

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON WATER RESOURCES
(2009-2010)**

5

FIFTEENTH LOK SABHA

MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES

**DEMANDS FOR GRANTS
(2009-2010)**

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

FIFTH REPORT



LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

August, 2010/Shravana, 1932 (Saka)

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(2009-2010)
(FIFTEENTH LOK SABHA)

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[Action taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations
contained in the First Report (Fifteenth Lok Sabha) of the
Standing Committee on Water Resources]

Presented to Lok Sabha on 20.08.2010

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LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

NEW DELHI

August, 2010/Shravana, 1932 (Saka)

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COMPOSITION OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON WATER RESOURCES (2009-2010)

Shri Beni Prasad Verma - **Chairman**

MEMBERS

Lok Sabha

2. Shri Ghanshyam Anuragi
3. Shri Mahendrasinh P. Chauhan
4. Shri Sher Singh Ghubaya
5. Shri Dip Gogoi
6. Shri Badri Ram Jakhar
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12. Shri S.P.Y. Reddy
13. Shri Arjun Roy
14. Smt. J. Shantha
15. Shri K. Shivkumar alias J.K. Ritheesh
16. Smt. Annu Tandon
17. Dr. P. Venugopal (Tiruvallur)
18. Shri Sajjan Verma

Rajya Sabha

19. Shri B.S. Gnanadesikan
20. Dr. Gyan Prakash Pilonia
21. Shri Ranjitsinh Vijaysinh Mohite-Patil
22. Shri Mangala Kisan
23. Shri Kumar Deepak Das
24. Dr. Ashok S. Ganguly

SECRETARIAT

1. Shri N.K. Sapra - Additional Secretary
2. Shri Devender Singh - Joint Secretary
3. Shri B.S. Dahiya - Director
4. Shri A.K. Yadav - Committee Officer

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairman, Standing Committee on Water Resources (2009-2010) having been authorised by the Committee to submit the Report on their behalf, present the Fifth Report on the Action Taken by Government on the observations/recommendations contained in the First Report (Fifteenth Lok Sabha) of the Standing Committee on Water Resources (2009-2010) on “Demands for Grants (2009-10)” of the Ministry of Water Resources.

2. The First Report of the Committee was presented to Lok Sabha on 10 December 2009. The replies of the Government to all the recommendations contained in the Report were received on 7 May, 2010.

3. The replies of the Government were examined and the Report was considered and adopted by the Committee at their sitting held on 17 August 2010.

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

NEW DELHI;
17 August, 2010
26 Shrawana, 1932 (Saka)

BENI PRASAD VERMA,
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 First Report (15th Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants (2009-2010) of the Ministry of Water Resources which was presented to Lok Sabha on 10 December 2009.

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. 2.39, 2.40, 2.44, 2.45, 2.47, 2.48, 3.14, 3.15, 3.16, 4.11, 5.14, 6.7, and 6.8 (Total - 13)

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

Para Nos. 2.42, 2.46, 4.10, 5.13 and 5.15 (Total -5)

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

Para Nos.2.41 and 2.43 (Total - 02)

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

(Total - Nil)

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

A. Need for judicious utilization of funds.

Recommendation (Para No. 2.40)

4. The Committee had noted that the actual plan expenditure during 2007-08 was to the extent of 86% which dropped to 73% during 2008-09. The Ministry had informed that the expenditure could not be incurred as per the targets in respect of the schemes, viz. Ground Water Management and Regulation, Hydrology Project and R&D. There have been slight shortfalls in some of the schemes also. The Committee, therefore, had desired the Ministry to give greater and focused attention while assessing the actual requirement of funds during a particular year so that the funds allocated are utilized judiciously and optimally.

5. The Ministry of Water Resources (MoWR) in its action taken reply has intimated that the instructions of the Committee have been noted for compliance and necessary directions issued to all organizations under the Ministry of Water Resources.

6. The Committee while noting a drop in Plan expenditure from 86% in 2007-08 to 73% in 2008-2009 had desired proper assessment of requirement of funds so as to avoid idle parking of allocated funds. The Ministry's response that necessary instructions have been issued to the concerned organizations is casual. The Committee hope that the Ministry would ensure by close and constant monitoring that its instructions are scrupulously followed by its various executing agencies and field formations to ensure full utilization of allotted funds.

