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**STANDING COMMITTEE ON WATER RESOURCES
(2008-2009)**

FOURTEENTH LOK SABHA

MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES

**DEMANDS FOR GRANTS
(2008-2009)**

**{Action Taken by the Government on the Recommendations/Observations
contained in the Ninth Report (Fourteenth Lok Sabha) of the
Standing Committee on Water Resources}**

TENTH REPORT



LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

October, 2008/Kartika, 1930 (Saka)

WRC NO. 14

Price:

2008 By Lok Sabha Secretariat

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**COMPOSITION OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE
ON WATER RESOURCES (2008-2009)**

Shri Rayapati Sambasiva Rao - Chairman

MEMBERS

Lok Sabha

2. **Shri Bhanwar Singh Dangawas**
3. **Shri Bikram Keshari Deo**
4. **Shri Rajen Gohain**
5. **Shri Prakash B. Jadhav**
6. **Smt. Preneet Kaur**
7. **Shri Raghuv eer Singh Kaushal**
8. **Shri Shankhlal Majhi**
9. **Shri Abu Ayes Mondal**
10. **Shri Lonappan Nambadan**
11. **Shri Harilal Madhavji Bhai Patel**
12. **Shri Vishnu Deo Sai**
13. **Dr. Arun Kumar Sarma**
14. **Smt. Minati Sen**
15. **Shri Harihar Swain**
- *16. **Shri Anurag Singh Thakur**
17. **Vacant**
18. **Vacant**
19. **Vacant**
20. **Vacant**
- **21. **Vacant**

Rajya Sabha

22. **Chowdhary Mohammad Aslam**
23. **Shri Ajay Singh Chautala**
24. **Shri Kumar Deepak Das**
25. **Shri K.E. Ismail**
26. **Prof. P.J. Kurien**
27. **Shri Bharatsinh Prabhatsinh Parmar**
28. **Dr. Gyan Prakash Pilania**
29. **Shrimati Vasanthi Stanley**
30. **Shri Sharad Yadav**
31. **Vacant**

* Nominated w.e.f. 26.08.2008

** Smt. Manorama Madhavraj, MP, Lok Sabha resigned w.e.f. 20.10.2008

SECRETARIAT

- | | | | |
|----|----------------------|---|-------------------------|
| 1. | Shri N.K. Sapa | - | Additional Secretary |
| 2. | Shri P.K. Grover | - | Joint Secretary |
| 3. | Shri C.S. Joon | - | Director |
| 4. | Shri P.V.L.N. Murthy | - | Deputy Secretary |
| 5. | Shri A.K. Yadav | - | Committee Officer |
| 6. | Shri G. Guite | - | Sr. Committee Assistant |

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairman, Standing Committee on Water Resources (2008-2009) having been authorised by the Committee to submit the Report on their behalf, present the Tenth Report on the Action Taken by Government on the recommendations/observations contained in the Ninth Report (Fourteenth Lok Sabha) of the Standing Committee on Water Resources (2007-2008) on Demands for Grants (2008-2009) of the Ministry of Water Resources.

2. The Ninth Report of the Committee was presented to Lok Sabha on 22 April 2008. The replies of the Government to all the recommendations contained in the Report were received on 18 August 2008.

3. The replies of the Government were examined and the Report was considered and adopted by the Committee at their sitting held on 20 October 2008.

4. An analysis of the Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations/observations contained in the Ninth Report (Fourteenth Lok Sabha) of the Committee is given in Appendix-II.

NEW DELHI;
20 October, 2008
28 Asvina, 1930 (Saka)

R. SAMBASIVA RAO,
Chairman,
Standing Committee on Water Resources

CHAPTER I

REPORT

This Report of the Standing Committee on Water Resources deals with the action taken by the Government on the recommendations / observations contained in their Ninth Report on Demands for Grants (2008-2009) of the Ministry of Water Resources which was presented to Lok Sabha on 22 April 2008.

2. Action taken notes were received from the Government in respect of all the 20 recommendations/observations of the Committee which have been categorised as follows:-

(i) Recommendations/Observations which have been accepted by the Government:

Para Nos. 2.47, 2.48, 2.49, 2.50, 2.51, 3.36, 3.40, 3.41, 4.11, 4.12, 5.9, 6.8, 7.21, 7.22, 7.23 and 7.24 (Total - 16)

(ii) Recommendations/Observations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of the Government's replies:

Para Nos. 3.37 (Total - 1)

(iii) Recommendations/Observations in respect of which replies of the Government have not been accepted by the Committee: (Total - Nil)

(iv) Recommendations/Observations in respect of which final replies of the Government are still awaited:

Para Nos. 3.38, 3.39 and 5.10 (Total - 3)

3. The Committee desire that final replies in respect of the recommendations/observations for which only interim replies have been given by the Government should be furnished to the Committee within three months of the presentation of this Report.

4. The Committee will now deal with the action taken by the Government on some of the recommendations/observations in the succeeding paragraphs.

A. Speedy implementation of National Projects

Recommendation (Para No. 2.49)

5. The Committee had observed that subsequent to their recommendation in the Seventh Report on Demands for Grants (2007-2008), the Group of Ministers (GoM) approved the criteria for selection of 'National Projects' which were to be brought up before the Cabinet for its approval. Besides, the Finance Minister in his Budget Speech (2008-2009) announced that Government had declared 14 Projects as 'National Projects'. A Steering Committee under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Water Resources was being constituted to monitor the progress of implementation of these projects with the support of the Central Water Commission. The modalities of implementation of 'National Projects' were being worked out by the Ministry with CWC. The Committee had, therefore, desired the Ministry to work out such modalities within the next 3 months so as to enable early implementation of the projects.

6. The Ministry in their action taken reply have stated that the recommendations of the GoM regarding National Projects were brought before Union Cabinet in its meeting held on 7 February 2008. The Union Cabinet approved the proposal with the direction that mode of financing be worked out in consultation with Planning Commission and Ministry of Finance. Consequently, the Steering Committee for implementation of National Projects has been constituted in April 2008 under the Chairpersonship of Secretary, Water Resources. Draft guidelines for implementation of National Projects have been prepared by the Ministry and the same have been sent to the Planning Commission and Ministry of Finance along with a note on proposed mode of financing of the National Projects. Further action will be taken after approval of mode of financing by the Planning Commission and Ministry of Finance as per the directions of the Union Cabinet.

7. The Committee note that the Union Cabinet had approved the recommendations of the Group of Ministers for declaring major irrigation projects as “National Projects” in February 2008 with the direction that the mode of financing these national projects be worked out in consultation with Planning Commission and Ministry of Finance. Subsequently, the Ministry constituted a Steering Committee under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Water Resources in April 2008 to oversee the implementation of these projects. The Ministry also prepared draft guidelines in the matter, which along with a note on proposed mode of financing of the national projects, was sent to the Planning Commission and Ministry of Finance for their approval. The Committee, however, regret to note that while the Union Cabinet approved the concept of national projects in February 2008, much time was wasted in the follow-up action on the part of the Government. Already more than six months have lapsed since the Union Cabinet’s approval, but the decision regarding the draft guidelines for implementation of the ‘National Projects’ and the mode of their financing have yet to be cleared by the Planning Commission and Ministry of Finance. The Committee desire the Ministry to pursue vigorously with the Planning Commission and Ministry of Finance for obtaining expeditious approval of the draft guidelines and mode of financing of the national projects.

