plan (1997-98). Accordingly, Ministry has proposed a requirement of Rs. 1767.82 crores under the Central Plan for this sub-sector. The requirement for continuing schemes and new schemes out of this proposed outlay for IX Plan are Rs. 712.03 crores and Rs. 1055.79 crores respectively. The amount proposed for new schemes includes Rs. 500.00 crores as Central assistance announced by the Prime Minister during his recent visit to the North-Eastern States for construction of Pagladiya project by the Brahmaputra Board and for reconstruction of infrastructure damaged by floods of Brahmaputra and its tributaries. For the Annual Plan (1997-98), the requirement of this sub-sector under Central Plan is Rs. 307.45 crores comprising Rs. 135.86 crores for continuing schemes and Rs. 171.59 crores for new schemes.

V. Transport Sector

2.37 The Planning Commission allocated an outlay of Rs. 166.00 in the VIII Five Year Plan under transport sector, out of which Rs. 66.00 crores was earmarked for Farakka Barrage Project for carrying out infrastructural development and other facilities and Rs. 100.00 crores for Farakka Hydel Project. The anticipated expenditure during the VIII Plan for Farakka Barrage Works would be Rs. 59.27 crores. The Farakka Hydel Project is proposed to be implemented through Build, Own, Operate (BOO) route with private participation. It has been envisaged that Rs. 230.61 crores would be required for Farakka Barrage Project in the IX Plan with Rs. 62.11 crores and Rs. 168.50 crores for continuing schemes and new schemes respectively. For the Annual Plan (1997-98), Rs. 40.00 crores comprising Rs. 12.40 crores for continuing schemes and Rs. 27.60 crores for new schemes has been proposed under Central Plan.

CHAPTER III

RECOMMENDATIONS/OBSERVATIONS

1. Reduced Plan Allocations

The Committee note that the effectiveness of the performance of the Irrigation Sector has been crippled mainly due to the gradual reduction in the plan allocations in favour of the Irrigation Sector. The plan allocation which was 18.7% of the overall plan size in the First Five Year Plan has now come down to 7.5% in the 8th Plan while it was 9.4% in the 7th Plan. It has been noted that even many irrigation schemes that have been started in the Second Five Year Plan are still incomplete and the allocation in favour of the major and medium sector had been much less than that was required even for completing the schemes in hand. This has led to a situation where the Planning Commission has proclaimed a ban on new schemes despite the fact that water is the most crucial input which is required to attain the target of 210 million tonnes of foodgrains by 2000 A.D. and the country is now unable to record any growth in the foodgrains production in the last two years with a looming danger of the country entering into a food-trap. Under these appalling circumstances there is urgent imperative of the augmentation of water resources which alone can ensure the production of the much needed foodgrains. There is urgent need for an integrated approach and close coordination and perspective planning with agriculture and allied sectors if the country has to be bailed out of an inevitable situation of Starvation in the years to come. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Planning Commission and the Ministry of Finance should open their eyes to this harsh reality and make available the overall financial requirement of Rs. 12,672.14 crores under IX Plan for the entire central plan of the water resources sector proposed to them so that this country would be saved from a grave calamity.

2. Ineffective Role of the Union Ministry of Water Resources

The Committee observe that the Union Ministry of Water Resources has been rendered weak and ineffective in getting various water resources projects implemented within a time frame in view of the original constitutional role it has to play. The Committee find that the

Ministry could only make proposals and thereafter it is for the State Governments to implement them and there is no power available with the Central Ministry to ensure compliance of the advice tendered by them to the States. As a result of this sorry state of affairs, several thousand crores of rupees allocated for the development of the water resources sector have virtually gone down the drains and no tangible improvements could be seen in the last four five year plans under this sector. Even the River Board Act has remained only in the statute books and is totally ineffective and unimplementable in the present constitutional scheme. The Committee observe that the awards of the water tribunals remained unimplemented for years together. Even the international financial institutions have become aware of these maladies and are not ready to render aid for many of our vital irrigation projects for which internal resources are not available. The Committee, therefore, urge upon the Government to take drastic constitutional and legal remedial steps to salvage the situation immediately lest things should come to such a pause where no progress could be possible. The Committee desire that they should be apprised of the details of the appropriate measures contemplated in this regard and also of the time frame within which these effective measures would be realised in concrete terms.

3. Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme

The Committee note that at the revised estimate stage for the year 1996-97 the budgetary allocation has been reduced to Rs. 500 crores from the original budget estimate of Rs. 900 crores under the Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP). The Committee find that the programme could be taken up for implementation properly only from December, 1996 although the scheme was announced in the budget speech of the Finance Minister in July, 1996. The Committee also find that the programme was approved by the Cabinet only on 30th October, 1996 and formal orders could be issued only by mid November, 1996 by which time the State Governments had already finalised and passed their budgets and as such they could not take up any projects under this scheme. The Committee regret to note the lethargic manner in which the proposal was processed by the Government, due to which the programme could not achieve the desired results. The Committee feel that the State Governments should have been asked in the month of July itself to make proper budgetary provisions in their respective budgets in anticipation of the approval of the AIBP so that the programme could take off immediately on

finalisation of the guidelines. The Committee desire that the reactions of the State Governments to the scheme to dispense with the provision of matching contribution should be viewed in a favourable manner and consider offering the assistance as grants instead of loans. The Committee are disappointed to note that on this stage the Government had not taken any action and had preferred to remain silent on this aspect in their action taken replies submitted to the Committee. The Committee, however, desire that necessary safeguards in accounting procedures of the State Governments should be made in respect of the assistance received under AIBP so that the funds received cannot be diverted to other schemes and be utilised only for this scheme.

4. Sutlej Yamuna Link (SYL) Canal Project

The Committee are disappointed to note that no progress could be made in the completion of the 100% centrally funded SYL Canal Project, although budgetary allocations have been made successively year after year. Despite the Committee's repeated recommendations, the matter has been sought to be neglected and allowed to drift interminably for years together since July, 1990. It is a matter of grave concern that the matter has not been taken up at the highest political level for resolution, although the Committee has been harping on this measure year after year. The Committee, therefore, urge upon the Government to take the matter to a logical conclusion with the intervention of the Hon'ble Prime Minister who is the Chairman of the Central Water Resources Council without waiting any further.

5. Rashtriya Pariyojna Nirman Nigam Ltd. (RPNN Ltd.)

The Committee note that the Ministry of Water Resources have finalised the Cabinet Note regarding the revival plan of the RPNN Ltd. The Committee feel that the matter is being processed at a snail's pace in the Ministry of Water Resources, as the Ministry could finalise the Cabinet Note only recently and no urgency has been shown in pursuing the matter with the Ministry of Finance earlier for securing the approval for the revised CCEA note in this regard. The Committee wish to impress upon the Government that the matter brooks no delay and it should be got expeditiously cleared from the Cabinet Committee without any further loss of time and the revival package should be put into operation urgently to save the company from completely sinking into losses irrevocably.

6. Need for a Water Resources Action Plan for Kalahandi

The Committee note with concern the situation of famine and penury prevailing in the Kalahandi, Balangir, Nuapada, Kuraput and Baragada districts of Orissa and desire that a fully centrally funded scheme should be formulated expeditiously by the Ministry of Water Resources for ensuring permanent availability of adequate Water Resources in that particular districts so the plight and wants could be banished from the districts for all times to come. This should be taken up as model test cases for devising further such action plans in respect of other adjoining districts there. The Committee desire that the programme should be finalised in the next three months and the Government should come up with adequate budgetary outlays at the revised estimate stage for the year 1997-98.

7. Arsenic Chemicals in Ground Water in West Bengal

With reference to incidence of arsenic chemicals in the ground water in certain areas in West Bengal, the Committee have been informed that the causes of this pollution is being studied through a research project in association with the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre and also the National Institute of Hydrology. The Committee desire that the research project should be expeditiously completed and suitable action plans should be drawn up in the light of findings of the research project team with a view to save the lives of the helpless people inhabiting the area. The Committee recommend that a suitable budget provision should be made for the activities to be undertaken by the Research Project Tam and also for the implementation of the Action Plan in this regard.

8. Rapid Depletion of Ground Water Level

The Committee express their serious concern over the rapid depletion in the ground water level in various parts of the country which will lead to a very dangerous situation of drought especially in those areas where intensive agricultural operations are undertaken. The Committee have been informed that the Government has serious concern over the matter and certain plans have been formulated in this regard. However, the trend of allocations of funds for the schemes of artificial recharge of ground water do not match the concern expressed by the Government. While the allocation for this scheme during 1996-97 was Rs. 99 lakhs, the allocation for the current year

1997-98 has been reduced to Rs. 74 lakhs to implement the scheme. For the Centrally sponsored scheme for assisting the States for undertaking artificial recharge activities, no financial allocations has been made and the scheme appears to have been put on the hold. According to recent studies it has been revealed that the decline in ground water levels has been beyond 4 meters in certain pockets in various districts in AP, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, MP, Maharashtra, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, UP and West Bengal which require immediate attention. The Committee, therefore, urge upon the Government to take up this centrally sponsored scheme on a much larger scale with an adequate budgetary provision to address this urgent problem.