B. Utilization Certificates(UCs)

Recommendation (Para No. 2.41)

7. The Committee had noted that as on 1 April 2009, 43 Utilisation Certificates(UCs) worth Rs. 2.22 crore from 65 institutions and Autonomous Bodies and also 21 UCs worth Rs. 38.38 crore from 25 State Governments were outstanding. Due to constant efforts made by the

Ministry the number of outstanding UCs as on 31 July 2009 in respect of grants released upto 31 March 2007 had come down to 28 for institutions and Autonomous Bodies. However, it remained at 21 in respect of State Governments reportedly due to non-reconciliation of accounts of the implementing agencies of the States. The Committee, therefore, had desired that Ministry should not allow the States and particularly the autonomous bodies working under them to delay submission of UCs and recommended that some timeframe for submission of UCs should be set besides introducing penalty clause to ward off such delays. The States should also be asked periodically for reconciliation of accounts of the implementing agencies of the States.

8. The Government in reply submitted that the status of outstanding UCs as on 31.10.2009 in respect of Grants released upto 31.03.2007 to Institutions/Autonomous Bodies and State Government is as given below:

Status as on	Institutions/Autonomous Bodies		States / UTs	
	No. of UCs	Amount (Rs in Crore)	No. of UCs	Amount(Rs. in crore)
01.04.2008	87	5.17	47	68.56
30.09.2008	65	2.92	26	51.57
01.04.2009	43	2.22	21	38.38
31.07.2009	28	1.63	21	38.38
01.10.2009	28	1.63	14	36.79

It has been stated that strict watch is being kept on receipt of UCs at the time of release of Grant-in-Aid. No grants are being released without getting the UCs for the grants released for the previous year.

As regards the UCs of State Governments, the concerned divisions of this Ministry, viz. CAD / Minor Irrigation / Ganga Wings are monitoring the same regularly.

9. **The Committee in their Report had desired the Ministry not to allow to delay in submission of UCs by the States and autonomous bodies and had recommended to set a timeframe for submission of UCs in addition to the introduction of a penalty clause to**

avoid such delays. The Ministry, while furnishing status of outstanding UCs has stated that a strict watch was being kept on receipt of UCs at the time of release of grant-in-aid. The Ministry, however, preferred to remain studiously silent on fixing of timeframe and introducing a penalty clause in case of delays. The Committee deprecate such a perfunctory approach of the Ministry in tackling serious issues like inordinate delays in submission of UCs and therefore, reiterate their earlier recommendation to fix a time frame for submission of UCs and to introduce a penalty clause to ward off delays.

C. Review of National Water Policy.

Recommendation (Para No. 2.43)

10. The Committee had noted that in order to address the possible threat posed by climate change, the Prime Minister announced the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC) on 30 June 2008 which envisages eight National Missions including the National Water Mission (NWM). The Ministry of Water Resources has prepared the draft Mission document and submitted for consideration by Prime Minister's Council on Climate Change. NWM's objectives are 'Conservation of water, minimizing wastage and ensuring equal distribution across and within States'. Also, one of the goals of the NWM is to increase the efficiency of water use. The Committee had further noted that in view of the strategies proposed, the revisiting of National Water Policy would be undertaken in consultation with the stakeholders particularly the State Governments. It was likely to be discussed in the thirteenth meeting of 'National Water Board.' The Committee had expected the Ministry of Water Resources to review the National Water Policy and take note of the various suggestions given by the State Governments, and other stakeholders and eminent climatologists keeping in view the looming threat of climate change and the grave scarcity of water in future.

11. The Government in action taken reply stated that the 13th Meeting of National Water Board was held on 18 September 2009. One of the items of Agenda for the meeting was "Review of National Water Policy – 2002". Suggestions have been received from various State

Governments. The participants also made valuable suggestions. It is proposed to organize consultation workshops and seek views from various stakeholders including specialists, academicians and civil society also on the National Water Policy.

12. The Committee in their report while keeping in view the looming threat of climate change and grave scarcity of water in future had expected the Ministry to review the National Water Policy and take note of the suggestions given by various stakeholders. The Ministry has stated that they proposed to hold consultation workshop and seek views from various stakeholders on National Water Policy. However, the casual approach of the Ministry is too apparent since no time frame has been set for holding such a workshop. The Committee are not convinced with the reply of the Ministry and reiterate their earlier recommendation to review the National Water Policy without any further loss of time.