B. Report of Indian Institute of Management (IIM) on the gap between irrigation potential created and utilised.

Recommendation (Para No. 3.38)

8. The Committee had observed that with a view to have proper assessment of the reasons for the gap between the creation and utilization of irrigation potential, the Ministry awarded studies through IIMs at Ahmedabad, Bangalore, Kolkata and Lucknow. IIM, Ahmedabad submitted an interim report and for others the reports were awaited. The Committee hoped that the outcome of the studies being conducted by IIMs across the country would help the Ministry to take appropriate steps to rectify the imbalance in this respect in the Eleventh Plan. They desired to be informed of the findings of the study conducted by various IIMs and action taken thereon by the Ministry by 30 June 2008.

9. The Ministry in their action taken reply have stated that the studies relating to gap between the irrigation potential created and utilised were awarded to Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Ahmedabad, Bangalore, Kolkata & Lucknow in August 2007. Due to delay in receipt of necessary secondary data /information from the respective State Governments and collection of primary data through field surveys, the IIMs had requested for extension of time. As per revised schedule, the reports were to be submitted by all the IIMs by 31 August 2008. The findings of the studies would be submitted for information of the Standing Committee soon after the receipt of the reports from IIMs.

10. The Committee note that the Ministry roped in the services of Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Ahmedabad, Bangalore, Kolkata and Lucknow in August 2007 to undertake studies on the problem of increasing gap between the irrigation potential created and utilized in the country. The IIMs had requested for extension of time, citing delays in receipt of necessary secondary data/information from the respective State Governments and collection of primary data through field surveys. The revised schedule stipulates submission of the reports by all the IIMs by 31 August 2008. The Committee hope that all IIMs have by now submitted the Reports and desire the Ministry to take further follow-up action thereon in a time bound manner. The Committee urge the Ministry to apprise them at the earliest of the details of the findings of the IIMs and also the action proposed to be taken thereon for rectifying the imbalance that exists between the irrigation potential created and that actually utilized in the country.

C. NRSA Report on 53 AIBP assisted projects.

Recommendation (Para No. 3.39)

11. The Committee had observed that pursuant to their recommendation made in their Seventh Report that remote sensing technology be used to bridge the gap between the creation and utilization of irrigation potential, the Government asked the National Remote Sensing Agency (NRSA), Hyderabad, to assess the variations in this regard by using remote sensing technology. NRSA Report revealed large variations in field study and remote

sensing technology data in respect of the Teesta Hydel Project in West Bengal. The large variation was attributed to lack of continuity in canals at several places and non-construction of hydraulic structures. The Government of West Bengal was asked to clarify the over reporting in this regard. The Committee desired the Ministry to caution the field authorities to desist from over reporting of irrigation potential and warn them of strict action in case of over reporting. They also desired to be informed of the results of NRSA studies in respect of 53 AIBP aided projects.

12. In their action taken reply, the Ministry stated that apart from two projects, i.e. Teesta Barrage Project and Upper Krishna Projects, studies have been undertaken by National Remote Sensing Agency (NRSA) in respect of 53 AIBP assisted projects of 18 States. So far, reports in respect of 16 projects have been submitted by NRSA. It has been observed that there are variations in the created irrigation potential assessed through remote sensing and that reported by the Project Authorities. The Central Water Commission (CWC) has taken up the matter with the respective State Governments to identify the reasons for variations and ascertain the factual position. NRSA has been requested to expedite the completion of the projects. Further, Central Water Commission has already taken up the matter related to the differences in the created irrigation potential assessed by remote sensing and that reported by the Project Authorities with the Government of West Bengal.

13. The Committee had earlier observed that pursuant to their recommendation, the Ministry had got studies made by National Remote Sensing Agency (NRSA), Hyderabad to assess the large variations that exist between the created and utilised irrigation potential in the country. They, therefore, desired the Ministry to caution the field authorities to desist from over-reporting of the irrigation potential, as also to be apprised of the results of studies carried out by NRSA in 53 AIBP aided projects in the country. The Ministry have stated that the Central Water Commission (CWC) had taken up the matter with the respective State Governments including Government of West Bengal. The Committee regret to note that the Ministry have given their reply in a very casual manner. There is no mention as to when the CWC referred this matter to State Governments as also the matter relating to discrepancies in the created irrigation

potential to Government of West Bengal. The reply is also silent as to whether or not any specific time-frame has been given to the State Governments for submission of their replies. The Committee would like to be informed in this regard. They also desire that accurate data pertaining to the creation and utilization be firmed up at the earliest, so that misleading information is not reported by the Government authorities. The Committee would also like the Ministry to ask NRSA to submit Report in respect of all States and also process action to be taken thereon in a time bound manner. The Committee may be apprised of the action taken in the matter at the earliest.

D. Implementation of Hydrology Project II

Recommendation (Para No. 3.40)

14. The Committee had observed that the Hydrology Project-II is not being implemented in certain States as a matter of Government policy. A budgetary allocation (plan) of Rs. 44 crore has been made for 2008-2009 for the project. There were 6 major consultancies costing a total of Rs. 81.4 crore for the entire project. It was expected that the consultants would be in place during the first quarter of 2008-09 and then activities related to procurement of Computer Software, machinery and equipments and execution of civil works would also pick up. The cost of the project was likely to be Rs. 631.83 crore and implementation of the project was expected to actively start from 2008-2009 and continue till the year 2012. The Committee desired that the consultants be appointed at the earliest to avoid any further delay and the consequent increase in the cost of project. The Committee had further desired the Ministry to review the policy for implementing the Hydrology project-II in the remaining States also.

15. In their action taken reply, Government stated that there are six major consultancies to be procured under HP-II. The procurement of three major consultancies, i.e. Technical Assistance (Implementation Support) and Management Consultancy, Development of Decision Support System (DSS-Planning) for Integrated Water Resources Development and Management Consultancy and Development of Real Time Decision Support System Consultancy is in advanced stage. The procurement process is well in progress for

Consultancy for Hydrological Design Aid-Surface Water [HDA-SW]. Request for proposal for this consultancy has been issued to six short listed firms. As regards the consultancies for Hydrological Design Aid-Ground Water [HDA-GW] and Hydrological Design Aid-Water Quality [HDA-WQ], it has been decided in consultation with World Bank that the Terms of Reference of the consultancy may be finalized with the help of Technical Assistance (Implementation Support) and Management consultant which is likely to be in place shortly in Project Coordination Secretariat. The issue of implementing Hydrology Project-II in the other States will be discussed with the World Bank during the Mid Term Review of the project (likely to be carried out in September 2008).

16. The Committee note that the Hydrology Project II (HP-II) was taken up with the assistance of International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (World Bank) with a likely cost of Rs.631.83 crore in 13 States and 8 Central Agencies to promote the sustained and effective use of hydrological information system by all potential users concerned with water resources planning and management, contributing to improved productivity and cost effectiveness of water related investments to be implemented from 2008-2009 and continued till the year 2012. They further note with regret that the six Major consultancies which were proposed to be procured under HP-II at a cost of Rs.81.4 crore and expected to be in place by the first quarter of 2008-2009 have not been procured till date. Further, it appears the Ministry have not drawn any time schedules for completion of procurement of consultancies in this regard, which is certain to result in further delay and consequent increase in the project cost. The Committee desire the Ministry to expedite finalisation of procurement of the consultancies for HP-II on top priority. The Committee further reiterate their earlier recommendation to the Ministry to review the policy of implementing Hydrology Project-II in the remaining States too. The Committee desire to be apprised of the follow-up action taken in this regard at the earliest.