9. Subsidy for Providing pump sets in the North Eastern States

The Committee note that in the North Eastern States water has to be lifted by the use of pumps for the purposes of irrigation. Since the farmers of the North East have very small holdings and are mainly small and marginal farmers, they require assistance for procuring pumpsets to irrigate their lands. The Committee, therefore, recommend that there should be a special central scheme of subsidy it should be implemented for the purpose of providing pumpsets to these poor farmers in the difficult hilly terrains of the North East.

10. Command Area Development Programme

The Committee note that the physical achievement of targets fixed for land levelling and land shaping activities during the Eighth Plan period under the Command Area Development (CAD) programme have not been satisfactory, as only 22.50 percent of the target could be achieved upto March 1996. In the case of activities relating to Field Drains, under the CAD programme the achievement upto March 1996 is only 53.30 percent of the target. Although an amount of Rs. 604.2 crores out of the allocation of Rs. 607.5 crores have been spent on various items under the CAD programme, the physical achievements do not match the financial expenditure. The Committee desire to know as to how the physical achievements in respect of these two items of work could fall short of the target while almost the entire financial allocation has been spent. The Committee desire that urgent corrective action should be undertaken to tone up the working of the CAD programme in respect of these two items of work so that the programme is effectively implemented.

10. (A) The Committee is not satisfied with answers given in response to the supplementaries. The department accepts that gap between potential created and utilised has increased. The main aim of CAD was to bridge the gap between created and utilized irrigation potential which Committee views is widening. Committee is of the opinion that MOWR should prepare a comprehensive work plan to achieve the main objective of CAD programmes. A complete revamping of CAD programmes is needed to make it a multidisciplinary authority in true sense.

11. Central Ground Water Board

Central Ground Water Board is engaged in assessment, monitoring and management of ground water resource in the country. So many scheme has been launched by the Central Ground Water Board for formulating the policies/strategies for optimal utilization of ground water. In spite of all these ground water level is declining in many parts of the country. This will become a serious problem in the future as the country is marching towards intensive agriculture. Last year also Committee has expressed its serious concern.

In enumerating various steps taken to overcome the problem of depleting ground water level; the Ministry has listed many measures :

- (i) Formulation of Centrally Sponsored Scheme for a cost of Rs. 101.50 crores to assist States in the recharge of ground water.
- (ii) Circulation of manual by CGWB to States to help them in the formulation of ground water recharge schemes.
- (iii) Circulation of model bill by Government for suitable enactment of legislation by States and Union Territories for the control and regulation of ground water.
- (iv) Preparation of a National Perspective plan for recharge to Ground Water by utilization of surplus monsoon run off. Ministry has replied that ICAR has not provided any new technologies while the Ministry has listed number of technologies developed by the ICAR. This is self contradictory. It is, therefore necessary that a mechanism of

coordination be developed between WRD and ICAR so that the problem of ground water management and recharge is taken up on war footing.

12. Methodology of Assessment of Created and Utilized Irrigation Potential

Committee is not satisfied with the replies given by the Ministry on the issue of reappraisal of irrigation potential created in 1986 after the end of the VI plan (1985-90). As an effect of which irrigation potential of 2.31 million ha. was destroyed in the Seventh Plan. Ministry should come out with a clear methodologies for the assessment of created and utilized irrigation potential and co-ordinate with the Ministry of Agriculture for finalising the statistical information.

13. Waterlogging and Salinity in Irrigation Commands

Committee expresses its serious concern over the increase in waterlogged and saline areas in the irrigation commands. On one side we are increasing the area under irrigation and at the same time we are losing part of the irrigated areas due to the salinity and waterlogging. Committee was shocked to know that such area has increased to 5.76 m.ha.

Committee is of the opinion that a joint effort of MOWR and ICAR is needed to solve this problem. A lot of research work has been done by the AICRP on Agricultural Drainage and other ICAR institutions. Committee is happy to learn that MOWR has been taking help from CSSRI and Water Technology Centre of IARI which are pioneering in doing research in the field of waterlogging and salinity.

It is evident from the replies furnished by the MOWR that major input in this field have come from the ICAR institution like CSSRI, Water Technology Centre and State Agricultural Universities. This shows the expertise of ICAR in tackling the problem of waterlogging and salinity and there should not be any hesitation from the MOWR's part in involving the experts of this field in the various activities of the Central Water Commission (CWC) and Command Area Development Programme.