D. Utilization of irrigation potential

Recommendation (Para No. 3.16)

13. The Committee had noted that the ultimate irrigation potential is 140 Mha whereas 34 Mha is yet to be created. Under MMI the ultimate irrigation potential is 54.465 Mha out of which 42.277 Mha has been created upto the end of Tenth Plan. The target for XI Plan is 9.0 Mha. The Committee had also noted that the targets were not achieved in the past in spite of the assistance given under AIBP. The Committee had further noted that against the irrigation potential created to the extent of 42.277 Mha, the utilization of irrigation potential was 34.42 Mha upto X Plan, i.e. 81% of the created potential has been utilized. The Committee were perturbed to note that despite providing assistance under AIBP, the targets set for creation of irrigation potential were yet to be achieved. The Committee had desired the Ministry to look into the causes of the underutilization and take appropriate and effective steps to increase the utilisation of irrigation potential.

14. The Ministry in reply stated that the ultimate irrigation potential is estimated to be about 140 million hectare out of which about 102.7 million hectare of irrigation potential was reported to be created by the end of X Plan. As per the information provided by the State Governments, total irrigation potential created up to March 2009 is about 106.4 Million hectare. Thus about 33.6 million hectare remains to be created.

The ultimate irrigation potential under major & medium irrigation projects has been estimated to be about 58.5 million hectare out of which about 42.35 million hectare of creation of irrigation potential has been reported by States up to the end of X Plan. However, the corresponding irrigation potential utilization is about 34.42 million hectare.

Ministry of Water Resources awarded studies to Indian Institute of Management (IIMs) Ahmedabad, Bangaluru, Kolkatta and Lucknow to examine the various issues related to the gap between irrigation potential created and utilised and for suggesting measures for reducing the gap. In the reports submitted by IIMs, several reasons have been identified for the gap between irrigation potential created and irrigation potential utilised and some of the important reasons are as under:

- i. Lack of proper operation and maintenance
- ii. Incomplete distribution system
- iii. Non-completion of command area development
- iv. Changes from the initially designed cropping pattern
- v. Diversion of irrigable land for other purposes.

The report of the studies carried out by IIMs was circulated to all the State Governments and other stakeholders. With a view to further deliberate on the findings of the studies and recommendations made by IIMs and the suggestions received from the State Governments and other stakeholders, a workshop was organised by the Ministry of Water Resources on 17 March 2009 at New Delhi. The findings of the studies and the important

points which emerged during the deliberations at the workshop have been forwarded to the State Governments for necessary actions.

15. **The Committee had noted with concern that despite the assistance provided under AIBP, the targets fixed for creation of irrigation potential were not achieved and had recommended to look into the causes of under utilisation of irrigation potential and take effective steps to increase the utilisation thereof. The Ministry while giving the status of irrigation potential has stated that the findings of the studies undertaken by IIMs and the important points which emerged during the workshop held on 17 March 2009 have been forwarded to the State Governments for necessary action. The Committee desire that the action taken by the State Governments thereon be furnished to them.**

E. Repair, Renovation and Restoration of Water Bodies.

Recommendation (Para No. 6.7)

16. The Committee had noted that a pilot project for Repair, Renovation and Restoration of Water Bodies was launched in January 2005 in 26 districts of 15 States to augment and restore the capacity of water bodies and expand their irrigation potential. These projects cover 1,098 water bodies with total original culturable command area of 1.72 lakh ha. An additional irrigation potential of 0.78 lakh ha. was targeted under the Scheme. However, only 966 water bodies could be restored in 15 States. The Committee had regretted that the pace of restoration of water bodies was rather slow as only 966 Water Bodies could be restored against a small target of 1,098 water bodies. The Committee, therefore, recommended that the Ministry make concerted efforts to restore expeditiously the remaining 116 water bodies for which the work was in progress.