E. Performance evaluation studies of flood sector scheme and restructuring of Brahmaputra Board.

Recommendation (Para No. 5.10)

17. The Committee observed that to assess the success of Flood Control schemes, the Ministry entrusted Performance Evaluation Studies of Flood Sector Schemes to 'Indian Institute of Public Administration' at a cost of Rs. 27.03 lakh. The Study Report was expected by July 2008. They also noted that a proposal for restructuring of the Brahmaputra Board had been under consideration of the Ministry for quite a long time now. The Secretary, Water Resources had informed during evidence that restructuring of the Brahmaputra Board requires an amendment to the Brahmaputra Board Act. The draft amendments were with the Ministry of Law for vetting and resolution of certain issues. The Committee desired the Ministry to resolve the issues involved in the amendments without further loss of time and introduce the amending Bill in Parliament at the earliest.

18. The Ministry have stated in the action taken reply that 4 progress reports were given by IIPA with regard to the Performance Evaluation Studies of Flood Sector Schemes, entrusted to them. The analysis and processing of field data is progressing. The final report is expected to be submitted by IIPA by August 2008.

The proposal for restructuring of the Brahmaputra Board through an amendment of Brahmaputra Board Act is under active consideration in the Ministry of Water Resources. Efforts are being made by the Ministry to resolve the issues involved in the amendments in consultation with the Ministry of Law at the earliest.

19. The Committee note that the performance evaluation studies of Flood Sector Schemes was entrusted to Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA) at a cost of Rs.27.03 lakh. The Study Report of IIPA was originally expected by July 2008. However, as per the latest reply of the Ministry, the final report about the Study conducted by IIPA was likely to be submitted by August 2008. They would like to be informed of the details of the final Study Report of the IIPA which might have been

submitted by now. The Committee is agonized to note the prolonged delay in the restructuring of Brahmaputra Board which has been under consideration of the Ministry for quite a long time now. The Committee call upon the Ministry to expedite the finalisation of the draft amendment of Brahmaputra Board Act after expeditiously rounding off the consultation with the Ministry of Law and introduce the amending Bill in Parliament at an early date.

CHAPTER II

RECOMMENDATIONS/OBSERVATIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE GOVERNMENT

Recommendation (Para No.2.47)

The Committee observe that against the projection of Rs. 746 crore for 2007-2008 and Rs. 688 crore for 2008-2009 under the plan head, the Ministry of Water Resources has been provided Rs. 600 crore each for both the financial years. The shortfall is to the extent of Rs. 146 crore and Rs. 188 crore, respectively. The allocation was reduced to Rs. 550 crore at RE stage 2007-2008. According to the Ministry, the reduced allocation at RE stage was primarily due to more time taken for the preparatory work in respect of different schemes as it was the first year of the Eleventh Plan and expenditure was relatively less in the early part of the year. The Ministry has stated that the shortfall in targets for the year 2007-2008 due to reduced allocation would be made up in the next year through intensive monitoring of the physical and financial targets. The Committee further observe that the plan allocation for the Central sector schemes has increased from Rs. 312 crore during 2007-2008 to Rs. 612 crore during 2008-2009 after the Command Area Development & Water Management Scheme was transferred to State sector for which a separate allocation of Rs. 350 crore has been made. The Committee expect the Ministry to utilize the enhanced allocation during 2008-2009 and avoid reduction of allocation at RE stage as in previous years. The Committee desire the Ministry to review the pace of expenditure under different schemes on a quarterly basis. They desire to be apprised of the steps taken in this regard.

Reply of the Government

All Head of the Departments and Senior Officers in-charge of Subject Matter Divisions closely monitor the progress on monthly basis. The progress in respect of various schemes is also being reviewed by Secretary (WR) on a monthly basis.

Recommendation (Para No.2.48)

The Committee regret to observe that as many as 595 Gazetted and 1,924 non-gazetted posts are vacant in the Ministry and its various subordinate offices. These vacancies have accumulated over the years (till 2007). The perusal of the details furnished reveals that there were 73 Gazetted and 573 non-gazetted vacancies in the Ministry and its various organizations upto the year 2000. The Secretary, Ministry of Water Resources, during the course of evidence admitted that they could fill up vacancies only to a limited extent and that due to the operation of 'Optimization Scheme' of the Ministry of Finance the number of posts stand abolished. While sharing the concern of the Committee, the Ministry have informed that they have sought exemption from operation of the 'Optimization Scheme' of the Ministry of Finance as posts of officers in the Ministry are technical in nature which if remained vacant, affect the performance of the Ministry. The Committee recommend that approval of the competent authority for reviving the deemed abolished posts in CWPRS and other organizations including NEHARI under Brahmaputra Board be obtained at the earliest and all the vacancies including the deemed abolished posts be filled up on an urgent basis. The Committee also recommend that all the unfilled vacancies on compassionate grounds against the 5% quota in the Ministry and its subordinate / attached offices be immediately filled up, if needed, by relaxation of DoPT Guidelines in respect of needy persons particularly in cases where the families of deceased employees are without an earning member. The Committee would like to be apprised of the action taken in the matter.

Reply of the Government

As in June 2008, there were 2569 vacancies in both gazetted and non- gazetted grades in direct recruitment and promotion quotas in the two attached and seven subordinate offices under the Ministry as indicated below:-

Sl.No.	Name of the Organisation	No. of vacant posts
1.	CWC	1235
2.	CGWB	396
3.	CWPRS	495
4.	FBP	284
5.	CSMRS	90
6.	Main Ministry	66

7.	UYRB	Nil
8.	SSCAC	03
9.	BCB	Nil
		2569

Under the scheme of optimization of direct recruitment, a decision has been taken to abolish 394 direct recruitment posts meant for the recruitment year 2006-07, therefore, the number of vacancies for the year 2006-07 will be 2175(2569 - 394).

Further exercise of optimization of direct recruitment posts for the year 2007-08 is underway, after which the number of vacant posts shall get further reduced. Out of these 2175 vacancies, 17 have been filled recently while in respect of 118 direct recruitment vacancies requisitions have been sent to the UPSC and SSC. Besides, in respect of 427 vacancies meant for promotion, proposals are being sent to the UPSC for fixing dates for the DPC meetings. After taking into account these vacancies for which action has been taken, the number of vacancies shall get further reduced to 1613 [2175 – (17+118+ 427)].

In respect of 174 existing vacancies, eligible candidates are not available for promotion. Out of these, relaxation in recruitment rules has been made in respect of 7 vacancies. Proposals for remaining posts are under examination.

As regards the appointment on compassionate grounds, concerned organizations have reported 22 vacancies under compassionate quota. Proposal for filling 3 vacancies in the Ministry has been processed and is at the final stage of approval. Concerned organizations have been directed to expedite the process of filling up these vacancies.

As regards the revival of posts under deemed abolition category, concerned organizations have been instructed to complete the action expeditiously.

Recommendation (Para No.2.49)

The Committee are happy to note that subsequent to their recommendation in the Seventh Report on Demands for Grants (2007-2008) calling upon the Ministry of Water Resources to formulate a policy for declaring Major Irrigation Projects as ‘National Projects’ at an early date, the Group of Ministers (GoM) approved the criteria for selection of

‘National Projects’ and are now to be brought up before the Cabinet for its approval. Besides, the Finance Minister in his Budget Speech (2008-2009) announced that Government has declared 14 Projects as ‘National Projects’ of which 3 projects alone would require Rs. 7,000 crore during the Eleventh Plan. The projects declared as ‘National Projects’ would be eligible for 90 per cent of project cost as Central Grant and the remaining 10 per cent would be borne by the State Governments. A Steering Committee under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Water Resources is being constituted to monitor the progress of implementation of these projects with the support of the Central Water Commission. The modalities of implementation of ‘National Projects’ are being worked out by the Ministry with CWC. The Committee desire the Ministry to work out such modalities within 3 months so as to enable early implementation of the projects.