Committee is happy to learn that a directorate is functioning in CWC exclusively to look into drainage related problems in irrigated areas. However, there is need to involve/recruit the experts of this fields like Agricultural Engineers in this Directorate. Last year also the Committee has emphasised this point. By doing so, Directorate will strengthen its activities. Therefore, the Committee strongly recommend that Agricultural Engineers should be recruited in the Directorate of CWC which is looking into the drainage related problems.

14. Coordination Between ICAR and MOWR

Realising the poor coordination between MOWR and ICAR, the Committee strongly recommends to form a joint action team of the experts of the two organisations for tackling the water management related problems in the country.

15. Central Water and Power Research Station

One of the mandate of this institute is to provide R & D support in the irrigation sector. To have strong R & D team it is necessary to have an inter-disciplinary team of professionals of various fields like Agricultural Engineering/Soil Science/Agronomy etc. Until and unless there is a strong team of this nature the real output of R & D effort in irrigation water management cannot be realised. Irrigation Science cannot be developed without the involvement of Agricultural Scientists. Committee was disappointed to know that Central Water and Power Research Station does not have even a single inter-disciplinary research project involving Agricultural Engineers, Agronomist Soil Scientists etc. This is strange. Therefore, the Committee strongly recommend to review the mandate of the institute to facilitate the involvement of Agricultural Scientists in the research programmes related to the irrigation water management.

16. National Institute of Hydrology

Committee is satisfied with the performance of NIH. However, NIH should become more realistic by selecting the real life problems for finding the solution. Committee is of the opinion that NIH should devote more time towards sponsored research and consultancy work. This will facilitate their involvement in finding the solution to the real life problems and generate funds.

17. Problems of Erosion in Farakka Barrage Project

Large scale erosion has been taken place in the right embankment of River Ganges down stream of Farakka Barrage.

Adequate attention should be given and required funds be allocated in consultation with the State Government of West Bengal.

NEW DELHI;
10 April, 1997
20 Chaitra, 1919 (Saka)

SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR,
Chairman,
Standing Committee on Agriculture.

APPENDIX

MINUTES OF THE TWENTY SEVENTH SITTING OF THE
STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE HELD ON
THURSDAY, THE 10TH APRIL, 1997 AT 1500 HRS. IN
COMMITTEE ROOM 'D', PARLIAMENT HOUSE ANNEXE,
NEW DELHI

The Committee sat from 1500 hrs. to 1700 hrs.

PRESENT

Shri Santosh Kumar Ganwar — *Chairman*

Lok Sabha

2. Shri Pandurang Fundkar
3. Shri Ramesh Bais
4. Shri Thawar Chand Gehlot
5. Shri Padamsen Chaudhary
6. Shri Bhimrao Badade
7. Shri G. Mallikarjunappa
8. Shri Manibhai Chaudhuri
9. Shri Sohanveer Singh
10. Smt. Ratna Singh
11. Shri Gangadhar Kunturkar
12. Shri Gulam Mohd. Mir Magami
13. Shri Meti Hullappa Yamanappa
14. Shri Mahaboob Zahedi
15. Shri Suresh Jadhav
16. Shri Sode Ramaiah
17. Dr. Mohan Singh
18. Shri Bhim Prasad Dahal

Rajya Sabha

19. Shri Ananta Sethi
20. Maulana Habibur Rahman Nomani
21. Shri Jagir Singh Dard
22. Shri Shiv Charan Singh
23. Dr. Ranbir Singh
24. Shri Ramnarayan Goswami
25. Shri Devi Prasad Singh
26. Shri Sharief-ud-din Shariq

SECRETARIAT

1. Shri S. Bal Shekar — *Deputy Secretary*
2. Shri Mange Ram — *Under Secretary*
3. Shri K.L. Arora — *Assistant Director*

2. At the outset Chairman (AC) welcomed the Members to the sitting of the Committee and requested them to take up for consideration one by one the Draft Report on Demands for Grants 1997-98 in respect of the Ministry of Agriculture, Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, Department of Agricultural Research and Education and Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying, and the Ministry of Water Resources and Ministry of Food Processing Industries.

3. The Draft Reports were considered one by one and adopted with slight amendments/modifications.

4. The Members of the Committee, thereafter, authorized the chairman to present the Reports on Demands for Grants 1997-98 in respect of the Ministry of Agriculture, Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, Department of Agricultural Research and Education, and Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying, the Ministry of Water Resources and Ministry of Food Processing Industries to the House on a date and time convenient to him.

5. Hon'ble Chairman thanked the Members for their dedicated involvement during the sittings of the Committee and the officers and staff of the Agriculture Committee Branch for their efficient work in formulating and conceptualizing the ideas of the Committee into fruitful recommendations and preparing the reports in such a short time.

The Committee then adjourned.