17. The Ministry in action taken replies furnished that the activities in respect of pilot scheme were undertaken in the year 2005 and were to be completed by the end of X five year

plan period. However, the spill over activities are being continued in some States. The State Governments were being pursued vigorously for early completion of project activities. Presently, works have been completed in 1033 water bodies and works in 17 water bodies have been dropped. It has been further stated that works have been completed in 12 States out of 15 States. AP, Maharashtra & Gujarat are the States where works are yet to be completed. In the latest communication dated 6 January 2010, addressed to the State governments they have been requested to complete all activities under the scheme and arrange furnishing the report to the Ministry immediately.

18. The Committee had in their report, regretted the slow pace of restoration of water bodies and recommended to make concerted efforts to restore expeditiously the 116 water bodies. The Ministry has stated that out of a total of 1,098 water bodies 1033 have since been restored and the restoration work was still continuing in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and Gujarat. The work on 17 water bodies has been dropped. The Committee regret to note that even in the extended period the targeted work has not been completed. The Committee, therefore, desire the Ministry to impress upon the State Governments to complete the pending projects of restoration of water bodies at the earliest. The Committee would also like to be informed of the reasons for dropping of the restoration work in 17 water bodies.

CHAPTER II

RECOMMENDATIONS/OBSERVATIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE GOVERNMENT

Recommendation (Para No.2.39)

The Committee observe that the Budgetary provisions shown in the Demands for Grants (2009-10) are Rs.1,029.54 crore excluding the funds earmarked for Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP) and other water resources programmes. There is no change in the Plan side which remains at Rs. 612 crore as it was during 2008-09 at B.E. Stage. The Demand shows an overall increase of Rs. 123.21 crore over the corresponding figure of BE 2008-09. The allocation was reduced under Plan head by 7.03% during 2008-09 at RE stage as compared to BE 2008-09. Whereas on the Non-plan side expenditure was raised by 19.39%, i.e. from Rs. 290.57 crore to Rs. 346.70 crore, in capital section, plan allocation at Rs. 84.00 crore shows a reduction of Rs. 25.00 crore, i.e. 22.93% as compared to Rs. 109.00 crore in BE 2008-09. According to Ministry, the allocations for various activities under the schemes to be supported from the Revenue Head have been made as per the projected requirements. However, the main reason for enhancement of Non-plan allocations is additional expenditure due to increase in salary, increment of staff, increase in DA, etc. The reduction in Plan allocation at RE stage in 2008-09 has mainly due to delay in negotiations with World Bank assisted scheme 'Hydrology Project' and also because of non procurement of some equipment required under Groundwater Management and Regulation. The reduction of allocation under Capital Section (Plan) from Rs.109 crore to Rs. 94.40 crore at RE stage in 2008-09 is primarily for meeting the requirement in 'Farakka Barrage Project' and 'Infrastructure Development' which could not be utilized. The Plan (Revenue) allocation for 2009-10 has been increased primarily for meeting the enhanced requirement for the schemes, viz. Development of Water Resource Infrastructure System, Investigation of Water Resources Development and River Management & works in Border Rivers. The Committee desire that while assessment of

requirement is considered, a token allocation should be made where the procurement / scheme has not been finalized to avoid major changes at RE stage and also to avoid huge savings at the end of the year.

Reply of the Government

The instructions of the Committee have been noted for compliance. Due care has been taken in finalization of BE 2010-11 after making proper assessment of the requirement for the remaining period. Necessary directions have been issued to all organizations under Ministry of Water Resources.

Recommendation (Para No.2.40)

The Committee further note that the actual plan expenditure during 2007-08 was to the extent of 86% which dropped to 73% during 2008-09. The Ministry informed the Committee that the expenditure could not be incurred as per the targets in respect of the schemes 'Ground Water Management and Regulation, Hydrology Project and R&D.' There have been slight shortfalls in some of the schemes also. The Committee desire the Ministry to give greater and focused attention while assessing the actual requirement of funds during a particular year so that the funds allocated are utilized judiciously and optimally.

Reply of the Government

The instructions of the Committee have been noted for compliance and necessary directions have been issued to all organizations under the Ministry of Water Resources.

Comments of the Committee

(Please see Para No.6 of Chapter-I of the Report)

Recommendation (Para No.2.44)

The Committee also note that the Ministry of Water Resources has set up professorial Chairs, one each in IITs Roorkee, Kanpur, Kharagpur and Guwahati and NITs Srinagar and Patna, to carry out studies in water resources with special emphasis on assessment of the effect of Climate Change on water resources systems. A sum of Rs.1.00 crore towards endowment has been provided for each of the professorial Chair. The Committee would like to be informed of the status of studies so conducted.