Reply of the Government

The recommendations of the GoM regarding National Projects were brought before Union Cabinet in its meeting held on 7th February 2008. The Union Cabinet approved the proposal with the direction that mode of financing be worked out in consultation with Planning Commission and Ministry of Finance. Consequently, the Steering Committee for implementation of National Projects has been constituted in April 2008 under the Chairpersonship of Secretary, Water Resources. Draft guidelines for implementation of National Projects have been prepared by the Ministry and same have been sent to the Planning Commission and Ministry of Finance along with a note on proposed mode of financing of the National Projects. Further action will be taken after approval of mode of financing by the Planning Commission and Ministry of Finance as per the directions of the Union Cabinet.

Comments of the Committee

(Please *see* Para No. 7 of Chapter-I of the Report)

Recommendation (Para No.2.50)

The Committee observe that the threat to climate change is now considered as an established fact. The Ministry of Water Resources has reportedly initiated studies on the

effect of climate change on water resources by associating organizations under the Ministry, research institutions and reputed academic institutions of the country. The CWC has been assigned the task of overall coordination. The Preliminary Report on the basis of analysis of time series of rainfall data and flow data analysis of related secondary information particularly about snow melt and glacier melt and the results of the studies carried out by National Institute of Hydrology are likely to be completed by June 2008. The Committee desire the Ministry to enlist support from not only the academic institutions but other NGOs/ individuals engaged in carrying out the studies on the impact of climate change on water resources so that a practical solution to meet the adverse effects of climate change is found. The Committee would like to be informed of the progress made in this regard including the report to be made available on the subject by the CWC.

Reply of the Government

As desired by the Committee, the Standing Committee for 'Assessment of Impact of Climate Change on Water Resources' under the Chairman, Central Water Commission (CWC) has been re-constituted to include a member representing NGO. Similarly, a Steering Committee has also been constituted under the Secretary (WR) which includes representatives from NGO and experts. The preliminary 'Consolidated Report on Effect of Climate Change on Water Resources' has already been finalised by CWC.

Recommendation (Para No.2.51)

The Committee observe that efficiency in water use is as important as creation of irrigation potential and its fuller utilization. The Committee are given to understand that irrigation efficiency in most of the irrigation systems in the country ranges between 25% and 35% and in exceptional cases the usage is between 40% and 45%. The water for crop consumption per hectare of the gross irrigated area (4.8 feet) is much higher as compared to water use in USA (3 feet). The Working Group of the National Commission on Integrated Water Resources Development Plan (NCIWRDP) has proposed efficiency norms for assessment of water requirement for irrigation purposes from surface water. The Commission was of the view that 35% to 40% efficiency in surface water and 65% to 70%

efficiency in ground water will be a fair approximation. The Ministry has reported that on farm application efficiency of 60% to 80% and conveyance efficiency of 50% to 70% has reportedly been achieved as per water use efficiency studies carried out in respect of certain projects in Uttar Pradesh. The CWC has taken up studies in respect of various other projects in different States in this regard and the studies are in progress. The Committee urge the Ministry to get the assessment studies initiated by CWC completed in a time bound manner which in their opinion would serve as a tool for the Ministry to evolve and initiate measures aimed at improving Water Use Efficiency amongst different sectors. They also desire the Ministry to take suitable measures to achieve the levels of irrigation efficiency as envisaged by the National Commission on Integrated Water Resources Development Plan (NCIWRDP). They are also given to understand that Water and Land Management Institutes (WALMIs) have undertaken studies of 45 projects to assess the water use efficiency therein. They desire Government to take a final view on the findings of the study by WALMIs and take remedial measures on the identified problem areas for improving water use efficiency. They desire to be informed of the action taken in respect of the above.

Reply of the Government

Regarding the “Studies Related to Water Use Efficiency of the Completed Major and Medium Irrigation Projects”, it is submitted that 43 projects have been taken up for studies by CWC and following institutions have been awarded the studies.

Institutions	Number of Studies
North Eastern Regional Institute of Water & Land Management , Assam	5 Projects of Assam and 3 Projects of Manipur
Water & Land Management Institute, Patna	5 Projects of Bihar
Haryana Irrigation Research & Management Institute, Haryana	2 Projects of Haryana
Irrigation & Power Research Institute, Punjab	2 Projects of Punjab
Water and Land Management Institute, Lucknow	6 Projects of Uttar Pradesh
Water & Land Management Training &	20 Projects of Andhra Pradesh

Total	43 Projects
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The matter is being vigorously pursued with the respective organisations for early finalization of studies. So far, the draft final reports of the studies in respect of 35 projects have been completed. The matter is being pursued with concerned organisations for completion of the remaining studies at the earliest.

Ministry of Water Resources also provides assistance to States under AIBP for extension, renovation & modernisation of projects, which help in improving the efficiency. Similarly, the command area development and adoption of better practices for water management help in improving the efficiency, Ministry of water Resources provides assistance to States under the schemes “Command Area development and Water Management”. In order to encourage farmers in adoptions of modern techniques and better practices for improving the water use efficiency, Ministry of Water Resources has taken up “Farmers Participatory Action Research Programme” under which 5000 programmes are being implemented.

Recommendation (Para No.3.36)

The budget allocation (plan) for Major and Medium Irrigation for the year 2008-09 has been pegged at Rs. 209.90 crore which is Rs. 77.40 crore higher than the allocation in BE 2007-08 of Rs. 132.50 crore which was subsequently reduced to Rs. 105.82 crore at RE stage. The reduction at RE stage was due to delay in finalisation of consultancies for various activities under Hydrology Project and delays in getting necessary inputs for the Water Resource Information System. However, these delays are proposed to be made up in the next year through intensive monitoring of the physical and financial targets for which a mechanism of monthly review has been started. The Committee expect the Ministry to keep a close watch on the achievement of physical and financial targets with an intensive monitoring of monthly reviews so that the allocations provided in the current year are not reduced at the RE stage on account of poor performance. They desire to be apprised of the utilization of funds on this account.

Reply of the Government

As mentioned in reply to para 2.47, process of monthly monitoring by Heads of the Departments has already been initiated. Progress in respect of each of the scheme is also being monitored by Secretary (WR). A letter has been addressed to heads of all the organisations and concerned officials requesting them for necessary actions and ensuring that the plan expenditure is evenly distributed during 2008-09 and budget for the plan schemes is fully utilized without any reduction at the RE 2008-09 stage on account of poor performance. The Finance Wing of Ministry of Water Resources has also instructed all the concerned Heads of various Wings of Ministry of Water Resources to take appropriate action to boost up the expenditure in the following months of current financial year and also ensure that there is no reduction in the allocation under the schemes at the RE 2008-09 stage. The expenditure during 2008-09 in respect of the Plan schemes under Major and Medium Irrigation upto June 2008 is Rs. 18.78 crore. This expenditure is about 8.95% of BE for the year 2008-09 which was only 4.38% upto June 2007 during the year 2007-08.

Recommendation (Para No.3.40)

The Committee note that the Hydrology Project (Phase-I) was implemented in 9 States with the International Development Association (World Bank) assistance of SDR 75.1 million under a credit agreement with the Government of India. Hydrology Project II has been taken up with the assistance of International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (World Bank) in 13 States and 8 Central Agencies to promote the sustained and effective use of hydrological information system by all potential users concerned with water resources planning and management, contributing to improved productivity and cost effectiveness of water related investments. The Hydrology Project-II is not being implemented in certain States as a matter of Government policy. The budgetary allocation (plan) of Rs. 44 crore has been made for 2008-2009 for the project. There are 6 major consultancies costing a total of Rs. 81.4 crore for the entire project. It is expected that the consultants would be in place during the first quarter of 2008-09 and then activities related to procurement of Computer Software, machinery and equipments and execution of civil works will also pick up. The cost of the project is likely to be Rs. 631.83 crore and implementation of the project will actively start from 2008-2009 and continue till the year 2012. The Committee desire that the

consultants be appointed at the earliest to avoid any further delay and the consequent increase in the cost of project. The Committee further desire the Ministry to review the policy for implementing Hydrology project-II in the remaining States also.

