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**STANDING COMMITTEE ON WATER RESOURCES
(2004-05)**

FOURTEENTH LOK SABHA

MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (2004-2005)

FIRST REPORT



LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

NEW DELHI

AUGUST, 2004/ BHADRAPATA, 1926 (Saka)

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MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (2004-2005)

Presented to Lok Sabha on _____

Laid in Rajya Sabha on _____



LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

NEW DELHI

AUGUST, 2004/ BHADRAPATA, 1926 (Saka)

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COMPOSITION OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON WATER RESOURCES (2004-05)

Shri R. Sambasiva Rao - Chairman

Members

LOK SABHA

2. Shri Bhanwar Singh Dangawas
3. Shri BikramKeshari Deo
4. Shri Rajen Gohain
5. Dr. M.Jagannath
6. Smt.Preneet Kaur
7. Shri Raghuveer Singh Kaushal
8. Smt. Manorama Madhavraj
9. Shri Sushil Kumar Modi
10. Shri Munshiram
11. Shri Lonappan Nambadan
12. Shri Prabodh Panda
13. Shri Harilal. M. Patel
14. Shri Shri Laxmanrao Patil
15. Smt. Minati Sen
16. Shri Arjun Charan Sethi
17. Shri Chandra Bhushan Singh
18. Shri Kamla Prasad Yadav
19. Vacant
20. Vacant
21. Vacant

RAJYA SABHA

22. Shri Indramoni Bora
23. Shri Ajay Singh Chautala
24. Smt. Sushree Devi,
25. Shri K. Karunakaran
26. Dr. Gyan Prakash Pilonia
27. Shri Jesudas Seelam
28. Shri Jaswant Singh
29. Shri Sharad Yadav
30. Vacant
31. Vacant

SECRETARIAT

- | | | | |
|----|----------------------|---|----------------------|
| 1. | Shri John Joseph | - | Additional Secretary |
| 2. | Shri N.K.Sapra | - | Joint Secretary |
| 3. | Shri Devender Singh | - | Director |
| 4. | Shri A.S.Chera | - | Deputy Secretary |
| 5. | Shri P.V.L.N. Murthy | - | Under Secretary |
| 6. | Shri Ramesh Lal | - | Committee Officer |

ABBREVIATIONS

AIBP	-	Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme
BE	-	Budget Estimates
CAD	-	Command Area Development
CADWM	-	Command Area Development and Water Management
CCA	-	Culturable Command Area
CCEA	-	Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs
CFF	-	Committee on Flood Forecasting
CGWB	-	Central Ground Water Board
CLA	-	Central Loan Assistance
CSMRS	-	Central Soil and Material Research Station
CWC	-	Central Water Commission
CWPRS	-	Central Water and Power Research Station
DPRs	-	Detailed Project Reports
ERM	-	Extension Renovation and Modernisation
ERW	-	Eastern River Wing
FBPA	-	Farakka Barrage Project Authority
FR	-	Feasibility of Report
GFCC	-	Ganga Flood Control Committee
GHLC	-	Gandak High Level Committee
HIS	-	Hydrological Information System
IMD	-	Indian Meteorological Department
INCOH	-	Indian National Committee of Hydrology
ISRWD	-	Inter State River Water Disputes
JCE	-	Joint Committee of Experts

JCWR	-	Joint Committee on Water Resources
JPO	-	Joint Project Office
KHLC	-	Kosi High Level Committee
LA	-	Land Acquisition
MI	-	Minor Irrigation
MOWR	-	Ministry of Water Resources
MOU	-	Memorandum of Understanding
NCA	-	Narmada Control Authority
NCAER	-	National Council of Applied Economic Research
NCT	-	National Capital Territory
NEHARI	-	North Eastern Hydraulic and Allied Research Institute
NGOs	-	Non-Government Organisations
NIH	-	National Institute of Hydrology
NPCC	-	National Projects Construction Corporation Limited
NWDA	-	National Water Development Agency
NWDT	-	National Water Disputes Tribunal
OFD	-	On-Farm Development
PIB	-	Public Investment Board
PIM	-	Participatory Irrigation Management
PMO	-	Prime Minister's Office
PSC	-	Permanent Standing Committee
R&D	-	Research and Development
RE	-	Revised Estimates
R&R	-	Rehabilitation and Resettlement
SSP	-	Sardar Sarovar Project

SSCAC	-	Sardar Sarovar Construction Advisory Committee
SYL	-	Sutlej Yamuna Link Canal
TAC	-	Technical Advisory Committee
TOR	-	Term of Reference
WUAs	-	Water Users' Association

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairman, Standing Committee on Water Resources(2004-05) having been authorised by the Committee to submit the report on their behalf, present the First Report on Demands for Grants (2004-2005) of the Ministry of Water Resources.

2. The Demands for Grants have been examined by the Committee under Rule 331E(1)(a) of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha.

3. The Committee took evidence of the representatives of the Ministry of Water Resources on 11th August, 2004.

4. The Report was considered and adopted by the Committee at their sitting held on 17th August, 2004.

5. The Committee wish to express their thanks to the Ministry of Water Resources for placing before them the requisite material in connection with the examination of the subject. The Committee also wish to express their thanks to the officers of the Ministry of Water Resources who appeared before the Committee and placed their considered views.

6. The Committee would also like to place on record their sense of deep appreciation for the invaluable assistance rendered to them by the officials of the Lok Sabha Secretariat attached to the Committee.

NEW DELHI;
20 August, 2004
29 Sravana, 1926 (Saka)

R Sambasiva Rao
Chairman,
Standing Committee on Water Resources

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTORY

Water is the very essence of life. The strength of water is unmatched. Without water there can be no life at all. In keeping with its importance, societies have always strived to manage and harness water in various ways. The Ministry of Water Resources is the guardian of this nature's most precious gift*.

1.2 The Ministry's role and activities are as follows:-

- (i). Overall planning, policy formulation, coordination and guidance in water sector including minor irrigation and command area development;
- (ii). Technical guidance to and scrutiny, clearance and monitoring of the irrigation, flood control and multi-purpose projects (major and medium) of the States/UTs;
- (iii). Infrastructural, technical and research support for sectoral development at the State-level;
- (iv). Providing special central financial assistance and help in obtaining external financing from the World Bank and other external agencies;
- (v). Overall resources planning formulation of policies for exploitation of ground water, overseeing of support to State-level activities in ground water development;
- (vi). Coordination, mediation and facilitation regarding resolution of differences or disputes relating to inter-state rivers and overseeing the implementation of the inter-state projects in some instances;
- (vii). Operation of Central network for flood forecasting and preparation of flood control master plans for the Ganga & the Brahmaputra.
- (viii). Talks and negotiations with neighbouring countries (Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan, China and Pakistan) regarding river waters, water resources development projects, the operation of Treaties (Indus Treaty) etc;

1.3 The estimated strength of establishment of the Ministry of Water Resources as on 1st March 2004 stands at 469 with a salary provision of Rs. 8.31crore for 2004-2005.

Analysis of Demands for Grants (2004-2005)

Budget at a Glance

(Rs. in crore)			
	Revenue	Capital	Total
Charged	-	3.50	3.50
Voted	793.38	57.48	850.86
Total	793.38	60.98	854.36

1.4 A total provision of Rs.854.36 crore has been made for 2004-05 in respect of the Ministry of Water Resources in Demand No.104. The detailed Demands for Grants of the Ministry were laid on the table of Lok Sabha on 20 July, 2004.

1.5 The Detailed Demands for Grants show that the total demand (voted) (Demand No.104) is Rs.850.86 crore of which Rs.793.38 crore is on the Revenue side and Rs.57.48 crore on the Capital side. The details of sector-wise allocation for different programme/activities are shown in **Appendix I**.

1.6 The comparative Budget allocation, of the Ministry of Water Resources during 2003-04 and 2004-05 and Budget Estimates and actuals for 2002-03 are given below:

Comparative Budget Proposals

(Rs. in crore)									
	2002-2003 BE		2003-2004 BE		2003-2004 RE		2004-2005 BE		Total
	Plan (Actual)	Non- Plan	Plan	Non- Plan	Plan	Non- Plan	Plan (% over over (2003 - 2004)	Non- Plan Change BE (2004)	
Revenue	523.30 (367.79)	222.19 (202.87)	522.50	210.17	378.70	213.90	549.82 (5.23%)	243.56 (15.88%)	793.38
Capital	38.70 (36.46)	17.84 (29.52)	43.50	17.01	43.25	18.54	42.18 (- 3%)	18.80 (11%)	60.98
Total	562.00 (404.25)	240.03 (232.39)	566.00	227.18	421.95	232.44	592.00 (4.5)	262.36 (15%)	854.36

1.7 From the comparative budget proposals, it is observed that on the revenue side, there has been an increase of Rs. 27.33 crore (about 5.23%) in BE 2004-2005 over BE 2003-2004 which was at Rs. 522.50 crore on the plan side, while the Non-plan provision of Rs. 243.56 Crore in BE 2004-2005 is higher by Rs. 33.39 Crore (15.88%) over BE 2003-2004. However, in the Capital section, the Plan allocation of Rs. 42.18 crore in BE 2004-2005 shows decrease of Rs. 1.32 crore (about 3 %) as compared to plan allocation of Rs. 43.50 crore the B.E 2003-2004. On the non plan side, the allocation at Rs. 18.80 crore shows an increase of Rs. 1.79 crore (about 11%) over B.E 2003-2004 allocation of Rs. 17.01 crore.

1.8 The Budget Estimates (2004-2005) at Rs. 854.36 crore comprises Plan allocation of Rs. 592.00 crore and non-plan allocation of Rs. 262.36 crore, while the budgetary allocation in (2003-2004) was Rs. 793.18 crore comprising Plan allocation of Rs. 566.00 crore and Non-plan allocation of Rs. 227.18 crore.

1.9 The Plan allocation during the year 2003-2004 was earmarked at Rs.566.00 crore. However, at the Revised Estimates stage it was reduced to Rs.422.00 crore. When asked about the reasons for scaling down allocation at the Revised Estimates stage 2003-2004, the Ministry in their written reply stated:

“The main reasons for reducing the outlay at the RE 2003-04 stage are as under:

- (a) Ministry of Finance did not agree with continuation of the scheme “Command Area Development Programme” as per the old pattern of funding. Accordingly, the outlay under this scheme was reduced from Rs. 202.00 crore to Rs. 115.06 crore at the RE stage. The Cabinet approval for re-structured Command Area Development and Water Management Programme was, however, received subsequently during last week of January 2004.
- (b) The progress of Plan expenditure in respect of “Pagladia Dam Project” was slow due to delay in land acquisition process, non completion of zirat survey etc. by the State Government affecting the R&R work, and revision of the cost estimate due to change in the design of structure etc. Accordingly, it was assessed that full utilisation of BE was not likely. Hence, the BE for the project was reduced from Rs.45.00 crore to Rs.3.66 crore at the RE stage to avoid unnecessary surrender of a large sum.

- (c) Centrally Sponsored Scheme namely “Flood control in Brahmaputra and Barak Valley” was awaiting approval of the full Planning Commission. Accordingly, the entire outlay of Rs.10.00 crore was surrendered at RE stage in anticipation that the scheme, even if approved subsequently, may not be able to dispense with the full outlay as budgeted.”

1.10 The Budget Estimates (Plan) for the Ministry for the year 2003-2004 was Rs.566.00 crore, which has been marginally increased to Rs.592.00 crore in budgetary estimates for 2004-2005. The Committee enquired as to whether this allocation was adequate to complete all on-going Schemes/Projects, the Ministry, in their reply, stated:

“BE 2004-05 (Plan) of Rs 580 crore allowed by the Planning Commission for the Ministry is much more (44%) than the average annual expenditure (Rs 401.00 crore) during the first two years of X plan. Some major schemes of the Ministry which were awaiting approval of the Planning Commission/Cabinet have since been cleared. The Ministry hopes to catch up on expenditure shortfall; and hopes to persuade Ministry of Finance to revise BE 04-05 upwardly and Planning Commission to recommend higher allocation for BE 05-06.”

1.11 When asked about the details of the demand placed by the Ministry to the Planning Commission and the demand accepted by the Planning Commission for the year 2004-05, sector-wise, the Ministry furnished the details as follows :-

Sector-wise Plan outlay proposed and approved for Ministry of Water Resources for 2004-05 is as under:

(Rs. in crores)

Sector	Annual Plan (2004-05)	
	Proposed Outlay	Approved Outlay
Major & Medium Irrigation	93.48	81.73
Minor Irrigation	105.10	105.70
CAD	200.00	181.50
Flood Control	208.93	183.87
Sectt. & Eco. Services	2.10	2.20
Transport Sector	27.00	25.00
Grand Total	636.61	580.00

1.12 The Ministry spent around 72.73 % of budget allocation during 2002-2003 and 2003-2004 and the reasons stated for under spending were procedural delays in purchase of equipments, non-submission of utilization certificates and non-approval of schemes.