Reply of the Government

The Professorial Chairs have since been filled up at IIT Kanpur, Kharagpur and Guwahati. Matter is being pursued with other institutions. Following studies have been completed:

- Preliminary Consolidated Report on Effect of Climate change on Water Resources has been prepared jointly by CWC and NIH.
- Impact of climate change on flow characteristics of selected sub basin [Beas basin up to Pandoh dam and Bhagirathi basin up to (Tehri Dam)].
- Study of the performance of the operation of reservoir (Pandoh and Tehri) for various scenarios of the flow characteristics.

Further, the following studies have been undertaken through the Professorial Chairs:

- Study on the impact of climate change on water resources on stream flow, erosion, sediment transport etc of River Teesta. The study is in the advanced stages of completion.
- Water quality modelling for the Ganga basin with emphasis on integrated surface and subsurface flows. The work is in progress.

- A major issue in estimating the effect of climate change on water resources is the uncertainty in downscaling the Global Climate Change Model results to a scale enough for basin hydrological modelling. Work on analysis of various statistical tools for this purpose to develop the most suitable one for the Ganga Basin is in progress.
- Study on the effect of sea-level rise on the coastal aquifer is in progress.
- Review of hydraulic design standard for Brahmaputra Basin. The study covers need for changing design discharge, high flood level, low flood level, scouring etc duly considering the impact of climate change on water resources. The study is in progress.
- Statistical Analysis of stream flow series of Brahmaputra River and evaluation of the severity of drought and flood condition.

Recommendation (Para No.2.45)

Irrigation is one of the six components for development of rural infrastructure under Bharat Nirman. The Committee note that under Bharat Nirman irrigation potential created during the last four years, i.e. from 2005-06 to 2008-09 is 7.12 Mha against the target of 10 Mha. According to the Ministry of Water Resources the remaining target is proposed to be achieved during the next two years, i.e. 2009-10 and 2010-11. The shortfall in achieving the target is attributed to tardy land acquisition process by States and delay in clearance of project by the Ministry of Environment & Forests. The Committee feel that due to lack of proper communication and coordination between different Departments and implementing agencies the stipulated targets could not be attained by the Ministry. Therefore, they desire the Ministry of Water Resources to make concerted and sustained efforts to overcome delays in clearance of projects. The Committee are optimistic that with prior inter-Ministerial and inter-Governmental consultations, foresight and strict monitoring the implementation of projects

would be completed within the stipulated time and funds. The Committee expect the progress report in this regard to be submitted to them periodically.

Reply of the Government

The Ministry of Water Resources is making concerted efforts for clearance of projects by the TAC as early as possible. The process started sometime at the beginning of the XI Plan. During 24.5.2002 to 17.11.2006 in a period of about four and half years, only 9 meetings of the TAC were held. However since 2.3.2007 till date in a period of about 3 years, 14 meetings of the TAC are already held. Apart from it, the number of projects being cleared are much more than the number cleared in earlier TAC meetings.

The numbers of projects cleared during 24.5.2002 to 17.11.2006 were 81 and during the period 2.3.2007 till date, the numbers of projects cleared are 182. Thus annual rate of clearance of project has increased about 3.3 times. These figures includes revised cost estimates and flood protection schemes also.

Recommendation (Para No.2.47)

The Committee note that as compared to U.S. where the gross water allocation for use in irrigation is 3 feet per ha., it is 4.8 feet of the gross irrigated area in our country. The overuse reflects a low irrigation efficiency of about 25% to 35% in most irrigation systems with efficiency of 40% to 45% in some exceptional cases. The primary reason identified is the poor infrastructure of irrigation systems including canals, drainage, field channels, etc. The Participatory Irrigation Management (PIM) has proved very useful in maintenance of village level distribution channels through Water Users Associations (WUAs). Fourteen States have so far enacted the PIM Legislation. The Ministry of Water Resources has been periodically pursuing the matter with the State Governments through different channels. The Committee are happy to note that the number of WUAs has increased to 56,934. These WUAs help in maintaining the field channels of irrigation system and reduce the workload of Government

machinery. However, the Committee desire that WUAs should be given more powers and funds so that they can maintain the irrigation infrastructure with greater ease and efficiency. They also desire the Ministry of Water Resources to pursue the matter of enactment of PIM Legislation at the highest level in those State Governments which are yet to enact such a legislation.