Reply of the Government

There are six major consultancies to be procured under HP-II. The procurement of three major consultancies i.e. Technical Assistance (Implementation Support) and Management Consultancy, Development of Decision Support System (DSS-Planning) for Integrated Water Resources Development and Management Consultancy and Development of Real Time Decision Support System Consultancy is in advanced stage. The procurement process is well in progress for Consultancy for Hydrological Design Aid-Surface Water [HDA-SW]. Request for proposal for this consultancy has been issued to six short listed firms. As regards the consultancies for Hydrological Design Aid-Ground Water [HDA-GW] and Hydrological Design Aid-Water Quality [HDA-WQ], it has been decided in consultation with World Bank that the Terms of Reference of the consultancy may be finalized with help of Technical Assistance (Implementation Support) and Management consultant which is likely to be in place shortly in Project Coordinate Secretariat.

The issue of implementing Hydrology Project-II in the other states will be discussed with the World Bank during the Mid Term Review of the project (likely to be carried out in September 2008).

Comments of the Committee

(Please *see* Para No. 16 of Chapter-I of the Report)

Recommendation (Para No.3.41)

The Committee note that the management of water resources is a highly complex task and involves multi disciplinary domain including data execution, numerical model, optimization, data warehousing and the analysis of socio-economic, environmental and legal issues. Water Resources Information System plays a vital role in achieving the optimal

utilization of water resources. The scheme of Development of Water Resources Information System was launched in the Eleventh Plan (2007-08) with an allocation of Rs. 46 crore during 2008-09. The Expenditure Finance Committee of the Ministry of Finance has recommended an outlay of Rs. 242.3 crore. The Committee observe that the scheme launched at the start of the Eleventh Plan has already been delayed due to non-completion of some components of the scheme in the first year. They, therefore, desire the Ministry to take all necessary steps to increase the pace of activities under the scheme so that updated and more useful data is available for development of water resources in the country.

Reply of the Government

The scheme for “Development of Water Resources Information System” has since been approved by CCEA during its meeting held on 12th June 2008 at an estimated cost of Rs. 234.30 crores. The approval has since been conveyed to all concerned vide order dated 23rd June 2008. Necessary actions have already been initiated by Central Water Commission for implementing the various components of the schemes and completing the works as per target

Recommendation (Para No.4.11)

The budgetary allocation for Minor Irrigation for 2008-09 has been increased to Rs. 116.10 crore which is Rs. 36.05 crore more allocation as compared to the previous year. The higher allocation is provided for the expenditure likely to be incurred on purchase of deep drilling rigs, implementation of demonstrative artificial recharge structures, construction of piezometers monitoring wells, etc. which could not materialize during 2007-2008. The Committee regret to note further that if the works planned for previous years could have been completed in the scheduled time frame, no need would have arisen in the first instance for reduction of allocation at RE stage in 2007-08. Also, the enhanced allocation in the current Financial Year could have been better utilized for some new works. The Committee, therefore, desire the Ministry to take necessary steps to avoid such delays in execution of scheduled works which not only result in cost escalation but also delay the benefits accruing from the scheme.

Reply of the Government

Steps taken for utilization of funds under various activities are as under:

(i) Construction of Piezometers

Tendering process for outsourcing construction of piezometer monitoring wells is being completed. During 3rd quarter of 2008-09, 50 piezometer wells are to be constructed with the likely expenditure of Rs.0.50 crore whereas, 150 piezometers are planned for completion in 4th quarter with expenditure of Rs.1.50 crore.

(ii) Artificial Recharge

Implementation of demonstrative artificial recharge works have been stepped up. An amount of Rs.55.39 lakh has been released to States. Proposals amounting to Rs.2.00 crore have been received from States and are under examination in CGWB. Funds to the States are expected to be released by October 2008. States are being pursued to expedite submission of further proposals.

(iii) Procurement of Deep Drilling Rigs

The matter has been reviewed in the Government and CGWB have been directed to expedite purchase of rigs.

Recommendation (Para No.4.12)

A scheme was announced in the Budget Speech during 2007-08 for recharging ground water through 'Dug Wells' in 1,065 over exploited or critical blocks covering 100 districts and 7 States with a cost of about Rs.4,000 per 'Dug Well'. A subsidy of 100% to small and marginal farmers and 50% to others was proposed. No new 'Dug Wells' are proposed to be constructed, however, the scheme is being implemented through 4.455 million existing irrigation 'Dug Wells' owned by farmers. The Guidelines for implementation of the scheme have been circulated to the concerned State Governments. The capacity building / mass awareness is proposed to be carried throughout 2008-09. The process of selection of beneficiaries has started. The Committee expect that on selection of beneficiaries after issue of Guidelines some constructive work would be taken up and the

benefits from the recharged 'Dug Wells' would begin to accrue. They would like to be apprised of the progress made in this regard at periodic intervals.

Reply of the Government

- The State Sector Scheme on "Artificial Recharge of Ground Water through Dugwells" is being implemented in the 1180 Over-exploited, Critical and Semi-Critical blocks, covering 146 districts in the State of Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu.
- Capacity building programmes have been organised in all states by NABARD.
- Survey work for compilation of the list of beneficiaries and their bank account numbers is in progress in different states.
- The States have identified Nodal Department and constituted State Level Steering Committee (SLSC) and District Level Implementation and Monitoring Committees (DLIMC).
- Data for base line survey has been collected by CGWB.

Recommendation (Para No. 5.9)

The Committee observe that Flood Forecasting, River Management Activities and works related to Border Areas, and Infrastructure Development are some of the schemes covered under the Flood Control. The plan allocation for flood control sector was Rs. 66.45 crore and Rs. 67.09 crore at BE & RE 2007-08. Rs. 211 crore have been provided for the year 2008-09. The outlay for River Management activities for 2008-09 has been proposed at Rs. 160 crore as against Rs. 46 crore in 2007-08. The increase in plan allocation for 2008-09 is on account of (i) the increase in activities of Majuli Island, Dholla-Hattighuli entrusted to Brahmaputra Board; (ii) drainage development works of Brahmaputra Board; and (iii) proposed bank protection works along border rivers with Bangladesh and Pakistan. The increased amounts will be utilized for modernization of data collection and transmission systems undertaken by installing self-recording rain gauges, automatic water level recorders and satellite based communication system. The Committee further observe that floods create havoc every year in almost all parts of the country and they are of the opinion that if works

materialize as planned than to some extent the after effects of the flood could be minimized. The Committee, therefore, desire the Ministry to ensure that all works planned during the current financial year are completed and allocations are utilized fully. An allocation of Rs. 46.00 crore has been made for protection of Majuli Island from out of Rs. 160 crore provided for River Management Works. The Committee feel that this would boost the pace of work of protection of Majuli Island undertaken by Brahmaputra Board as there is an alarming decrease in area of island due to erosion by floods. They would like to be informed of the progress as well as efficacy of the works undertaken for protection of Majuli Island by Brahmaputra Board.

Reply of the Government

During the current financial year an allocation of Rs. 46 crores have been made for protection of Majuli Island from out of Rs. 160 crores provided for River Management works. The allocation has been made to boost the pace of work of protection of Majuli Island undertaken by Brahmaputra Board. Presently Phase-I works with sanctioned estimated amount of Rs. 41.28 crores are under final stage. An expenditure of Rs. 40 crores has been incurred on Phase-I works and 92% of the works have been completed till June, 2008.