1.13 When asked the efforts made to overcome such problems to ensure effective utilization of allocated funds, the Secretary in detailed reply during evidence stated as follows:-

“ In the first two years of this Plan period, the expenditure has been somewhat less. Primarily, it has been because of the non-approval of the schemes and the delays in their approval. This year, we are extremely hopeful that most of the schemes would be approved. Only 6 or 7 schemes are awaiting approval and we will be able to activate the expenditure greatly. Indications have come from the first quarter review itself. As Joint Secretary pointed out in his presentation, at the Secretary level, review is taken on expenditure every month with a view to clear up all the bottlenecks. I am happy to report to the Committee that as against an expenditure of about Rs. 28 crores in the first quarter in the first and second year of the Plan period, this year, the expenditure at the end of the first quarter, if I am not mistaken, is Rs. 64.78 crore. Right from the first quarter itself, we are augmenting the whole thing”.

1.14 The performance in respect of some of the major schemes/programmes under implementation by the Ministry of Water Resources are discussed in succeeding Chapters.

1.15 The scrutiny of Demands for Grants 2004-2005 of the Ministry of Water Resources shows that the outlay at Rs. 854.36 crore for 2004-2005 shows an overall hike of Rs. 61.18 crore over the BE of the previous year. There is an overall hike of 4.5 per cent in the plan outlay for 2004-2005 which stands at Rs. 592.00 crore over the BE of Rs. 566.00 crore in 2003-2004. While there is an increase of Rs. 27.33 crore on the Revenue side (plan), the capital section (plan) shows a decline of 3 per cent. On the other hand, the non-plan allocation both on the Revenue and Capital sections shows an increase of 15.88 per cent (at Rs. 243.56 crore) and 11 per cent (at Rs. 18.80 crore) respectively over the BE 2003-2004 figures. Further, the Committee observe that the outlays for the CAD has declined by Rs. 20.50 crore from Rs. 202.00 crore (BE 2003-2004) to Rs. 181.50 crore (BE 2004-2005).

The Committee are constrained to observe that though the Ministry had proposed a Plan allocation of Rs. 636.61 crore for the year 2004-2005, the Planning Commission has allocated Rs. 580.00 crore which is Rs. 56.61 crore less than the proposed allocation by the Ministry. Apparently, the allocations for the Ministry need to be stepped up in consonance with the commitment of the Government to give priority to water management. The reductions in allocation by Planning Commission are of Rs. 11.75 crore for Major and Medium Irrigation, Rs. 18.50 crore for Command Area Development Programme and Rs. 25.06 crore for Flood Control sector against the proposals of the Ministry for 2004-2005. The Committee fail to understand the rationale of the Planning Commission in reducing the proposed allocation for the above mentioned three important sectors which in their opinion, would adversely affect the progress and pace of implementation of all the on-going vital projects. The Committee note that at present, there are 162 Major and 221 Medium Irrigation Projects pending for completion in different States. They further note that the Command Area Development Programme has been restructured and renamed as Command Area Development and Water Management and that the proposed targets under restructured programme are envisaged for accomplishment during the remaining 3 years of the Tenth Plan i.e. by 2006-07. Alarmingly, the Planning Commission has to reduced allocation for an important programme like Flood Control despite the scourge of recurring floods in certain parts of the country resulting in colossal loss of life and property.

1.16 The Committee, therefore, strongly recommend that the Ministry take up the matter with the Planning Commission and the Ministry of Finance for enhancing the Plan allocation adequately for the above mentioned three sectors at the Revised Estimates stage so that all on going schemes/projects under these sectors are completed within the scheduled time-frame to avoid time and cost over-runs. The Committee are of the considered view that while the schemes/programmes being implemented by the Government

require huge allocations by the Planning Commission and Ministry of Finance, it is also incumbent upon the Ministry to take urgent steps to address and overcome the problems of non-approvals of schemes, procedural delays and non-submission of utilization certificates by the States. The Committee desire that they be apprised of the steps taken in this direction.

CHAPTER -II

MAJOR AND MEDIUM IRRIGATION

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 Ministry of Water Resources is to provide technical guidance and scrutiny of major and medium irrigation projects by its specialised organisations like Central Water Commission, Central Water and Power Research Station, Central Soil and 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 Central Water Commission.

2.2 The total budgetary allocation under Major and Medium Irrigation is given below:

(Rs.in crore)

Name of Scheme	Year	Plan	Non-Plan
Major and Medium Irrigation	2002-03 (Actual)	47.90	122.54
	2003-04 (BE)	74.58	113.05
	2003-04 (RE)	69.33	115.67
	2004-05 (BE)	81.73	143.45

2.3 The Budget Estimates (Plan) for Major and Medium Irrigation for the year 2003-2004 was Rs.74.58 crore. But, it was reduced to Rs.69.33 crore at the Revised Estimate stage. On the reasons for reducing the Plan allocation at the Revised Estimates stage, the Ministry in their reply stated as under :

“The budget allocation under Major & Medium Irrigation during 2003-04 was reduced to Rs.69.33 crore at the Revised Estimates stage 2003-04 mainly because of late approval of the new Plan schemes during the year. There was also reduction in the actual estimates of expenses received in respect of various activities for observance of Freshwater Year 2003 under R&D Programme of the Ministry, allocation for which formed a part of total allocation for Major & Medium Irrigation Sector.”

2.4 The Budget Estimate (Plan) for the year 2004-2005 is earmarked at Rs.81.73 crore, which is Rs.7.15 crore more as compared to the provision for 2003-2004. When asked whether these funds are adequate to complete all on-going projects under Major and Medium Irrigation, the Ministry in their reply informed :

“The increase in budget allocation by Rs.7.15 crore under Major & Medium irrigation sector during 2004-05 has been made as per the phasing of expenditure proposed under on-going Central plan schemes of the Ministry, which are continuing in nature and are being implemented with the objective to improve the technical capabilities and infrastructure of the organisations under the Ministry besides research and investigation activities undertaken by them. The implementation of Major & Medium irrigation projects is a State matter, for which, the State Governments receive separate allocations under the State Plans. The Central Govt. is however releasing financial assistance to the States for expeditious completion of Major & Medium irrigation projects under Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP).”

2.5 On the question of additional irrigation potential created/utilised under Major/Medium Irrigation Projects during Ninth Plan and the targets fixed in this regard, the Ministry stated that the targets for irrigation potential created/utilised are finalised in the Planning Commission in consultation with the State Governments during State Plan discussions. As reported by the Planning Commission, the Ninth Plan Target and Achievement under Major & Medium irrigation sector are as follows:

(Figures in Million hectare)

Sector	Creation (IPC)		Utilisation (IPU)	
	Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement
Major & Medium Irrigation	9.81	4.10	8.71	2.60

2.6 Further, the Ministry informed that the targets fixed for the Tenth Plan to create additional irrigation potential under the Major and Medium Irrigation Projects is 9.9 m.ha.

2.7 There are 162 Major and 221 Medium Irrigation Projects pending for completion in different States. The State/Plan-wise total number of Major and Medium Irrigation Projects pending are given at Appendix –II and III

2.8 Asked the reasons for delay in completion of the above projects, the Ministry stated that although paucity of funds is cited as main constraint for delay in completion of the projects, the other causative factors for delay in completion of projects are identified as under:-

- The tendency of the State Governments to start too many new projects without adequate increase in plan outlay resulting in thin spreading of financial resources. Many of the projects taken up have not been given even the investment clearance by the Planning Commission. As a consequence of starting too many projects with limited provision of funds, in some projects the annual allocation available barely meets the establishment costs and annual escalation while very little is available for the capital works.
- Frequent changes in the scope of the projects.
- Tendency of the State Government not to declare their projects as closed even if the projects are physically completed. This presumably gives the States an opportunity to draw maintenance funds for completed portion of works on liberal basis. The States also face problem of redeployment of staff once the projects are closed/completed.
- Non-completion of distribution net work pari passu with the head works.
- Problem in resettlement and rehabilitation of projects affected people.
- Problem in getting clearance of projects from environment and forests angle.
- Law and order problem particularly due to insurgent activities.
- Contractual problems.
- Inadequate preparatory surveys and investigation including hydrology studies leading to substantial modification in scope of designs of projects during construction.
- Land Acquisition Problem.

2.9 The Committee observe that major and medium irrigation projects have been allocated huge quantum of funds year after year for the last many decades. They are distressed to note that as on date, there are 162 major and 221 medium ongoing irrigation projects pending completion in different States of the country. It is perturbing to note that 4 major Irrigation projects 2 in Karnataka and one each in Andhra Pradesh and Maharastra and 2 medium irrigation projects in Andhra Pradesh taken up during the Second Plan

and the Third Plan respectively are still pending for completion. The Committee are unable to accept the plea of the Ministry that paucity of funds is the main constraint for delay in completion of these projects.

The Committee are seriously concerned to note the tardy pace of execution of irrigation projects, and recommend the Ministry to resolve expeditiously all causative factors for delay in completion as identified by them to ensure completion of all these projects within their scheduled time and cost limits so that the long awaited benefits reach the people.

They further desire the Government to identify all the completed projects which have not been declared as closed by the State Governments only with the intention of securing funds for maintenance of the completed portion of works for which the funds under this sector are not envisaged. This is all the more pertinent when viewed in the context of the submission of the Ministry that implementation of the major and medium projects is a State matter for which the States receive separate allocations under the State Plans in addition to the funds released by Ministry of Finance under AIBP. The Committee desire to be apprised of the action taken in the matter.

2.10 Further, the Committee note that the targets set for irrigation potential created/utilized during the Ninth Plan under major and medium irrigation projects was 9.81 m. ha and 8.71 m. ha, while the achievement for the same was 4.10 m. ha. and 2.60 m. ha. which resulted in abysmal short fall of 58 % and 70 % respectively. Surprisingly, despite a shortfall of 58% and 70% in attaining the target set for creation/utilization of irrigation potential during the Ninth Plan, Government have set a higher target of 9.9 m. ha. for creation of irrigation potential during the Tenth Plan. Obviously, the target appears to be difficult if not unattainable proposition. The Committee would like to share the optimism

of the Ministry for setting up such an ambitious target and the measures taken or contemplated to attain the target.

NATIONAL WATER DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

2.11 The National Water Development Agency (NWDA) was established in July 1982 as a registered Society under the Societies Registration Act, 1860 to carry out the water balance and other related studies on a scientific and realistic basis for optimum utilization of water resources of the country. These studies are essential for preparation of feasibility reports of water transfer links under National Perspective Plan, which has two components namely, the Himalayan Rivers Component and the Peninsular Rivers Component. The Union Minister of Water Resources is the President of the National Water Development Agency Society, which is the apex body of NWDA.

OVERALL PERFORMANCE UP TO THE YEAR 2003-04

2.12 NWDA has completed water balance studies of 137 basins/sub-basins, water balance studies at 68 diversion points, toposheet and storage capacity studies of 74 identified reservoirs, toposheet studies of 36 water transfer links including identification of command area en route, preparation of pre-feasibility studies of 31 link projects and feasibility reports of 8 link projects under the Peninsular and Himalayan Rivers development components of the National Perspective Plan. During 2003-04, the feasibility reports for another two links namely, Krishna (Almatti)-Pennar, Parbati-Kalisindh-Chambal links under Peninsular Component and one link namely Ghagra-Yamuna link under Himalayan Component have been completed as programmed.

WORK PROGRAMME FOR 2004-2005

2.13 The feasibility reports of another 7 links under Peninsular Component namely, Mahanadi (Manibhadra) – Godavari (Dowlaiswaram); Godavari (Inchampalli) – Krishna (Nagarjunasagar); Godavari (Inchampalli low dam) – Krishna (Nagarjunasagar tail pond);

Pennar (Somasila) – Cauvery (Grand Anicut); Cauvery (Kattalai)- Gundar-Vaigai; Bedti – Varda; and Netravati-Hemavati links and another 4 links under Himalayan Component namely, Yamuna-Rajasthan; Sone dam – Southern tributaries of Ganga; Chunar-Sone Barrage and Ganga – Damodar – Subarnarekha links are programmed to be completed by March, 2005.

2.14 During 2004-2005, NWDA will also continue with the surveys & investigations for preparation of feasibility reports of the following 7 links under Himalayan Component:-

1. Manas-Sankosh-Tista-Ganga Link
2. Rajasthan-Sabarmati Link
3. Subarnarekha-mahanadi link
4. Gandak-Ganga link
5. Farakka-Sunderbans link
6. Kosi-Mechi link
7. Kosi-Ghagra link

2.15 The details of the Plan budgetary allocation under National Water Development Agency (NWDA) are given as under:

<i>Name of Scheme</i>	(Rs.in crore)			
	Actual 2002-03	BE 2003-04	RE 2003-04	BE 2004-05
National Water Development Agency	15.30	20.00	21.95	35.00

2.16 The Budget Plan allocation for National Water Development Agency for the year 2003-04 was earmarked at Rs.20.00 crore. But, it has been enhanced to Rs.35.00 crore for the year 2004-05. When asked about the reasons for enhancing the allocation substantially for the year 2004-05, the Ministry stated:

“The Plan Budget allocation for the financial year 2004 –05 was enhanced to Rs. 35.00 crore keeping provision towards part payment of Rs. 14.00 crores for the proposed work of preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR) in respect of Ken – Betwa link and Parbati – Kalisindh – Chambal link projects where the concurrence from respective State Govts. was expected.”

2.17 When enquired about the details of progress made in Ken-Betwa Link-Project, the Ministry informed :

“The FR of the Ken – Betwa link was completed in November 1996. For preparation of DPR for this link, a general MOU was sent to UP & MP. The Government of Madhya Pradesh conveyed their concurrence for signing of General Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for preparation of DPR. Government of Uttar Pradesh has certain apprehensions on signing MOU for preparation of DPR.

In order to remove the apprehensions of UP, meetings of technical experts from NWDA and UP Govt. under Chairmanship of Dr. C.C. Patel, Vice Chairman, TF-ILR was held on 15.11.2003 and 30.12.2003. The UP Government’s apprehensions on this link have been convincingly clarified. However, UP wants more water allocation and the issue was again discussed in the third meeting of the Group set up by MOWR to speed up the process of arriving at consensus among the States on the Inter basin Water Transfer Proposals of NWDA; Ken-Betwa Link held on 1.7.2004 in which UP raised similar issues:

- > Loss of hydro power generation & yield of water for irrigation at Rajghat
- > Suitable formula to be worked out for sharing of additional water between Uttar Pradesh & Madhya Pradesh
- > Evolve suitable mechanism for control over operational system of reservoirs and canals in Ken & Betwa basins

It was decided in the meeting of the Consensus group to form a Committee to address the above issues. Preparation of DPR has been assigned to CWC. However work on DPR will start after signing of MOU between the two States.”

2.18 The Committee note that NWDA is engaged in conducting water balance and other related studies on a scientific basis for optimum utilization of available water resources in the country. They note that these studies are the pre-requisite for preparation of feasibility reports of water transfer links which in turn form the basis for preparation of DPRs of various projects. NWDA completed water balance studies of 137 basins/sub-basins, toposheet and storage capacity studies of the identified reservoirs, 36 water transfer links en route to preparation of pre-FRs of 31 link projects and 8 FRs of link projects under the peninsular and Himalayan Rivers development components of the national perspective plan during 2003-04. During 2004-05, FRs of another 7 links under the above components is proposed to be completed by March, 2005.

The Committee further note that for preparation of DPR of Ken-Betwa link and Parbbti-Kalisindh-Chambal link projects, a provision of Rs.14 crore has been earmarked out of Rs.35 crore allocated for NWDA in BE 2004-05. However, the Committee are constrained to observe that though the FR of Ken-Betwa link was completed in November, 1996, the project is still in a nascent stage in that the basic MOU between the Governments of UP and MP for preparation of DPR still remains to be signed on the ground that UP state desires more water to be allocated. In their considered view, had the Ministry of Water Resources set a time frame for finalization of issues like signing of MOU, in respect of inter-state river projects, precious time of nearly 8 years would not have been lost and the said project might have been completed. The Committee, therefore, strongly recommended that the Government take firm steps and fix definitive time frame and lay down guidelines for each individual component viz completion of FRs, preparation of DPRs and completion of projects etc. so that the projects are completed and the benefits accrue within reasonable time and cost. They desire to be informed of the action taken in the matter.

2.19 As desired by the Supreme Court, the Union Government has constituted a Task Force through a resolution dated December 13, 2002 under the chairmanship of Shri Suresh P. Prabhu, Member of Parliament, Lok Sabha with Shri C.C.Patel as Vice-Chairman and Dr. C.D. Thatte as Member-Secretary to expedite the inter-linking of rivers and to draw up a programme for ensuring the implementation of the link project with in a reasonable time of not more than 10 years.

2.20 When asked about the details of progress made by the Task Force on inter-linking of rivers, the Ministry in a detailed reply stated :

“Task force has held 15 meetings so far. Last meeting was held on 22.7.2004 at New Delhi. Task Force has submitted both the Action Plan – I and II to Government. Task Force has also finalised the Terms of Reference (TOR) for preparation of DPR.

Task Force submitted Action Plan I on 30.4.2003. The recommendations of Task Force vis-a-vis actions taken by Govt. of India / NWDA are as follows:

- (i) Completion of the 30 Feasibility Studies by NWDA by 2005
As suggested by Task Force in Action Plan – I, the programme of completion of Feasibility Reports (FRs) is now being accelerated to achieve completion by the year 2005 instead of the year 2008. NWDA has completed FRs of 11 links up to March, 2004 and work on remaining 19 links is programmed to be completed by December, 2005.
- (ii). The Terms of Reference (TOR) for Detailed Project Reports (DPR) have been finalized.
- (iii). The exact cost of ILR programme can be worked out after completion of DPRs of all the link proposals. The DPR work can be taken up only after getting consensus among the concerned states. No consensus by states for any link could be reached so far. Further, a study has been given to National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) in March 2004 for assessing the “Economic impact of Interlinking of Rivers Programme” wherein they are also required to assess the cost of ILR project.
- (iv). During the assessment of “Economic impact of Interlinking of Rivers Programme” NCAER has to suggest an investment rollout plan i.e. a practical implementation schedule of ILR programme. The report of NCAER is still awaited.”

2.21 Task Force on Inter-Linking of Rivers submitted an Action Plan-I on 30-04-2003. One of its recommendations was taking up finalization of Terms of Reference

(TOR) of Details Project Reports. The details about the TOR finalized for Detailed Project Reports for implementation of Action Plan-I are given as under:-

“As per recommendations of Action Plan-I the Task Force-ILR has assigned the work for preparation of TOR for under taking DPRs for the links to M/s Engineers India Ltd. considering latest updated guidelines of CWC for preparation of DPR, best international practices and multi disciplinary inputs in all relevant fields. The TOR for preparation of DPR covers the Guidelines on the following aspects:

1. Topographic & Allied Surveys
2. Geological Investigations
3. Geotechnical Investigations
4. Construction Material Survey
5. Hydrological Investigations
6. Model Studies & Assessments for Environmental Impact Assessment and preparation of Environmental Management Plan
7. Use of Geographical Information System for analysis of Satellite Remote Sensing data and development of Decision Support System”

2.22 The Task Force on Interlinking of Rivers has submitted Action Plan-II on 16-04-2004 to the Ministry. NCAER has to suggest an investment rollout plan i.e. a practical implementation schedule of ILR programme. The report of NCAER is still awaited. When asked about the salient features of the Action Plan II submitted by Task Force on ILR, the Ministry in their reply stated that Action Plan-II was submitted on 16th April 2004. The important issues such as appraisal of individual projects in respect of economic viability, socio-economic impacts, environmental impacts and preparation of resettlement plans; suitable mechanism for bringing about speedy consensus amongst the States; prioritization of the different project components for preparation of Detailed Project Reports and implementation; suitable organizational structure for implementing the projects; various modalities for project funding; international dimensions that may be involved in some project components and cost recovery have been discussed in Action Plan II.

2.23 When enquired as to what steps Ministry is taking to ensure that States reach a consensus for early Interlinking of Rivers, the Ministry stated that Common Minimum Programme of UPA Government envisages a comprehensive assessment of the feasibility of linking the rivers of the country in a fully consultative manner.

2.23A The Government had set up a Task Force on Inter-linking of rivers. When asked in the course of oral evidence as how far the Ministry has proceeded in giving concrete shape to the proposal for inter-linking of rivers, considering the fact that certain parts of the country are prone to chronic droughts and floods, the Secretary of the Ministry stated :-

“I would give the details of this inter-linking of rivers project. The concept of the project was first thought of or was first given some shape by the then Union Minister Dr. K.L. Rao in 1972, if I am not mistaken. Thereafter, Capt. Dastoor again presented what he called a concept of Garland Canal in 1970s. A National Water Perspective Plan was prepared in 1980 and a National Water Development Agency was constituted in 1982 with the objective that we should do the feasibility of those river links which could mitigate the problems.

You have rightly mentioned that some areas are flooded and others are in deficit and facing drought. So, we should take the flood waters and put them into the deficit basins so that there could be mitigation on both sides. Of all these 30 links which were thought of, eleven feasibilities have been completed and the remaining would be completed by December, 2005.

The Supreme Court asked us what are (we) doing about this and there was a particular lead to take. It was taken out on this particular issue. So, the Government of India, in December, 2002 constituted this Task Force under the Chairmanship of former Union Minister Shri Suresh Prabhu. That Task Force was given certain terms of reference. They have submitted two reports: Action Plan – I and Action Plan-II. These reports are under consideration. I can say at this stage that the Government is aware of the importance of this project and knows the benefits that could accrue out of this. The Government also knows that these are hugely expensive projects which need large public investment. The States have said that they cannot spend money on this. They say that if we want to implement it we should spend the money. They are supportive only if it is a win-win situation. States want only to gain something out of it but they do not want to lose out on anything. There are also environmental issues and social issues of relocation. So, these are very involved processes but nevertheless the projects are making steady progress and we are going to make a comprehensive assessment. The consultation process is over and we are sure the Government would do the comprehensive assessment starting from the southern rivers shortly”.

2.24 The Committee note that the Government have set up a Task Force on inter-linking of rivers in December, 2002 which has submitted Action Plan I and II and also finalized the Terms of Reference for preparation of Detailed Project Reports. Action Plan I submitted in April, 2003 envisages completion of 30 feasibility studies by NWDA by December, 2005.

A study has been given to NCAER in March, 2004 for assessing the 'Economic impact of Inter-linking Rivers Programme' and, while doing so, NCAER has also to suggest an investment roll out plan, i.e., a practical implementation schedule for Inter Linking Rivers Programme. The report of NCAER is still awaited. The Action Plan II submitted in April, 2004, envisages mainly appraisal of individual projects in respect of economic viability, socio economic and environment impacts, preparation of resettlement plans and bringing speedy consensus among States etc. These two reports are reportedly under active consideration of the Government, Undoubtedly, ILR Programme is a gigantic challenge but a momentous one, before the Union Government, viewed in the context of the perennial drought situations faced by the southern/western parts and recurring floods in the northern plains of the Ganga and Brahmaputra basins. The Committee note that the task force has addressed in its reports the intricate issues of economic viability, environmental and socio-economic impacts etc. on which concern was reflected the Committee on Agriculture (2003) in their 44th Report on Demands for Grants (2003-04). They urge the Government to get the study given to NCAER expedited which will expectedly suggest an investment roll out plan for the ILR Programme. The Committee further desire the Government to make earnest efforts to get going the interlinking of the Northern and Southern rivers under ILR Programme in a definite time schedule which, in their considered view, would save the nation from the devastating ravages of chronic droughts and floods.

CHAPTER III**MINOR IRRIGATION**

Minor Irrigation Division is vested with the responsibility of policy formulation in the Minor Irrigation Sector at the national level. The work of minor irrigation is taken up by several departments of the State Governments e.g. Rural Development, Irrigation, Agriculture, Minor Irrigation, Panchayati Raj, Welfare, Institutional Finance, etc. Panchayats, Co-operatives and individual farmers are also involved in this work. The Division also helps the State Governments in plan formulation in this sector and also in posing projects for external funding.

3.2 Minor Irrigation Schemes are those Ground Water and Surface Water Schemes, which have a Culturable Command Area (CCA) upto 2000 hectare individually. Ground Water development is primarily done through individual and cooperative efforts of the farmers with the help of institutional finance and their own savings. Surface Water Minor Irrigation Schemes are generally funded from the Public Sector outlay.

3.3 The Budget Estimates (Plan) under Minor Irrigation is given below:

Name of Scheme	Rs.in crore			
	Actual 2002-03	BE 2003-04	RE 2003-04	BE 2004-05
Minor Irrigation Project	93.52	107.22	105.89	117.70

3.4 The Budget Estimates (Plan) under Minor Irrigation for 2003-2004 was Rs.107.22 crore, reduced to Rs. 105.89 crore in RE and increased to Rs.117.70 crore at B.E. 2004-05.