Out of Rs. 40 crores incurred by the Board, an amount of about Rs. 12 crores has been spent during the current financial year, 2008-09 till June, 2008.

In view of the directions given by Hon'ble Prime Minister during the meeting chaired by him on 29.10.2007 for protection of the Majuli Island effectively, the Brahmaputra Board prepared a fresh DPR for a sum of Rs.159 crores covering the works of Phase-II and Phase-III works with the increased scope of works on the basis of the findings of model studies and the behavior of the river and submitted in the month of March 2008, which is under technical scrutiny in Central Water Commission.

Further, a Standing Committee on Majuli Island was constituted by the Ministry of Water Resources under the Chairmanship of Member (RM), CWC during December 2007 to review and suggest the measures for the protection of Majuli Island. The Committee visited

the vulnerable locations of the Majuli Island during first week of the January 2008 and recommended some emergent works to be executed by Brahmaputra Board prior to monsoon of 2008 amounting to Rs.5.00 crores in addition to the works of Phase-I.

The Standing Committee on Majuli visited the Majuli Island again on 16-17 June, 2008 and visited the works on the vulnerable locations. It was generally felt by this Committee that the overall extent of works implemented by the Brahmaputra Board was satisfactory.

Recommendation (Para No.6.8)

The Committee note that the Farakka Barrage Project was started in 1962 with the objective of the operation and maintenance of Farakka Barrage and associated structures including anti-erosion measures for safety of the Barrage. Farakka Barrage Project was allocated Rs. 75 crore during 2008-2009 as against Rs.33 crore in the previous year. Additional allocation of Rs. 42 crore was intended for anti-erosion measures in the extended jurisdiction of the Farakka Barrage Project along the river Ganga-Padma main stem for completion before the onset of Monsoon 2008. It is heartening to note that the anti-erosion measures in a combination of revetment of banks along the launching apron being carried out under the technical guidance of CWC have been able to arrest the bank erosion successfully at Panchanandpur village in district Malda. The Committee appreciates the work completed under the project. They desire the Ministry to inform them of the progress of the anti-erosion measures undertaken in the extended jurisdiction of the project.

Reply of the Government

During the current financial year 2008-09, Farakka Barrage Project (FBP) Authorities have undertaken anti-erosion works in critical reaches, for a total length of 3270 m at a cost of Rs. 28.89 crore, along the river Ganga-Padma at/near the village Birnagar/ Simultala and Manikchak Ghat on left bank of Ganga in district Malda and at Ramrampur, Arjunpur and Duliyan villages in district Murshidabad (WB). In addition, strengthening of partially damaged works, in a length of 760 m, was taken up at Birnagar/ Simultala at a cost of Rs. 1.18 crore. In addition, temporary works at Manikchak Ghat in a length of 1033 m were also undertaken at a cost of Rs. 1.43 crore. Thus, the anti-erosion works at a total cost of Rs.

31.50 crore were undertaken by FBP in the month of April/May, 2008 along the river Ganga-Padma in district Malda and Murshidabad of West Bengal. The physical progress, as reported on 31st July, 2008, of the above works, is summarized as under:

1. Anti-erosion works on river Ganga at Ramrampur/ Arjunpur and Duliyan in district Murshidabad.

The anti-erosion works downstream of the barrage in district Murshidabad at Ramrampur / Arjunpur and Duliyan villages were taken up in a length of 700 m at a total cost of Rs. 6.07 crore. These works have been completed (up to 97%) as reported on 31.7.2008.

2. Anti-erosion works on river Ganga at/near Birnagar in district Malda

The anti-erosion works in a length of 870 m at Birnagar have been completed except some repair works of the existing embankment in low lying area which has been filled up with water due to onset of early monsoon and local problems faced in the acquisition of private land earlier. The remaining work will be completed after monsoon. In order to restrict the spill over of river waters over the bank, a temporary bund has been constructed to sustain a river discharge of 20 lakh cusecs.

3. Anti-erosion works on river Ganga near Manikchak Ghat.

Anti-erosion works on the left bank of Ganga near Manikchak Ghat in district Malda were undertaken in a length of 1700 m at a cost of Rs. 14.51 crore. As reported by the project authorities, 94 % of embankment construction and 95% boulder pitching were already completed on 31st July'2008. The work of boulder filled G I Crates apron, placed in the river under water, was slightly delayed due to onset of early monsoon this year and 88% work was completed on 31st July, 2008.

4. **Temporary anti-erosion works at Manikchak Ghat.**

Besides the regular anti-erosion works, temporary measures were also completed in a length of 1033 m at Manikchak Ghat at a cost of Rs. 1.43 crore by dumping earth filled bags in nylon crates to arrest erosion in river bed and bank erosion.

5. **Repair of partially damaged works at Birnagar/Simultala**

The partially damaged works at Birnagar/Simultala upstream of Farakka Barrage in district Malda in a length of 760 m are also completed at a cost of Rs. 1.18 crore.

Recommendation (Para No.7.21)

The Committee note that the Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme was conceived in 1996 to provide financial assistance to the States as grant for the irrigation projects and as an incentive to the States for creating irrigation infrastructure in the country. The Finance Minister has enhanced the allocation under AIBP for 2008-09 to Rs. 20,000 crore, i.e. 43% increase from 2007-08. AIBP has been revamped to complete more irrigation projects in the shortest possible time, 24 Major and Medium and 753 Minor Irrigation Projects are likely to be completed in 2007-08 creating 5 lakh hectare additional irrigation potential. Based on the assessment of the proposals from the State Governments, Ministry of Water Resources has projected a grant requirement of Rs. 10,200 crore for the year 2008-09 to the Planning Commission against which Rs. 4,300 crore has been provided for AIBP for 2008-09. The Ministry would approach the Planning Commission for additional allocation at Revised Estimate stage. The Committee expect the Ministry also to pursue the State Governments to come forward with matching share of the funds which would enable them to mobilize the allocation of Rs. 10,200 crore projected earlier. The Committee, at the same time desire the Ministry to ensure that the funds allocated are released in time and are fully utilized by the States.

Reply of the Government

In a bid to get allocation of the order of Rs.10,200 crore under AIBP, the Ministry has already approached Planning Commission, Ministry of Finance and Prime Minister. This will

be followed up by the Ministry from time to time in order to ensure timely release of central Assistance under AIBP to the States to ensure full utilization of funds at the earliest. In order to ensure proper utilization of AIBP funds, a series of meetings with the Secretaries (WR/Irrigation) of State Government have been held during May to July 2008 in which State Governments were persuaded to come forward with their AIBP release proposals at an early date along with utilization certificates of grants released earlier and matching share for the new proposals. These issues were also discussed in the conference of Secretaries (WR/Irrigation) in June 2008.

Recommendation (Para No.7.22)

The Committee observe that 23 new projects have been recommended by the Ministry of Water Resources to the Ministry of Finance for release of funds in 2007-08. A perusal of the list of 23 projects reveals that only a few States have cornered the major portion of the Central assistance. While the Committee are happy to note that few States are taking initiative and submitting good proposals for getting Central Assistance under AIBP, many others have not been able to take advantage of the vast sums being provided as Central Assistance year after year. They, however, desire the Ministry to encourage and assist other States to come forward with the viable proposals for more equitable share of funds among the States for AIBP so that the benefit of completed irrigation projects is available to the farming community evenly all over the country.