On the reasons for increasing BE by Rs.10.48 crore for current financial year 2004-05, in their reply, the Ministry stated :

“The main reason for enhancing the Plan Budget allocation for 2004-05 is attributed to the fact that allocation for the scheme “Artificial Recharge to Groundwater and Rainwater Harvesting” has been enhanced substantially (from Rs. 15.00 crore to Rs. 40.00 crore) in anticipation of its approval during 2004-2005.”

3.5 When asked about the total additional Irrigation potential created/utilized through Minor Irrigation during the IX Plan, State-wise, the Ministry in their reply stated that the total additional irrigation potential created/utilized through minor irrigation projects during the IX plan (state-wise) is 5.79 m. ha. and 4.60 m. ha. respectively. The State-wise Irrigation Potential Created/Utilized during IX plan is given at Appendix -IV.

3.6 The target fixed by Planning Commission for additional irrigation potential through minor irrigation projects for X plan is 5.23 million hectare. The State-wise break up is at Appendix -V.

CENTRAL GROUND WATER BOARD

3.7 The Central Ground Water Board (CGWB), a subordinate office under the Ministry of Water Resources, is the national apex organization dealing with all the aspects of ground water with the mandate to develop and disseminate technologies, monitor and implement policies for the scientific and sustainable development and management of India’s ground water resources including their exploration, assessment, conservation, augmentation, protection from pollution and distribution, based on principles of economic and ecological efficiency and equity. In pursuance of the direction of the Hon’ble Supreme Court, the Central Ground Water Board was constituted as Authority in 1997 under Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 for the purposes of regulation and control of ground water development and management in the country.

3.8 The following is the total Budget allocation under Central Ground Water Board

CENTRAL GROUND WATER BOARD

(Rs.in crore)

Name of Scheme	Year	Plan	Non-Plan
Central Ground Water Board	2002-03 (Actual)	87.67	45.53
	2003-04 (BE)	98.67	46.11
	2003-04 (RE)	97.64	46.86
	2004-05 (BE)	110.20	48.17

3.9 During the year 2003-04, the Plan Budget provision for Central Ground Water Board which was fixed at Rs.98.67 crore, has been enhanced to Rs.110.20 crore for the year 2004-05. Asked to furnish the reasons for enhancing the Plan Budget allocation for 2004-05, the Ministry, in their reply, stated that the main reason for enhancing the Plan Budget allocation for 2004-05 is attributed to the fact that allocation for the scheme “Artificial Recharge to Groundwater and Rainwater Harvesting” has been enhanced substantially (from Rs. 15.00 crore to Rs. 40.00 crore) in anticipation of its approval during 2004-2005.

3.10 The ground water is declining rapidly almost in every part of the country. When asked as to what is the latest State-wise position in this regard, the Ministry in their reply informed that CGWB is monitoring the ground water level throughout the country four times in a year and data on ground water level is analyzed and long term decline in the levels of ground water is periodically brought out. A long-term analysis of ground water levels by CGWB, during the years 1994-2003 indicates decline in ground water levels of more than 4 meters in some parts of districts of various States of the country.

The names of the States/districts having pockets of declining water level in the last 10 years (1994-2003) are at **Appendix VI**.

3.11 On the question of the special measures taken to arrest further decline of ground water and also remedial measures initiated to increase the ground water levels the Ministry stated that water being a State subject, it is primarily the responsibility of the concerned State Governments to plan, finance and execute schemes for augmenting water resources. The Central Government has initiated following measures to arrest decline in ground water levels and to increase its level:

- (i) Implementation of a Central Sector Scheme for Study of Recharge to Ground Water in the country during IX plan;
- (ii) Circulation of Manual/Guidelines on Artificial Recharge of Ground Water to the States/Union Territories to enable them to formulate area specific artificial recharge schemes to check the declining trend of ground water levels;
- (iii) Circulation of a Model Bill in the year 1970 which was re-circulated in 1992 and again in 1996 to all the States/Union Territories to enable them to enact suitable legislation for regulation and control of ground water development.
- (iv) Organisation of mass awareness programmes and training courses on rain water harvesting and artificial recharge of ground water;
- (v) Constitution of Central Ground Water Authority under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 for regulation and control of ground water management and development. The Authority has notified 11 critical areas on consideration of over development of ground water resources. Further the Authority has notified 32 over-exploited areas (Blocks/Taluks) in the country for registration of ground water structures;
- (vi) Launching of a website on Roof Top Rain Water Harvesting (www.cgwb.net) to make aware and educate the public about various techniques of harvesting rainwater and store it for future use;

- (vii) Formulation of a Centrally Sponsored Scheme of “Artificial Recharge to Ground Water and Rain Water Harvesting” at a cost of Rs. 175 crore for implementation during X Plan; and
- (viii) Pursuing with the Central and State Government organizations to adopt rain water harvesting measures like amending Building Bye-laws to facilitate roof top rain water harvesting, making provision for this purpose mandatory, provision of incentives like rebate in property tax etc.

3.12 The Model Bill for regulation and control of ground water development was revised and re-circulated in 1992 and again in 1996. So far, the Government of Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Goa, Kerala, Lakshadweep and Pondicherry have enacted legislations.

When asked the steps being taken by the Ministry to persuade the remaining States/UTs which have not enacted legislation for regulation and control of ground water development based on the model bill circulated by Government of India, the Ministry stated as under:-

“States/Union Territories are being continuously requested to enact suitable legislation on the lines of the Model Bill since then and following reminders at the level of Hon'ble Minister (WR)/Secretary(WR) had been issued to States/Union Territories:-

In response, Government of Gujarat has informed that Gujarat Ground Water Authority (CGWA) has been formed by them for control and regulation of ground water resources and a Model Bill to regulate and control the development of Ground Water is under preparation. Chandigarh Administration has intimated that there is already provision in their byelaws stipulating that no private wells, tube wells and hand pumps can be constructed without the prior sanction of the Chief Administrator. The Governments of Nagaland, Sikkim and Tripura have felt it not necessary for them to enact legislation in their States in view of low development of ground water resources. 16 States /UTs (Assam, Bihar, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Jammu & Kashmir, Karnataka, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Daman & Diu and NCT of Delhi) have intimated that they have initiated action for preparing legislations. The above matter was also discussed in the Conference of Chief Secretaries, Principal Secretaries (Irrigation & Water Resources) and Command Area

Authorities of States/UTs held on 2nd-3rd August, 2004 in Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi. In this conference, it was agreed that States, who have not enacted legislation so far, should take steps for enacting such legislation at the earliest”.

3.13 The Central Ground Water Board has prepared a Manual and Guide on Artificial Recharge to ground water and circulated them to the States to enable them to formulate area specific artificial recharge schemes to check the declining trend in ground water levels. When enquired the names of the States that have formulated area specific Artificial Recharge Schemes to check the declining trend in ground water levels out of the States where water levels declined in the last 10 years, the Ministry informed that the following request from the Ministry of Water Resources to promote rain water harvesting and artificial recharge, the State Governments of Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Kerala, Karnataka, Haryana, NCT of Delhi, West Bengal and Daman and Diu Administration have informed that they have taken a number of steps including implementation of specific artificial recharge schemes. Though information from other State Governments has not been received, however, it is understood that almost all States/UTs are taking steps to promote rainwater harvesting and artificial recharge in problem areas. The matter was also discussed in the conference of Chief Secretaries, Principal Secretaries (Irrigation & Water Resources) and Command Area Authorities of States/UTs held on 2nd-3rd August, 2004 in Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi in which importance of Artificial Recharge was emphasized.

3.14 The Ministry informed that a centrally sponsored scheme of Artificial Recharge of Ground Water as advised by the Planning Commission/ Ministry of Finance with a funding pattern of 90:10 i.e. 90% centrally share and 10% beneficiaries share has been proposed and is awaiting clearance of Planning Commission. The salient features of the Artificial

Recharge of Ground Water Scheme are as under:

- | | | | |
|--------|------------------------------------|---|--|
| (i) | Cost of the scheme | : | Rs. 175.00 crore |
| (ii) | Funding pattern | : | 75 : 25 (Government of India : State) +
10% contribution from beneficiaries
for O&M. |
| (iii) | Implementation
schedule (years) | : | 2004-05 to 2006-07 |
| (iv) | Implementing agency | : | CGWB/States/NGOs/Vos/Water User
Associations etc. |
| (v) | Nature of the scheme | : | Centrally Sponsored |
| (vi) | Coverage of the
scheme | : | Country-wide |
| (vii) | Priority areas | : | Over-exploited and dark blocks,
drought prone and water scarcity areas,
urban areas showing steep decline in
ground water levels, mountainous/hill
areas, areas affected by inland salinity,
coastal areas and islands affected by
salinity ingress. |
| (viii) | No. of structures | : | 5088 |

3.15 When asked to specify the efforts being made to clear expeditiously the Scheme of Artificial Recharge of Ground Water, the Ministry in their reply stated:

“The EFC in its meeting held on 07.10.2003 considered the scheme and recommended its implementation with certain modifications. Thereafter, a note for obtaining approval of Full Planning Commission was sent to the Planning Commission on 24.11.2003. Approval of Full Planning Commission is awaited despite reminders. Hon'ble Minister (WR) has written to Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission on 20.07.2004 in the matter.”

3.16 The ground water has been found to be contaminated in many parts of the country and its quality is also deteriorating very badly. When asked about the factors responsible for such a situation and the action taken to tackle this problem, the Ministry stated:

“CGWB is carrying out studies on chemical quality of ground water for contamination due to natural sources. The main natural contaminants derived from the host rocks causing concern are arsenic, fluoride and salinity.

The steps taken by CGWB to tackle this problem are to identify the safe aquifers through scientific investigation and exploratory drilling. The specially designed wells yielding safe water are handed over to concerned State Government organizations for beneficiary use.

CGWB carried out mass awareness programmes to educate about vital aspects of the contaminants and options available to eliminate them.

Water being a State subject, it is primarily the responsibility of the concerned State Governments to take measures to prevent contamination of ground water. The Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) has been constituted under Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 to regulate indiscriminate boring and withdrawal of ground water. However, the CGWB monitors the ground water quality periodically to map the changes in it and apprises the State Governments of the same for taking necessary remedial measures.”

3.17 As per the information given by the Ministry that it shows the availability of ground water by 2005. When asked during the course of oral evidence about the specific programme which they are going to take up, the Secretary of the Ministry stated:-

“ Sir, let me submit most honestly that it has to be one of our major areas of concern. When you are talking of preserving your resource, you have to have an integrated approach. It is not only the surface water; it is not only transferring the water from surplus basins to the deficit basins; but it is also the preservation of your ground water resource which plays a key role in your drinking water supply, in your irrigation water and which, I think, constitutes something like 42 per cent of your total utilizable water right now.

We have taken a few steps over a period of time. Firstly, we have created a special Ground Water Cell in the Ministry itself. Otherwise, it was primarily looking at surface water and a senior officer looks after the ground water proposals, preparation..... Secondly, there is a ground water recharge scheme. A Master Plan looks at a public investment of Rs. 15,000 crore in the identified blocks which are either grey or black, where the water levels have tumbled more than four meters in the recent years and are tumbling, and other areas. Out of this sum of Rs. 15,000 crore, we want to start an investment of Rs. 3,000 crore straightway. That proposal, has been sent to the Planning Commission. As a pilot, we had sent the proposal, which we brought out in our presentation, of Rs. 175 crore because we think that

alongside surface water preservation or large storage areas or whatever it is, ground water has to be considered as a key resource and we must do everything possible in this regard.

You must have seen in the Finance Minister's Budget Speech that an effort towards revival and restoration of the traditional bodies will be made. Nationally, that project is to be undertaken through recharge and other processes. So, recharge has to be one of the key areas of our water management in future. We are very conscious about this and good number of schemes have been submitted. Again, it is a question of Government coming to our rescue.

3.18 The Committee observe that the Ministry of Water Resources is responsible for policy formulation in the minor irrigation at the national level though the works of minor irrigation are taken up by the States. They, however, find that at the State level there are several agencies/ departments, panchayats, co-operatives and even individual farmers involved in this sector. Minor irrigation schemes pertain to both ground water and surface water schemes having Culturable Command Area (CCA) of 2000 ha. individually. They note that during the Ninth Plan, total additional irrigation potential created and utilized was 5792.26 th. ha and 4606 th. ha. respectively, while for the Tenth Plan the target fixed for the same is 5.23 m.ha. The CGWB is the apex agency involved with all aspects of ground water development, dissemination of technologies and monitoring and implementation of policies. The outlay envisaged for this sector at Rs.117.70 crore in BE 2004-05 shows an increase of Rs.10.48 crore over the BE figures of 2003-04.

Further, the Committee note that the ground water level is declining very rapidly in most parts of the country. The analysis of the trend by CGWB for the years 1994-2003 indicates decline in ground water levels of more than 4 meters in certain districts of the country. In order to arrest the further decline of ground water level, the Ministry submitted for clearance a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for artificial recharge of ground water on the advice of the Planning Commission and Ministry of Finance.