Reply of the Government

The issue was discussed with the Secretaries (WR/Irrigation) of the State Governments in a series of meeting on review of the AIBP during May to July 2008. The states were persuaded to submit viable proposals for ongoing as well as new projects as per relaxed guidelines of the AIBP effective from December 2006. The issue was also discussed in the conference of Secretaries (WR/Irrigation) held in June 2008.

Recommendation (Para No.7.23)

The Committee further observe that some States have been conferred special category status for availing Central grants up to 90%. Major / Medium Projects and Surface Water

Minor Irrigation Schemes of non special category States benefiting drought prone / tribal areas are also given up to 90% grant. Furthermore, Government propose to provide 90% of project cost as grant for projects identified as 'National Projects.' The Committee, during the course of many of their on-the-spot Study Visits have also come across suggestions from States for consideration of their cases for 90% grant. However, the Ministry have no proposal to accord special category status to the new States. The Committee desire that in view of the demand of various States for grant of special category status, the Ministry of Water Resources / Planning Commission need to review the policy for recognition of States under the special category in respect of AIBP Projects. They would like to be informed of the action taken in the matter.

Reply of the Government

The view of the Planning Commission has been sought in the matter. The criteria for defining the State as Special Category State is decided by the National Development Council and requests of the States for according special status are to be raised by the States in the National Development Council. However, approved projects of the non special category states benefiting drought prone and tribal areas are already included under Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme without insisting for inclusion against a completed project and are provided 90% grant on proportional basis based on the actual drought prone/tribal area benefited.

Recommendation (Para No.7.24)

The Committee note that evaluation studies of AIBP Projects had been taken up by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation during 2004-05. The final report of the Study was submitted in July 2007. The Ministry of Water Resources has examined / studied the report and corrective action is being taken through CWC to resolve the problems identified by taking up the matter the with State Governments. The Committee find that the issues highlighted in the Report are very common and confronted by the implementing authorities at the field level on almost all projects at the implementation stage. They have also come across these issues during many of their field visits and informal discussions with the implementing authorities in States. The Committee recommend the Ministry to take up

these issues with the State Governments and devise a solution to the problems as they consider these to be the causative factors for tardy implementation and resultant spilling over of projects from plan to plan. They desire to be informed of the action taken in the matter.

Reply of the Government

The Ministry has directed Central Water Commission to take up the matter with the State Governments/Project implementing agencies. The CWC has taken up the matter with the state governments through their Regional Offices. The issues were also discussed in a series of meeting convened by the Secretary (WR) during May to July 2008 while reviewing performance of the States in water sector schemes and their programme for the year 2008-09. The state governments have been advised to take corrective measures while CWC would be monitoring the progress of implementation.

CHAPTER III

RECOMMENDATIONS/OBSERVATIONS WHICH THE COMMITTEE DO NOT DESIRE TO PURSUE IN VIEW OF THE GOVERNMENT'S REPLIES

Recommendation (Para No.3.37)

The Committee are constrained to observe that the number of on-going projects has been steadily increasing ever since the Standing Committee on Water Resources have taken note of the increasing allocations made for the purpose year after year as observed by them in their First, Third, Fifth and Seventh Reports (14th Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants. According to the Ministry, there were 471 on-going projects which spilled over from Ninth Plan to Tenth Plan. Out of these, 178 Projects were likely to be completed, however, only 102 projects have been reported as completed. In addition to the projects which spilled over from Ninth to Tenth Plan (369 projects), 300 new projects were proposed to be undertaken during Tenth Plan though only 148 are reported to have been undertaken of which only 1 Medium and 2 ERM Projects were completed during the Tenth Plan and remaining 145 Projects spilled over to Eleventh Plan. The Committee are dismayed to further observe that as per the report of the Working Group on Water Resources for the Eleventh Plan, 300 new projects are proposed to be taken up during the Eleventh Plan. Thus, there is a total spill over of 514 projects from the Ninth Plan to the Eleventh Plan. As the normal gestation period of major projects is considered to be 10 to 15 years while for medium projects the same is taken as 5 to 8 years, it could be safely concluded that the projects taken during a particular plan period would definitely spill over to another plan even in normal course. Given this backdrop, the specious plea of the Ministry that it acts as a facilitator and provides assistance / guidance as and when necessary to the State Governments who plan, execute and maintain the water resources projects, is unacceptable. The Ministry's argument that new Projects are included on the request / requirement of the State Governments does not hold good and points to the failure on the part of the Ministry to guide the States properly on this aspect. The Committee are of the opinion that the Planning Commission and the Ministry of Water Resources should have acted tough keeping in view the overall financial health of majority of the State Governments who are not in a position to raise even the O & M costs in respect of many of the major projects. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Planning

Commission and the Ministry give a careful thought on putting a cap on the number of new projects that could be proposed by the State Governments as in the case of funding of AIBP Projects where the Ministry gives sanction for inclusion of a new project only if one of the on-going projects has been completed. The Committee would like to be apprised of the measures taken or proposed to be taken on this aspect.

Reply of the Government

As desired, the Planning Commission has been consulted in the matter. Planning Commission has expressed concern over the proliferation of taking up of new irrigation projects and in the Eleventh Plan document has noted “New projects should be undertaken only after confirming that adequate funds for ongoing Programmes are available, in the State Plan as well as the availability of Central Assistance by the Planning Commission. However, many states take up new projects in the name of rectifying the regional imbalance, and meeting the requirement of different areas. The states are empowered to take up the projects in irrigation on their own wisdom as water is a state subject. The State Plan funds allocated by the Planning Commission are in the form of block grants and loans and States are empowered to do the inter-se sectoral distribution which includes irrigation and may fund new projects also. Hence, capping the number of new projects has to be done by the States and Planning Commission would persuade the States against taking up the new projects without completing the old projects”.

Broadly, the Ministry of Water Resources is in agreement with the view expressed by the Planning Commission.

CHAPTER IV

**RECOMMENDATIONS/OBSERVATIONS IN RESPECT OF WHICH REPLIES OF
THE GOVERNMENT HAVE NOT BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE COMMITTEE:**

- NIL -

CHAPTER V

RECOMMENDATIONS/OBSERVATIONS IN RESPECT OF WHICH FINAL REPLIES OF THE GOVERNMENT ARE STILL AWAITED

Recommendation (Para No.3.38)

The Committee are perturbed to note that against a target of 6.5 m.ha. additional irrigation potential only 4.543 m.ha. irrigation potential has been created which amounts to approx. 70% achievement. The shortfall was due to non-allocation of sufficient funds by the State Governments under the State Plan, delay in land acquisition, rehabilitation of displaced persons, etc. Further, about 81% of the created potential through MMI Projects has been assessed to be utilized. With a view to have proper assessment of the reasons for the gap between the creation and utilization of irrigation potential, the Ministry awarded studies through IIMs at Ahmedabad, Bangalore, Kolkata and Lucknow. The IIM, Ahmedabad submitted an interim report and for others the reports are awaited. Furthermore, an ambitious target of creation of 9 m.ha. irrigation potential through MMI has been fixed by the Ministry for the Eleventh Plan. The Committee's examination of the issue revealed a continuous trend of lesser than the targeted creation and further lesser utilization than the actual creation of irrigation potential. The Committee in their earlier Reports have been prodding the Government to make earnest efforts to increase the creation as well as its utilization of potential. The Committee hope that the outcome of the studies being conducted by IIMs across the country would help the Ministry to take appropriate steps to rectify the imbalance in this respect in the Eleventh Plan. They would like to be informed of the findings of the study conducted by various IIMs and action taken thereon by the Ministry by 30 June, 2008.

Reply of the Government

The studies related to gap between the irrigation potential created and utilised were awarded to Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Ahmedabad, Bangalore, Kolkata & Lucknow in August 2007. Due to delay in receipt of necessary secondary data /information from the respective State Governments and collection of primary data through field surveys, the IIMs have requested for the extension of time. As per revised schedule the reports are to be submitted by all the IIMs by 31st August, 2008.