3.19 The Committee are surprised to find that the Scheme 'Artificial Recharge of Ground Water', prepared on the advice of the Planning Commission, remains to be cleared by them as yet. Considering the laudable objective of the Artificial Recharge of Ground Water Scheme and the fact that the scheme has been prepared on the advice of the Planning Commission, the Committee are anguished over the delay in launching the Scheme. The Committee, therefore, reiterate the recommendation of the Committee on Agriculture

contained in their 44th and 50th Reports during the 13th Lok Sabha and desire that the Scheme be launched without further delay.

The Committee note that as a part of the measures to arrest further decline in ground Water levels in the country, a model Bill for regulation and control of ground water Development was revised and recirculated to the States in 1992 and again in 1996. So far, the Government of Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Goa, Kerala, Lakshadweep and Pondicherry have enacted legislations on the subject. 16 other States have initiated some action for enactment of such a legislation. Furthermore, the CGWB circulated a manual and guide on artificial recharge to ground water to States to enable them to formulate area specific artificial recharge Schemes to check declining ground water levels. The Committee are happy to note that in pursuance of the efforts of CGWB, several States have taken steps to formulate area specific schemes and the remaining States are also taking steps to promote rain water harvesting and artificial recharge in problem areas.

Taking note of the fact that these vital issues were also discussed at the recent Conference of Chief Secretaries, Principal Secretaries(I&WR) and Command Area Authorities of States/UTs, the Committee recommend that the Ministry should persuade the States and consider giving certain incentives to States badly affected by the problem of declining ground water level or where the ground water is the only source for irrigation or drinking to enable them to take immediate measures for improvement of the situation. The Committee would like to be apprised of the developments in this regard.

CHAPTER IV

COMMAND AREA DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

The Command Area Development (CAD) Programme was initiated in 1974-75 as a centrally sponsored programme with the objective of ensuring efficient utilization of created irrigation potential for optimizing agricultural production from irrigated lands. As on 1, 2003, 236 projects were covered under the programme with a Culturable Command Area (CCA) of about 30 mha spread over 28 States and 2 Union Territories. The XV Inter-Ministerial Committee reviewed the CAD projects in its meeting held on 12.06.2003 and recommended stoppage of assistance under centrally sponsored CAD programme to 162 projects where the works had been completed or were nearing completion. 23 projects of continuing nature have been clubbed into 8 projects. A few new projects have also been included where marginal work is pending. Thus, the number of CAD projects which shall be receiving central assistance has been limited to 133 at the end of 2003-04.

4.2 The programme involves execution of on-farm development works like construction of field channels and field drains, land leveling and shaping, reclamation of water-logged areas and conjunctive use of surface water and ground water. Warabandi or the rotational system of water distribution is undertaken with a view to ensure equitable and timely supply of water to fields. Adaptive trials, demonstrations and training of farmers are encouraged to disseminate technical know-how among the farmers for establishing appropriate cropping patterns, improved farming practices and maintaining soil health. Under the Command Area Development Programme, farmers are encouraged and motivated to form Water Users' Associations (WUAs), which would take up operation and maintenance of the system, collect irrigation charges and ensure equitable water distribution.

4.3 The Command Area Development Programme has been restructured and renamed as “Command Area Development and Water Management (CADWM) Scheme” during 2004-07 (remaining period of Tenth Plan). The first and second years of the Tenth Plan i.e. 2002-03 and 2003-04 were continued on the Ninth plan pattern.

4.4 The main features of CADWM Scheme would be: (a) continuation of those components which have upon review been found to be beneficial to the farmers with 10% farmers contribution for selected activities; (b) inclusion of some new components considered essential for correcting the deficiencies in the irrigation systems; and (c) deletion of those components which are less important and have lost their utility over time.

4.5 The Budget Estimates (Plan) under Command Area Development is given as under:

(Rs. in crore)

Name of Scheme	Tenth Plan Outlay	Actual 2002-03	B.E. 2003-2004	R.E. 2003-2004	B.E. 2004-2005
Command Area Development	1208.00	152.16	202.00	115.06	181.50

4.6 During the year 2003-2004, the (Plan) Budget Estimates under Command Area Development (CAD) was earmarked at Rs.202.00 crore. However, it has been reduced to Rs.115.06 crore at the Revised Estimates stage. When enquired about the reasons for under spending of fund under Command Area Development Programme and the concerted efforts taken to utilize the allocated amounts a year, the Ministry in their reply stated:

“During 2002-03 i.e., the first year of the X plan, Ministry of Finance agreed to let this Ministry to release CAD funds to the States/UTs as per IX plan pattern, even as re-structured CAD scheme had been prepared and was being considered at various levels before Cabinet could approve it. The Cabinet approved the re-structured CAD scheme in January 2004. Ministry of Finance did not allow this Ministry to release CAD funds to the States/UTs under the old scheme before January 2004 during FY

03-04. Because of lack of expenditure till mid year during FY 03-04, Ministry of Finance also slashed down BE 03-04 in RE 03-04. This Ministry could, however, obtain additional funds over RE 03-04 during March 04 and could incur expenditure of Rs 141.45 crore which was higher than RE 03-04.”

4.7 When asked to furnish the reasons for which Ministry of Finance did not allow the Ministry of Water Resources to release funds for the restructured CAD programme, the Ministry in their reply stated as under:-

- “(1) The process for continuation of CAD programme with modified components started in 1997-98 during IX Plan. Apart from enhancement of cost norms and revision of funding pattern from the existing components of the programme, new components on correction of system deficiencies and enhancement of scope of field drains to intermediate/link drains were proposed. During deliberations with the Planning Commission and Ministry of Finance, a number of suggestions emerged. Ministry of Finance observed in November 2000 that CAD scheme may be closed in present form by end of IX Plan and steps may be taken to restructure the scheme and introduce improvements from X Plan.
- (2) After receiving final recommendations of the Working Groups of Planning Commission on Command Area Development Programme and Participatory and Private Sector Participation, draft proposal for restructured CAD programme was submitted to Planning Commission in April 2002 for in-principle clearance. Planning Commission accorded in-principle clearance in December 2002. Thereafter, clearance of Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC) was sought on the Scheme.
- (3) As the clearance of the proposal of the restructured scheme was taking considerable time, MOWR requested Ministry of Finance and Planning Commission in May 2002 to give approval for continuation of the scheme on

old pattern till clearance of the restructured scheme. Ministry of Finance and Planning Commission accorded their approval for continuation of the scheme on old pattern for the year 2002-03 in May, 2002 and August, 2002 respectively.

During 2003-04, while Planning Commission made fresh observations on the EFC proposal, MOWR requested both Planning Commission and Ministry of Finance in July, 2003 for continuation of scheme on old pattern. Planning Commission approved the same in August, 2003 but Ministry of Finance observed that they did not support continuation of the IX Plan Scheme during 2003-04 without specific approval of the new scheme by the appropriate authority. The matter was discussed in the EFC meeting held in October 2003 and it was decided that the matter on continuation of scheme during 2003-04 on old pattern might be put up to the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) for their decision. CCEA in its meeting held in January 2004 approved the restructured scheme w.e.f. 1st April 2004 and allowed continuation of the scheme on old pattern during 2003-04”.

4.8 The Ministry informed that under the restructured programme, the State Governments have been advised to submit fresh Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) of all the projects indicating, inter-alia, the time frame, budget and action plan for completion of Command Area development works in a time bound manner. This will ensure timely utilisation of funds and completion of projects. Besides, a meeting of Secretary-Incharge CADAs of States is proposed on 2nd and 3rd August, 2004 to emphasise accelerating the pace of CAD activities.

4.9 The main features of the restructured Command Area Development Programme renamed as Command Area Development and Water Management Scheme are as follows:

“The main features of Restructured Scheme of Command Area Development and Water Management are : i) continuation of those components which have upon review been found to be beneficial to the farmers; ii) inclusion of some new components considered essential for correcting the deficiencies in the irrigation systems; and iii) deletion of those components which are less important and have lost their utility over time.”

The details of components, financing pattern and cost norms etc. are given at Appendix VII and VIII respectively.

4.10 The Committee observe that the Ministry of Water Resources is implementing CAD programme since 1974-75 as a centrally sponsored programme with the objective of ensuring efficient utilisation of IPC for optimal agricultural production. Till April, 2003, 236 projects were covered with CCA of about 30 m. ha. spread over the entire country and at the end of 2003-2004, 133 CAD projects were receiving Central Assistance. They further note that CAD programme has been restructured and renamed as CADWM scheme during 2004-07 for the remaining period of the Tenth Plan. The revised CAD aims at continuation of components found to be beneficial with 10 per cent contribution from farmers for selected activities, inclusion of some new components essential for rectifying the deficiencies in irrigation systems and distribution of components which lost their utility value over time.

It is disconcerting to find that though the Planning Commission and Ministry of Finance favoured funding the CAD programme on the Ninth Plan pattern during 2002-03 and 2003-04, the Ministry of Finance did not allow the Ministry to disburse funds during 2003-04 on the Ninth Plan pattern. The restructured Scheme was approved by the Cabinet in January, 2004. Reportedly, the Ministry of Finance did not permit disbursement on old pattern on the ground that the new scheme was not approved by the appropriate authority. Under the restructured programme, State Governments have been advised to submit fresh DPRs of all projects by the end of August, 2004 indicating, inter-alia, time-frame, budget and the action plan etc. for completion of CAD works. The Committee hope all the States stick to the deadline for submission of fresh DPRs. The Committee further recommend that upon receipt of fresh DPRs, Government should complete all other essential formalities in a time bound manner so as to make the projects under CADWM workable to enable realisation of the targeted utilization of irrigation potential created as a result thereof.

CHAPTER V
FLOOD CONTROL

Apart from overall planning and coordination of flood management activities, the Ministry has been providing central loan assistance/grant for flood control works in the Brahmaputra Valley, flood proofing measures, raising and strengthening of embankments along Lalbakeya, Kamla, Bagmati and Khando rivers in Indian portion, critical anti-erosion works in Ganga basin States and maintenance of embankments along Kosi and Gandak rivers. The centrally sponsored scheme for improvement of drainage in the critical areas of the country has also been sanctioned for implementation in the Tenth Plan.

5.2 The total Budget allocation for Flood Control is:

(Rs.in crore)

Name of Scheme	Year	Plan	Non-Plan
Flood Control	2002-03 (Actual)	86.42	32.00
	2003-04 (BE)	155.70	32.36
	2003-04 (RE)	106.43	33.35
	2004-05 (BE)	183.87	34.11

5.3 The Plan Budget allocation for Flood Control for 2003-04 was earmarked at Rs.155.70 crore. It has however, been scaled down to Rs.106.43 crore at the Revised Estimates stage 2003-04. When asked about the reasons for scaling down the allocation, the Ministry in their detailed written reply stated:

“In respect of the Pagladiya Dam Project the provision of Rs.45 crore in the budget estimate was reduced to Rs.3.66 crore at the RE stage. This was due to delay in acquisition of land and R&R problems. Further the provision in respect of the scheme “Flood Control in Brahmaputra and Barak Valley” was reduced from Rs.10 crore to Nil anticipating delay in approval of the scheme. The outlays at the RE stage were reduced by Re.1 crore each in respect of the schemes “Improvement of Drainage in the critical areas of the country” and “Critical anti erosion works in Coastal & other than Ganga basin States” as the schemes were under process for approval. The outlay in respect of the scheme ‘Survey and investigation of Kosi High Dam’ was

reduced from Rs.1 crore to Rs.0.50 crore in view of the delay in setting up of the JPO which was linked with finalisation of Letter of Exchange between India and Nepal for which the response of HMG/Nepal was awaited. In respect of the scheme “Extension of embankments on Lalbakeya, Kamla, Bagmati and Khando rivers”, the outlay for the year 2003-04 was reduced from Rs.5 crore to Rs.0.29 crore since, the State Government submitted the utilization certificate for the amount less than 75% of the already released fund. State Government also did not request for further release of fund under the scheme.

The Telemetry System in F.F. Network was the main constituent of the “Estt. & Modernization of F.F. Network in India” programme. During the preparation of Demand in RE 2003-04, it was assessed that the achievement on telemetry network, under the scheme may not be fulfilled during 2003-04. As such an amount of Rs.2.00 crore was surrendered at RE stage (out of Rs. 7.85 crore provided in BE. stage 2003-04. Similarly in the scheme “Survey and Investigation of Pancheshwar Multipurpose Project”, the saving of Rs.0.85 crore in RE was due to non-installation of 13 nos. seismological instruments in Nepal due to disturbances in the Project Area.”