The findings of the studies would be submitted for kind information of the Standing Committee soon after the receipt of the reports from IIMs.

Comments of the Committee

(Please *see* Para No. 10 of Chapter-I of the Report)

Recommendation (Para No.3.39)

The Committee observe that pursuant to their recommendation in the Seventh Report that remote sensing technology be used to bridge the gap between the creation and utilization of irrigation potential, the Government asked the National Remote Sensing Agency (NRSA), Hyderabad, to assess the variations in this regard by using remote sensing technology. NRSA Report reveals large variations in field study and remote sensing technology data in respect of the Teesta Hydel Project in West Bengal. The large variation is attributed to lack of continuity in canals at several places and non-construction of hydraulic structures. The Government of West Bengal has been asked to clarify the over reporting in this regard. The Committee regret to note that the fragmented portions of the canals / infrastructures created have been considered as potential created whereas it should have been on actual basis. The Committee desire the Ministry to caution the field authorities to desist from over reporting of irrigation potential and warn them of strict action in case of over reporting. The Committee also desire to be informed of the results of NRSA studies in 53 AIBP aided projects.

Reply of the Government

Apart from two projects i.e. Teesta Barrage Project and Upper Krishna Projects, studies have been undertaken by National Remote Sensing Agency (NRSA) in respect of 53 AIBP assisted projects of 18 States. So far, reports in respect of 16 projects have been submitted by NRSA. It has been observed that there are variations in the created irrigation potential assessed through remote sensing and that reported by the Project Authorities. The Central Water Commission (CWC) has taken up the matter with the respective State Governments to identify the reasons for variations and ascertain the factual position. NRSA has been requested to expedite the completion of the projects.

Further, Central Water Commission has already taken up the matter related to the differences in the created irrigation potential assessed by remote sensing and that reported by the Project Authorities with the Government of West Bengal.

Comments of the Committee

(Please *see* Para No. 13 of Chapter-I of the Report)

Recommendation (Para No.5.10)

The Committee note that to assess the success of Flood Control schemes, the Ministry has entrusted Performance Evaluation Studies of Flood Sector Schemes to 'Indian Institute of Public Administration' at a cost of Rs. 27.03 lakh. The Study Report is expected by July 2008. The Committee would like to be informed of the findings of the report and action taken by the Ministry thereon. They are, however, constrained to note that a proposal for restructuring of the Brahmaputra Board has been under consideration of the Ministry for quite a long time now. The Secretary, Water Resources informed during evidence that restructuring of the Brahmaputra Board requires an amendment to the Brahmaputra Board Act. The draft amendments are with the Ministry of Law for vetting and resolution of certain issues. The Committee, therefore, desire the Ministry to resolve the issues involved in the amendments without further loss of time and introduce the amending Bill in Parliament at the earliest.

Reply of the Government

In regard to the Performance Evaluation Studies of Flood Sector Schemes entrusted to Indian Institute of Public Administration, it is mentioned that IIPA has 4 progress reports. Based on these reports, the present status of progress of work is given below:

- (a) IIPA team has so far visited the following sites:
 - (i) 10 anti-erosion/bank protection works sites in Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal and Assam,
 - (ii) 2 drainage system improvement sites in Bihar and Orissa,

- (iii) 23 Flood Forecasting / Hydrological Observation sites of CWC in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal, Orissa, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Assam,
 - (iv) Investigation site of Teesta Hydro Electric Project in Sikkim, and CWC offices at Varanasi and Kolkata.
- (a) The team collected all available project related documents, conducted detailed interviews with senior officer of the CWC, controlling and monitoring these sites and discussed the relevant issues with all site level staff. Project level documents such as DPR, monitoring reports and other reports prepared by experts prior to approval of some of these projects have been collected and are being analyzed.
- (b) The team has also collected the relevant letters and copies of contract signed by the State Government indicating important dates and flow of funds in the specific project cycle. The team has also photographically documented various aspects of operations and site conditions.

The analysis and processing of field data is progressing. The final report is expected to be submitted by IIPA by August, 2008.

The proposal for restructuring of the Brahmaputra Board through an amendment of Brahmaputra Board Act is under active consideration in the Ministry of Water Resources. The efforts are being made by the Ministry to resolve the issues involved in the amendments in consultation with the Ministry of Law at the earliest.

Comments of the Committee

(Please *see* Para No. 19 of Chapter-I of the Report)

NEW DELHI;
20 October, 2008
28 Asvina, 1930 (Saka)

R. SAMBASIVA RAO,
Chairman,
Standing Committee on Water Resources

APPENDIX – I

MINUTES OF THE FOURTH SITTING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON WATER RESOURCES (2008-2009) HELD ON MONDAY, 20 OCTOBER 2008

The Committee sat from 1500 hours to 1545 hours in Committee Room 'C', Ground Floor, Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

PRESENT

Shri R. Sambasiva Rao – Chairman

MEMBERS

LOK SABHA

2. Shri Bhanwar Singh Dangawas
3. Shri Bikram Keshari Deo
4. Shri Rajen Gohain
5. Shri Shankhlal Majhi
6. Shri Abu Ayes Mondal
7. Shri Lonappan Nambadan
8. Shri Harilal Madhavbhai Patel

RAJYA SABHA

9. Shri Kumar Deepak Das
10. Smt. Vasanthi Stanley

SECRETARIAT

- | | | | |
|----|----------------------|---|----------------------|
| 1. | Shri N.K. Sapra | - | Additional Secretary |
| 2. | Shri P.K. Grover | - | Joint Secretary |
| 3. | Shri P.V.L.N. Murthy | - | Deputy Secretary |

At the outset, the Hon'ble Chairman welcomed the Members to the sitting of the Committee and briefed the Members on some important aspect of examination of the subject "Inter Linking of Rivers".

2. Thereafter, the Committee took up for consideration the following :
 - (i) Memorandum No.2 and the Draft Report on Action Taken by the Government on the Recommendations/Observations contained in their Ninth Report (Fourteenth Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants (2008-2009) of the Ministry of Water Resources; and
 - (ii) Draft Report on the subject "Inter Linking of Rivers". After some discussion, the Committee adopted both the Reports without any amendment/modification.
3. The Committee then authorized the Chairman to have the above draft Reports finalized on the basis of factual verification from the Ministry of Water Resources and to present the same to both the Houses of Parliament.

The Committee then adjourned.

APPENDIX II
[Vide Para 4 of the Introduction]

**ANALYSIS OF ACTION TAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT ON THE
RECOMMENDATIONS/OBSERVATIONS CONTAINED IN THE NINTH REPORT
(FOURTEENTH LOK SABHA) OF THE COMMITTEE**

(i)	Total number of Recommendations/Observations	20
(ii)	Recommendation/Observations which have been accepted by the Government	
	Para Nos. 2.47, 2.48, 2.49, 2.50, 2.51, 3.36, 3.40, 3.41, 4.11, 4.12, 5.9, 6.8, 7.21, 7.22, 7.23 and 7.24	
	Total	16
	Percentage	80%
(iii)	Recommendations/Observations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of the Government's replies	
	Para No. 3.37	
	Total	1
	Percentage	5 %
(iv)	Recommendations/Observations in respect of which replies of the Government have not been accepted by the Committee	
	Para No. Nil	
	Total	Nil
	Percentage	0 %
(v)	Recommendations/Observations in respect of which final replies of the Government are still awaited	
	Para Nos. 3.38, 3.39 and 5.10	
	Total	3
	Percentage	15%