5.4 The Working Group set up by the Planning Commission for X Plan on Flood Control Programme has assessed the area prone to flood as 45.64 m. ha. As per the data received from the States, the area benefited till March, 2003 is 16.45 m. ha. The state wise details of flood prone area and the are benefited are given at Appendix IX and X.

5.5 The plan-wise area provided with reasonable degree of flood protection till the end of 9th Plan is given below:

Period	Year	Area (m.ha)
1 st Plan	1954-56	1.0
2 nd Plan	1956-61	2.24
3 rd Plan	1961-66	2.19
Annual Plan	1966-69	0.40
4 th Plan	1969-74	2.21
5 th Plan	1974-78	1.94
Annual Plan	1978-80	1.23
6 th Plan	1980-85	1.80
7 th Plan	1985-90	0.79
Annual Plan	1990-92	0.40
8 th Plan	1992-97	1.09
9 th Plan	1997-02	1.12
10 th Plan till March, 2003	2002-03	0.04

5.6 During oral evidence, when asked as to the areas which have been identified by the Ministry as flood-prone areas, the advice issued to the States from time to time and the effectiveness of forecasting system has been, the Secretary, informed that :-

“Sir, from my reviews with the Central Water Commission the forecasting is very accurate. The only thing is that flood forecasting timing can be anything between three hours to two days. They can give upto two days and sometimes in case of flash floods, the time can be as short when you are telling the district authorities, it could be three to six hours. However, they have served a very useful purpose and when we review it with the States, they are appreciative of the efforts that are put in by the CWC. Also, on the upper riparian countries such as Nepal, Bhutan and even China we have the flood monitoring stations. The stations are located on grounds from where they get the data and information which we are able to transmit to the State Governments then on to the district or the divisions for flood management. When you say, there are States which are perennially flooded and then there are other States as in the Godavari and Krishana Basins, sometimes you can have floods in Punjab and Haryana in the Indus basin and in Yamuna they are acute.

We keep issuing advises to States. There is regular monitoring meeting. Our field staff is there. There are two Commissions which look into it – the Central Water Commission and the Ganga Flood Control Commission. That Commission is located in Patna. The Task Force was created because this is the region which faces floods every year. There is loss of lives, loss of cattle's, loss of land and loss of everything”.

5.7 The Committee note that the Ministry of Water Resources have been providing central loan assistance /grants for flood control works apart from overall planning and coordination of flood management activities. The Tenth Plan also envisages for centrally sponsored scheme for improvement of drainage in critical areas of the country. The Committee further observe that this sector has been allocated the maximum of Rs. 183.87 crore out of the total Plan allocation of Rs. 580.00 crore in BE 2004-2005 comprising more than 30 per cent of plan allocation of the Ministry. Taking note of the huge allocations made for this sector year after year, the Committee are perturbed to note that while the Working Group set up by Planning Commission has assessed the area prone to floods at 45.64 m. ha. the area benefited from flood protection measures till March, 2003 is 16.45 m. ha cumulatively for all the Nine Five Year Plans put together which amounts to less than 40 per cent in area assessed as flood prone. This when viewed in the context of the huge allocations reveals a sad and grim picture of the flood control scenario in the country. The Committee, therefore, desire the Government to take urgent and sustained steps to strengthen the flood control mechanism in tune with the high level of allocations made to this sector. The Committee desire to be apprised of the action taken in the matter.

(a) **FLOOD PROOFING PROGRAMME**

5.8 Areas north of the Ganga are chronically flood-affected regions of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. The worst affected areas lie in North Bihar. Numerous rivers originating from Nepal and out falling into the Ganga traverse these areas. The recurring floods coupled with drainage congestion are responsible for the backwardness of the region.

5.9 The two main objectives of the flood management programme so far undertaken in the country were (i) mitigation of floods with the help of construction of embankments, drainage improvements, building reservoirs, detention basins and afforestation, etc, and (ii) mitigation of susceptibility of flood damage through regulation of economic activity in the flood plains, flood forecasting and disaster preparedness, town and village protection works.

5.10 Flood proofing is one of the measures considered to be more cost effective. Flood Proofing measures are envisaged in the areas suffering from repeated damages by way of raised platforms, assured communication, drinking water supplies, sanitary arrangements, post-flood relief works etc.

5.11 The scheme "Flood Proofing Programme in North Bihar", taken up during the Eighth Plan was continued in the Ninth Plan. An amount of Rs. 2.37 crore was released during the Ninth Plan against the plan outlay of Rs. 6 crore. The spill over portion of the scheme amounting to Rs.3.50 crore, to take up flood proofing programme in North Bihar was continued in the Tenth Plan for the initial two years i.e. during 2002-04 against which an amount of Rs.1.25 crore was released during the year 2003-04.

5.12. It is seen from the Performance Budget that the Ministry have decided to enlarge the scope of the Scheme to include many more States for implementation during the years 2004-07. Asked about the details of the scheme, the Ministry informed :-

“The matter was examined in the Ministry to identify the potential states, which are adversely affected by floods for inclusion in the Flood Proofing Programme for implementation in the X Plan. Based on the flood prone areas in each state and also the average flood damages, it was decided to include the states of Assam, Bihar, Orissa, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and Andhra Pradesh in the enlarged scope of the scheme under Flood Proofing Programme. ”

5.13 The Flood Proofing Programme with enlarged scope has not yet been approved. On the reasons for non-approval of the scheme, the Ministry stated :-

“The Ministry had formulated EFC for the scheme ‘Flood Proofing Programme’ with the enlarged scope including the States of Bihar, U.P., West Bengal, Assam, Orissa and Andhra Pradesh. While examining the EFC for ‘in-principle’ approval, the Planning Commission advised that before expanding the programme to other states, utility of some completed structures may be tested during one or two seasons. The Planning Commission has further recently informed in their letter dated 9th July 2004 that till the studies are completed and a view is taken based on the findings of the studies, funding for new structure (in Bihar) under the programme may not be done in the current financial year to avoid creating liabilities. Accordingly, it has been decided to carry out the performance evaluation studies in Assam by Brahmaputra Board and in Bihar by Government of Bihar through independent consultants for which Brahmaputra Board and GFCC have already been asked to take necessary action. Matter was also reviewed in the meeting taken by Hon’ble Minister of State for Water Resources on 23.6.2004 wherein it was decided that the studies would be completed by September 2004.”

5.14 The Committee note that the area north of the Ganga are chronically flood affected regions of UP and Bihar. The worst affected areas lies in North Bihar. The flood proofing programme is one of the majors measures considered to be more cost effective. The Scheme of Flood Proofing Programme in North Bihar taken up during the Eighth Plan is still continuing in the Tenth Plan. An amount of Rs. 1.25 crore was released during 2003-2004 for the purpose. The Committee note that the Ministry have decided to enlarge the scope of the Scheme to include the States of Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Assam, Orrisa and Andhra Pradesh for implementation during the year 2004-07. However, the Planning Commission, while examining the EFC for in principle approval, advised that before expanding the programme to other States, the utility of some completed structures be tested. Further, funding for new structures (in Bihar) under the programme during current financial year

has been stopped to avoid creation of liabilities. The Brahmapurtra Board and GFCC have reportedly initiated measures for current performance evaluation studies as advised by the Planning Commission. The Committee, therefore, desire that performance evaluation studies be conducted through independent consultants so that the drawbacks/deficiencies detected in the structure are rectified before enlarging the scope of the scheme to other States. The Committee would like to be apprised of the results of the evaluation studies at the earliest.

(b). **RAISING, STRENGTHENING AND EXTENSION OF EMBANKMENTS ON LALBAKEYA, KAMLA,BAGMATI AND KHANDO RIVERS**

5.15 India and Nepal have decided that in order to prevent spilling of flood water from Lalbakeya, Bagmati, Khando and Kamla rivers from Nepal side into Bihar, the embankments along these rivers in the Indian territory be extended to Nepal and tied to the high ground in Nepal with corresponding strengthening of embankments on the Indian side. Being an international commitment, the works to be executed in the Nepal territory are financed through the funds of Ministry of External Affairs. The works on the Indian side which lie in the State of Bihar, are carried out under a centrally sponsored scheme for which an amount of Rs.4.80 crore was released during the Ninth Plan. The full cost of the works is borne by the Central Government and the funds are released on the recommendation of the Ganga Flood Control Commission on their certifying the utilization certificates and inspection of the works. The Central assistance under the scheme is released in advance to enable the State Government to take up the works. Rs.46 crore has been provided for the scheme in Tenth Plan.

5.16 During the year 2003-04, the Plan Budget allocation for Extension of embankments on Lalbakeya, Kamla, Bagmati and Khando rivers was earmarked at Rs.5.00 crore. However, at the Revised Estimates stage 2003-04, the allocation was reduced to Rs.0.29

crore. When asked about the reasons as to why almost the entire Plan allocation could not be utilised during the financial year 2003-04, the Ministry in their reply stated :

“During the year 2003-04 the plan budget allocation was reduced from Rs.5 crore to Rs.0.29 crore, as the State Government submitted the utilization certificate for the amount less than 75% of the already released funds. Before further funds are released by the Ministry, it is mandatory that the utilization certificate for an amount at least equal to 75% of the funds earlier released is submitted by the State Government. Further the State Government also did not request for further release of funds under the scheme.”

5.17 It is seen from the Budget documents that the Rs.5.00 crore could not be utilised under the Scheme due to non-submission of utilisation certificate by the Bihar Government. Asked to suggest special measures that should be taken with the States like Bihar for timely submission of utilisation certificates, in their reply, the Ministry stated:

“The progress on the scheme including submission of utilization certificate by the State Government was inter-alia reviewed in a meeting taken by Hon'ble Minister of State for Water Resources on 23rd June 2004 with the officials of the State and Central Government. A programme was given by the State Government for preparation & approval of the revised DPR and for taking up construction of embankments on river Bagmati. It was inter-alia agreed by the officials of the State Government that the work on the scheme would be taken up on priority. The matter is also being followed up with the State Government by GFCC and Ministry of Water Resources for submission of the utilization certificates and expediting the progress on the scheme.”

5.18 The Ministry in their Action Taken Reply notes on the 50th Report of the Committee have stated that negotiations with Nepal to construct multipurpose storage dams on river Kamla and Bagmati are also under Process. When asked about the latest position in the construction of multipurpose storage dams on these two rivers, the Ministry in their reply stated that the issue of constructing Multipurpose Storage Dam on river Kamla and Bagmati are also under discussions with HMG / Nepal. However HMG / Nepal is of the opinion that these projects are not feasible and have serious social and environmental problems on their

side. Efforts to work out an understanding in this regard are in progress. In this connection, the Ministry of External Affairs has been requested on 30.06.2004 to take up the matter with HMG/Nepal to understand the social and environmental problems likely to be faced by them.

5.19 The Committee observe that India and Nepal decided to raise, strengthen and extend embankments on Lalbakeya, Kamla, Bagmati and Khando rivers to prevent spillage of flood waters from Nepal to Bihar side. The works are to be executed through funds of Ministry of External Affairs in the Nepalese territory while on the Indian side they are to be carried out under a Centrally Sponsored Scheme. The funds are released on the recommendation of GFCC. It is further observed that a sum of Rs.5.00 crore could not be utilized due to non-submission of Utilisation Certificates by State Government of Bihar. The Minister had reportedly reviewed the progress of the scheme with State Government on 23 June, 2004 . A programme for revised DPR for construction of embankments on River Bagmati was given for approval by the State and the matter is also being followed by the State with GFCC and the Ministry. Further, negotiations with Nepal are on for construction of multipurpose storage dams on rivers Kamla and Bagmati. Reportedly, Nepal Government is of the opinion that these projects are not feasible and pose serious social and environmental issues on their side. The Committee, therefore, desire the Ministry to impress upon the Nepal Government through appropriate channels for early resolution of the differences so that the project construction takes off smoothly and the areas affected by floods due to spillage of water from rivers, in Nepal are minimized, if not completely eliminated. The Committee also desire the Government to take steps to improve utilization of allocated funds.

(c) CRITICAL ANTI-EROSION WORKS IN COASTAL AND OTHER THAN GANGA BASIN STATES

5.20 The scheme regarding Critical Anti-Erosion Works in Coastal and other than Ganga Basin States has been cleared by full Planning Commission in February 2004. The Scheme

is being taken up in two parts. The Planning Commission has approved only the first part. The Second part of Critical Anti River Erosion Works and raising and strengthening of embankments in the states of Andhra Pradesh , Kerala and Orissa has not been approved. When asked to give the details about the first part of the scheme, the Ministry in their reply furnished the details as under:-

“The Centrally Sponsored Scheme regarding Critical anti-erosion works in coastal areas was approved for a total cost of Rs.20.64 crore in respect of sea-erosion works only. Though the works for anti erosion are planned and taken up by respective State Governments/Union Territories, the aforesaid Centrally Sponsored Scheme for anti-sea erosion works in critical areas has been taken up by Govt. of India in February 2004 on pilot basis. Anti sea erosion works for specific critical areas in Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Orissa, Tamilnadu & Union Territory of Pondicherry have been included under the scheme. Critical anti-sea-erosion schemes, recommended by the State’s Technical Advisory have been included under this scheme. The Central Govt. shall be sharing 75% of the cost of the scheme as grant in aid. The scheme will be implemented by the respective State Government”.

5.21 When asked the reasons for non-approval of second part of the Scheme, and the reservations of the Planning Commission, the Ministry in their reply informed as under:-

“The second part of the scheme (River Erosion Works) was proposed as a separate Centrally Sponsored Scheme. To avoid proliferation of new Centrally Sponsored Schemes in the Tenth Plan, the second part of scheme was not approved by the Planning Commission. The Planning Commission observed that the concerned States may include such scheme(s) in their respective State Plan(s), depending on the priorities accorded to these schemes by the States, which could be thereafter considered for allocation at the time of Annual Plan discussions with the States.

5.22 Critical Anti-Erosion Works in Coastal and other than Ganga Basin States was actually approved during February, 2004 and thereafter the concurrence of the State Governments to meet the matching share of expenditure was to be obtained. When asked whether the States have given their concurrence to meet the matching share of expenditure under the scheme, the Ministry informed :-

“Three out of six beneficiary States namely, Kerala, Karnataka and Orissa have given their concurrence to meet the matching share of expenditure under the scheme in March, 2004 and first installment of grant has been released to these States accordingly. The concurrence of the Union Territory of Pondicherry has also been

received recently and process for release of funds to the Union Territory is in progress. The concurrence of the remaining two States namely, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu is also expected. In case the concurrence is not received timely, it may result in some delay in release of funds, thereby affecting commencement of works”.

5.23 The Secretary of the Ministry when asked during oral evidence regarding the reasons for non-inclusion of Andhra Pradesh, Goa and Gujarat under the Schemes critical anti-erosion works in coastal and other areas of Ganga basin States, the Secretary of the Ministry stated as under:-

“I would like to point out that already there is a scheme for Ganga Basin states for taking up the critical anti-erosion works. Since this scheme is already there for the Ganga basin states, the Ministry of Water Resources had also formulated a scheme for the other than Ganga Basin States. This Scheme was prepared. Then this was also considered by the Expenditure Reforms Committee. In fact, the Expenditure Reforms Committee had also approved this scheme. This was sent to the Planning Commission for approval. This was not approved by the full Planning Commission. At that time the full Planning Commission had mentioned that for this scheme the concerned State Governments can approach directly the Planning Commission for release of funds under additional central assistance programme. That is why we could not take up these schemes”.

5.24 The Committee note that a scheme of critical anti-erosion works in coastal and other than Ganga basin States was cleared by the Planning Commission in February, 2004 to be taken up in two parts on pilot basis at a cost of Rs. 20.64 crore. Approval for the first part has come through. The second part of anti-river erosion works and raising embankments in States of Andhra Pradesh, Kerala and Orissa has not been approved so as to avoid proliferation of new Centrally Sponsored Schemes in Tenth Plan and it was suggested that they be taken up by the concerned States in their State plan. It is further noted that States have to give concurrence to meet the matching share of expenditure. Four out of six States have agreed to meet the matching share of expenditure. The Committee are dismayed to note lack of uniformity, as certain States have been included under the Scheme to the exclusion of States like Andhra Pradesh, Goa and Gujarat on the pretext that these

States could approach the Planning Commission directly for release of funds under additional Central assistance. The Committee, therefore, desire that the second part of the Scheme may also be got cleared by the Planning Commission at the earliest to avoid damages caused by river erosion in the States of Kerala, Andhra Pradesh and Orissa. The Committee may be informed of the progress made in this direction.

(d) FLOOD CONTROL SCHEME IN BRAHMAPUTRA & BARAK VALLEY

5.25 The Central Government has been extending Central Loan Assistance (CLA) to state Government of Assam outside the State plan since 1974-75 for executing flood control schemes in the Brahmaputra basin. Rs. 390.94 crore as CLA and Rs.10.09 crore as grant-in-aid has been released to the State Government of Assam up to March, 2000. During the Ninth Plan period, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme titled “Flood Control Scheme in Brahmaputra and Barak Valley” for Rs.55.56 crore was framed to provide central assistance to the north-eastern states including West Bengal (North Bengal). Proposed funding pattern was 90% central grant and 10% state share. The scheme was not approved by full Planning Commission during Ninth Plan period and the same has been re-proposed during the Tenth Five year plan with an enhanced cost of Rs. 166.68 crore.

5.26 The Plan Budget allocation for Flood Control in Brahmaputra and Barak Valley during the year 2003-04 was earmarked at Rs.10.00 crore. But, it could not be utilised during the entire financial year 2003-04. However, the Plan allocation of Rs.20.00 crore has been earmarked again for the year 2004-05 for the Scheme.

5.27 The Committee asked about the reasons for earmarking huge allocation for the year 2004-05 and non utilisation of Rs.10.00 crore during 2003-04, the Ministry in their reply stated:

“A Centrally Sponsored Scheme amounting to Rs.166.68 crore with Rs.150 crore as Central share was formulated by Brahmaputra Board in consultation with Ministry of Water Resources. After obtaining ‘in-principal’ approval of Planning Commission, the EFC Memo was circulated to the appraising agencies. The proposal was approved by the EFC in its meeting held on 8th December, 2003. The grants could not be released during the financial year 2003-04 because the scheme could not be approved by the Planning Commission and CCEA. The amount of Rs 20.00 crore was kept during 2004-05 on the expectation that the scheme would be cleared during the year.”

5.28 The Committee enquired whether the Scheme has been approved or not, the Ministry in their reply stated:

“After approval of EFC, the proposal was submitted to Planning Commission for full Planning Commission approval in January, 2004. Due to announcement of elections, the proposal could not be approved. The approval of Planning Commission has since been received in July, 2004. The scheme is yet to be approved by Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA). The process for approval of CCEA has been initiated.”

5.29 The Ministry further furnished the following details about the scheme :-

- i) There are over 100 sub-schemes costing Rs. 530 crore under this centrally sponsored scheme. The works proposed to be carried out are for flood management and anti-erosion measures. Each individual scheme included will cover the most vulnerable reach and will be finalised by an Empowered Committee under the Chairmanship of Chairman, Brahmaputra Board with Members and representatives from Planning Commission, Ministry of Water Resources, Central Water Commission, Financial Adviser, Brahmaputra Board and Chief Engineers of participating States. Chief Engineer, Brahmaputra Board is the Member-Secretary.
- ii) The scheme is to be completed during X plan.
- iii) The projected estimate of expenditure is Rs150 crore (Central share) for completion of scheme.
- iv) The proposal has been submitted to Finance Minister for approval. Thereafter it will be submitted for CCEA approval.

5.30 The entire amount of the Rs. 10 crore was surrendered due to non approval of the scheme by the Planning Commission. During the course of oral evidence, when asked about the formulation and approval of the scheme, the Secretary of the Ministry stated :-

“We have prepared a scheme of Rs. 166.00 crore for which Rs. 10 crore provision was kept last year. This scheme is on 90:10 basis – Rs. 150 crore to be spent by the Union Government and Rs. 16 crore by the State Governments. The full Planning Commission has approved this scheme. It has gone upto the Hon’ble Prime Minister and he approved the scheme. What happened was that the scheme was making its headway? It was cleared by the Planning Commission. I attended the meeting. We

had it all cleared. Projects were identified etc. and then it went to the Hon'ble Prime Minister. But at that time elections were announced and the former Prime Minister rightly said because of the Election Commission's guidelines that no new projects will be undertaken. So, although it was cleared by the Ministry of Finance and it was cleared by the Planning Commission, it got stuck there. So, the scheme came back. Now, it again has to restart its entire journey upwards and now it is with the Planning Commission. But the Ministry of Finance says that let this scheme now be undertaken by the State sector. That is how this Rs. 10 crore remained unspent".

5.31 The Committee note that Assam has been extended with CLA outside the State Plan for execution of flood control schemes in Brahmaputra basin since 1974-75. A sum of Rs.390.94 crore as CLA and Rs.10.09 crore as grant in aid was released upto March 2000. During the Ninth Plan, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme 'Flood Control Scheme in Brahmaputra and Barak Valley' was framed to include North Eastern States including West Bengal (North Bengal) with an investment of Rs.55.56 crore. The scheme, however, was not approved by the Planning Commission. The Committee note that the Centrally Sponsored Scheme amounting to Rs.166.68 crore, with Rs.150.00 crore as Central share, was formulated by Brahmaputra Board in consultation with the Ministry of Water Resources. The Committee are distressed to note that such an important scheme proposed to be completed during the Tenth plan period is still awaiting approval while the provisions made for the scheme are being surrendered for want of approval. When quizzed, the Secretary, Ministry of Water Resources testified before the Committee that the scheme "could not be cleared due to the announcement of election and now, it again has to restart its entire journey upwards". He further stated that the Ministry of Finance want this scheme now be undertaken in the State Sector. Having regard to the recurring onslaught of devastating floods in the Brahmaputra and Barak Valley and the irretrievable loss of life and property, the Committee cannot accept the view of the Ministry of Finance and, therefore, reiterate that the Scheme should be implemented as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme as formulated without further loss of time.

(e) **PAGLADIYA DAM PROJECT**

5.32 On receipt of clearance from Government of India, the Brahmaputra Board has started execution of preliminary works of Pagladiya Dam Project. The project has the following three main components-

- (i). Unit 1- Dam and appurtenant.
- (ii). Unit 2- Canals & Drainage work
- (iii). Unit 3- Power

5.33 The Budget Plan allocation for Pagladiya dam Project during the year 2003-04 was earmarked to Rs. 45.00 crore, however, at the Revised Estimates stage it has been reduced to Rs. 3.66 crore. The Budget allocation for the year 2004-05 is earmarked Rs. 40.00 crore.

5.34 The Budget allocation aims to provide assured irrigation to a gross command area of 54,160 ha., flood benefit to about 40,000 ha. and incidental Hydro Power generation of the order of 3MW (installed capacity)

5.35 The Brahmaputra Board has so far acquired 956ha. of land out of total requirement of 3238 ha. for rehabilitation and resettlement purpose of project affected families. Different infrastructure works i.e. roads, community Halls are presently under execution.

5.36 The approved cost of the project is Rs. 542.90 crore. However, the Board has framed a revised cost estimate amounting to Rs.1049.16 crore. The revised cost estimate is under process for approval of PIB and CCEA. In the meantime documents for prequalification for construction of Dam & Spillway is in the process of finalization.

5.37 An additional investigation on the Project was done by CWC. As a result, the quantum of work and cost has also increased. The Committee enquired as to the shortcomings noticed in the earlier investigations of the project, The Ministry informed :

“The Detailed Project Report (DPR) of Pagladiya Dam Project was prepared based on the detailed investigation required for DPR stage. Carrying out of additional investigations after the DPR stage, i.e., at pre-construction stage of the project is a normal practice being done to update the design and normally no appreciable changes are generally necessitated in the design features. However, in the case of Pagladiya Dam Project, which is a unique project with complex liquefiable foundation strata, the designs were required to be updated based on additional studies/specific inputs. The additional investigations were carried out to firm up and supplement the earlier findings as per recommendations made in 1998 by an expert group for pre construction survey consisting of representatives from CSMRS, GSI, CWC and the Brahmaputra Board.”

The details of the additional investigations suggested by the expert group are at

Appendix XI.

5.38 When asked whether the project is expected to be cleared during the financial year 2004-05, the Ministry in their reply stated:

“The Revised Cost Estimate (RCE) of Pagladiya Dam Project was sent to Planning Commission for PIB clearance. Planning Commission has recently conveyed its observations on the RCE. Suitable replies to its observations are being finalized.”

5.39 When asked about the expected schedule for completion of the project, the Ministry in their reply stated that as per the revised cost estimate and revised schedule, the expected schedule for completion of the project is March, 2008

5.40 It is seen from the Budget document that the Assam Government could not provide the land for the Project. The Committee enquired whether the Brahmaputra Board is expected to get the entire land for the project during the financial year 2004-05, the Ministry informed:

“ The Brahmaputra Board is in constant touch with the Govt. of Assam for getting the required land for the Project. The Govt. of Assam has so far allotted 956 Ha of land for R&R purpose and issued necessary notification for all the villages coming under submergence. The Govt. of Assam is in the process of identifying the balance land required for R&R purposes. As regards land for construction, the same is dependent on Zirat Survey (property evaluation) for which the matter is being pursued constantly. Govt. of Assam has now nominated their Water Resources Department as the nodal department for coordinating with various departments of the State Government.”

5.41 When asked regarding the problem with the State Government in giving the land for construction of Pagladiya Dam, the Secretary deposed:-

“There are some physical problems. There is an opposition to the construction of the dam although the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has cleared this proposal, but you have to do a lot of surveys. So, like that there is a lot of physical opposition. We have taken up this matter with the Chief Secretary, with the Chief Minister, etc. Now, we are hoping that after this flood season is over, there will be some kind of a conferencing and some kind of a meeting with the local residents and the dam will make a headway”.

5.42 The Committee are unhappy to note that the out of Plan Budget allocation of Rs. 45.00 crore for Pagladiya Dam Project for the year 2003-2004 only Rs. 3.66 crore could be utilized for the project due to the State Government not being able to make available land for construction of the project and rehabilitation and Resettlement purposes. An allocation of Rs.40.00 crore has been earmarked for the year 2004-2005. The Committee are dismayed to note that the construction work on Pagladiya Dam Project has been delayed inordinately and while the Revised Cost Estimates worked out are awaiting approval of PIB and CCEA, the project cost has almost doubled from Rs. 542.90 crore to Rs. 1049.16 crore. The Committee, therefore, strongly recommend to Government to pursue the matter vigorously for early clearance by PIB and CCEA and simultaneously make all out efforts to get the land for construction of Dam Project from the Assam Government for Rehabilitation and Resettlement purposes at the earliest possible so that the Pagladiya Dam Project is constructed without further time and cost over-run.

CHAPTER VI

ACCELERATED IRRIGATION BENEFITS PROGRAMME

A large number of river valley projects, both multipurpose and irrigation, have spilled over from Plan to Plan mainly because of financial constraints being faced by the State Governments. As a result, despite a huge investment having already been made on these projects, the country has not been able to derive the desired benefits.

6.2 The Government of India, therefore, launched the Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme during 1996-97 for accelerating implementation of on-going irrigation/multi-purpose projects on which substantial progress has been made and which are beyond the resource capability of the State Governments and for other major and medium irrigation projects which are in advanced stage of construction and could yield irrigation benefits in the next four agricultural seasons.

6.3 The Central Loan Assistance (CLA) to the States is released in two installments of 50% each. The second installment is released when the expenditure reaches 70% of the first installment of CLA together with the State's share.

6.4 From 1996-97 to 1998-99 the CLA was provided to general category States in the ratio of 1:1 (Centre:State) and to special category states in the ratio of 2:1 (Centre : State). Since 1999-2000, the CLA under AIBP is being provided in the ratio of 2:1 (Centre :State) to general category states and in the ratio of 3:1 (Centre:State) to special category states and drought prone KBK districts of Orissa. The minor surface irrigation scheme of North Eastern States, hilly states of Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Sikkim and KBK districts of Orissa are also included under the programme w.e.f. 1999-2000.

6.5 Keeping in view the suggestions made by the Planning Commission, the AIBP has been linked with economic reforms in the irrigation sector. The guidelines have been

modified accordingly and got approved from the Cabinet. As per the modified guidelines, the reforming States under general category, which agree to revise their water rates so as to recover full O&M cost within a period of 5 years, will get CLA in the ratio of 4:1 (Centre :State) instead of existing 2:1 (Centre : State) and under special category in the ratio of 1:0 (Centre :State) instead of existing 3:1 (Centre :State) from 2002-2003 onwards.

6.6 The Ministry has launched a Fast Track Programme w.e.f. 01 Feb 02. The projects will be fully funded by the Centre by providing 100% loan. Only the approved major and medium irrigation projects which can be completed in one year (two working seasons) will be included under this programme. The establishment expenditure of the projects for getting CLA under Fast Track Programme has to be borne entirely by the States. The releases will be made in two installments of 50% each. The progress of works will be closely monitored by the Central Water Commission with special reference to quality control and the release of second installment will be based on the recommendations of the Central Water Commission.

6.7 With effect from 1.04.2004, the Grant component has been included in AIBP with 70% loan and 30% Grant for General Category States and 10% loan and 90% Grant for Special Category States for projects under Fast Track Programme. For normal Projects (Not under Fast Track) an incentive of conversion of loan to grant criteria as mentioned above shall be given, if projects are completed on schedule. The time limit for completion of Fast Track Projects has been extended to 3 working seasons and for Projects under normal funding to 6-8 working seasons.

6.8 So far, an amount of Rs.14670.00 crore has been released as CLA under this programme for 181 major/medium and 3810 Surface Minor Irrigation Schemes. After commencement of the programme 29 major/medium projects have been completed and an irrigation potential of 2195 thousand hectares has been created under AIBP upto March

2003. The potential of 67.35 thousand hectares has been created through Surface Minor Irrigation Schemes under AIBP upto March 2004.

6.9 The Plan budgetary allocation for AIBP is given below.

(Rs.in crore)

Name of Scheme	Actual 2002-2003	B.E. 2003-2004	R.E.2003-2004	B.E. 2004-2005
Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme	3061.70	2800.00	2250.00	2800.00

6.10 The Plan budget allocation for Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP) during year 2003-04 was earmarked at Rs.2,800.00 crore. However, it was slashed down to Rs.2250.00 crore at Revised Estimates stage. Asked the reasons for slashing down the allocation drastically from Rs.2,800.00 crore to Rs.2,250.00 crore (Rs.550.00 crore less allocation) at the Revised Estimates stage, the Ministry in their reply stated:

“As the Central Loan Assistance (CLA) released under Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) for the States up to December, 2003 was Rs. 785 crore, the allocation was slashed down to Rs.2250 crore at Revised Estimate stage. The progress of the programme was reviewed in February, 2004 and Finance Ministry was requested to restore the original budget provision for the programme. The actual releases were to the tune of Rs.3128.50 crore during the financial year 2003-04. As the CLA released was more than the budgeted allocation, there was no adverse effect on the scheme. There was no shortfall recorded in any year since 1996-97 as more than 100% funds have been utilized in all the years under this programme.”

6.11 Out of 181 Major/Medium irrigation projects which have received CLA under Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme since inception of the programme in 1996-97, only 29 projects have so far been completed. The Committee desired to know about the

reasons for slow progress in completion of these projects. The Ministry in their written reply informed that altogether 181 major/medium irrigation projects have been included under the programme in various years since 1996-97. Out of these, 29 projects have so far been completed by the States with the assistance provided under AIBP. It has been reported by the States that 9 projects are not progressing due to various reasons unforeseen at the time of inclusion of these projects under the programme. The remaining 143 projects are progressing well and many of them are likely to be completed during 2004-05.

The reasons for slow progress of the projects are:-

- Contractual problems.
- Natural calamities.
- Delay in transferring the funds to the project by the States
- Diversion/parking of funds.
- Environmental/Forests clearance.
- Matching fund not provided by the States.
- Land acquisition problems.
- Delay due to court cases.

6.12 During the course of oral evidence, when asked about the of releasing of funds under AIBP, the Secretary of the Ministry informed as under:-

“that the AIBP is seen as one of the success stories when it comes to implementation of Government programmes is concerned. What I am saying is that broadly in various assessments in actual addition of the irrigation potential and actual implementation now, we have central monitoring through CWC. Broadly, it is seen as a successful programme. Why I am saying so is because of this. Normally the Ministry of Finance gets their hands absolutely tight-fisted when we send a proposal. But for AIBP they are somewhat more considerate. That is the reason why, as against the initially indicated allocation of Rs. 28,00 crore, when the performance was good,

when we are now monitoring it with the States and we have regular reviews of AIBP, we were able to get last year an amount of Rs. 3,128 crore.”

6.13 When asked whether they are getting sufficient funds under AIBP, the Secretary of the Ministry has stated as under:-

“I will not say that this money is enough, but I will say that given the competing demands and given the performance of the States, if we can get little bit more than what we spent last year, and we are in discussions with the Finance Ministry, we will be a happy lot”.

6.14 When asked if the Ministry was satisfied with the arrangements of having no direct control over the release of funds under AIBP, the Secretary stated during evidence as under:-

“My understanding is that this is a case where funds are released strictly on our recommendations and on our technical assessment. Once we have done the technical assessment and we have said that okay, CWC reports has come, the Finance Ministry releases the funds. Sir, this is essentially a loan scheme to start with. This is given as a loan. Of course, now they are converting it into part grant and part loan, that is, 30:70. For special category States, 90 per cent is grant and 10 per cent is loan. They want to keep a little bit of tap on the debt element on the State which they think if it is directly in the Ministry of Finance, they can do better and we have no problems on this. Even if it comes to Ministry of Water Resources, we will be equally happy, but we have no problem with this arrangements. I do not think that this particular kind of a double control has come in the way of overall implementation of the project because they are very supportive”.

6.15 The Committee in their various Reports had recommended to intensify the monitoring of on-going projects under Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme. When asked the follow up action taken so far in this regard, the Ministry informed that the CWC is closely monitoring the projects through its field units and providing the monitoring reports after the field visits at least 2 times in a year. The CLA to the projects covered under AIBP is recommended on the basis of the monitoring reports received from the field units of CWC. Progress of all the projects is regularly reviewed in the meetings taken by the Secretary (WR) with the State Governments.

6.16 When asked whether the Ministry have fixed any target for completion of Major & Medium projects during the Tenth Plan, States-wise, the Ministry informed as under:

“Ministry of Water Resources is providing Central Loan Assistance under AIBP for expeditious completion of major and medium irrigation projects. The completion of these projects is dependent upon various factors faced by the State Governments.

As per the input received, details of major and medium projects likely to be completed during Tenth Five Year Plan are given as under:

NUMBER OF PROJECTS STATEWISE LIKELY TO BE COMPLETED

Sl.No.	State	2004-2005	Beyond 2004-05 in Tenth Plan
1.	Andhra Pradesh	5	3
2.	Assam	1	2
3.	Bihar	4	2
4.	Chhatisgarh	3	-
5.	Gujarat	1	2
6.	Goa	1	1
7.	Haryana	-	1
8.	J&K	1	1
9.	Jharkhand	1	1
10.	Karnataka	1	4
11.	Kerala	2	-
12.	Madhya Pradesh	-	2
13.	Maharashtra	10	8
14.	Manipur	1	2
15.	Orissa	-	7
16.	Rajasthan	2	1
17.	Tripura	-	3
18.	Uttar Pradesh	1	4
19.	West Bengal	3	-
	Total:	37	46

6.17 The Ministry informed that the total number of minor irrigation projects (from special category states) brought under Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Program since its commencement in 1999-2000 is 3810. State-wise break up is given as under.

Sl.No.	NAME OF THE STATE	NO.OF SCHEMES UNDER AIBP
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	1262
2.	Assam	85
3.	Manipur	226
4.	Meghalaya	47
5.	Mizoram	34
6.	Nagaland	679
7.	Sikkim	191
8.	Tripura	943
9.	Himachal Pradesh	45
10.	J&K	82
11.	Orissa	23
12.	Uttaranchal	193
	Total	3810

6.18 The Committee note that the Government have launched the Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme(AIBP) during 1996-97 for accelerating implementation of on going multi-purpose projects on which substantial progress has been made and which are beyond the resources capability of the State Governments and for other major and medium irrigation projects which are in advanced stage of construction and could yield irrigation benefits in next four agricultural seasons. The Government have so far included 181 major/medium and 3810 surface minor irrigation schemes and an amount of Rs. 14670.00 crore has already been released as Central Loan Assistance, but, it is a matter of great concern that only 29 major/medium projects have been completed so far. The Committee are not satisfied with this slow progress for completion of the projects and are still in doubt whether the Ministry would be able to complete 37 and 46 projects as targeted by them during 2004-2005 and beyond 2004-2005 in Tenth Plan respectively.

According to the Ministry, the reasons for slow progress in completion of these projects are contractual problems, natural calamities, delay in transferring the funds to the projects by the States, diversion/parking of funds, environmental/forests clearance, matching funds not provided by the States, land acquisition problems and delay due to court cases.

Further, the Committee note that the Ministry is not dissatisfied with the present arrangement of release of funds directly by Ministry of Finance and monitoring of projects by Ministry of Water Resources. The Committee desire that the causative factors for the slow progress of the projects be sorted out at the earliest possible and all out efforts be made to accelerate the momentum required to complete all the projects under Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme within their scheduled time limit and cost estimates.

While taking note that 3810 minor irrigation projects (from special category States) have been brought under AIBP, the Committee desire that steps be taken by the Ministry to draw a definite time table for completion of these projects in a period of 5 or 6 years so that the intended benefit of irrigation do not continue to elude. The Committee would like to be apprised of the achievements made in this regards at an early date.

NEW DELHI;
23 August, 2004
1 Bhadrapata, 1926 (Saka)

R Sambasiva Rao
Chairman,
Standing Committee on Water Resources