Reply of the Government

There is an urgent need to evolve suitable strategy for equitable and optimal utilization of irrigation water through community participation. The Ministry of Water Resources since 1985 has been encouraging farmer's participation in water distribution and management of tertiary system in the projects under CADP. Guidelines were issued in 1987 by MoWR for farmer's participation in water management primarily for projects under CADP which cover all aspects like past experience of PIM in India and abroad, objectives of PIM, area of operation of farmers, their duties and responsibilities, training and monitoring. Recognizing the need to provide legal backup to farmer's organization/PIM, the MoWR suggested amendments to the existing irrigation acts and recommended the same through a Model Bill to the States for guidance for incorporation in their State Irrigation Acts. Since water is a State subject, Government of India cannot enact any law to make it mandatory for the States to enact PIM acts, unless subject of water is included in the concurrent list. The issue of enactment of PIM Act was discussed with the State Principal Secretaries / Secretaries, Water Resources Departments during the 13th meeting of National Water Board of National Water Resources Council held on 18th September 2009 and they have been requested to expedite such enactments.

So far, 15 States namely Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Goa, Gujarat, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh have enacted Irrigation Acts for involving farmers in the management of irrigation systems. Legislation for Participatory Irrigation Management is under process of enactment in Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir and Meghalaya. Further, Participatory Irrigation

Management bill is under formulation in the States of Haryana, Nagaland, Uttarakhand and West Bengal. Already, 56934 Water Users Associations (WUAs) have been formed in the country covering an area of 13.54 M. ha as per information received from State Governments. Presently, a functional grant of Rs. 1000/- per hectare in the ratio of Rs.450: Rs.450: Rs.100 as Centre: State: Farmers contribution is being given under CADWM Programme to encourage farmers to form Water Users Associations.

As per the Model Bill of Ministry of Water Resources, WUAs will be supplied water on volumetric basis at a rate prescribed by the respective State Governments in consultation with the WUAs of the area from time to time. WUAs will have powers to levy and collect water charges either on volumetric or area basis to cover their various expenditures including administrative cost. Model Bill has suggested to provide crop freedom to the WUAs in the concerned area, right of membership, recycling of water as well as penalizing powers in the form of stopping the supply of water and imposition of penalty. State Governments in their respective PIM Acts have included financial sustainability and empowerment of WUAs suitable to their local needs. State like Andhra Pradesh has made provision of 100% plough back of water tax to the WUAs. In addition, State Governments are being advised from time to time by Ministry of Water Resources to undertake various capacity building activities for WUAs.

Recommendation (Para No.2.48)

2.48 The Committee also note that the Government has launched Farmers' Participatory Action Research Programme under which plots of 5,000 farmers were selected in different parts of the country and the demonstrative schemes were executed with the help of agricultural universities/institutes and other institutions. The demonstrations were given to show how by using less quantity of water more results can be achieved. National Water Mission (NWM) also emphasised on increasing efficiency in water use in all sectors. Regrettably, the Ministry does not have any programme to promote water use efficiency directly, contending that all the schemes are implemented by State Governments though under Command Area Development

Programme and ERM programme, water use efficiency is being promoted indirectly by MoWR. The Committee, therefore, desire the Ministry of Water Resources to play a greater proactive role in close concert and coordination with the Agriculture ministry to encourage micro irrigation system which will help in utilizing the available water and irrigation infrastructure optimally with a view to serve more people/areas.

Reply of the Government

The Farmers Participatory Action Research Programme (FPARP) was initiated as a follow up of the 1st meeting of Artificial Recharge of Ground Water Advisory Council. So far demonstration of technologies in 4590 out of 5000 projects has been completed. It is planned to further expand the program.

The programs related to micro irrigation are implemented by Ministry of Agriculture. However, the irrigation projects for extension, renovation and modernization (ERM) help in improving the efficiency which are supported by Ministry of Water Resources under Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP). One of the objectives of “Command Area Development and Water Management (CAD & WM)” program is to improve the water use efficiency. The CAD & WM programme also provides for financial assistance for development of infrastructure to facilitate use of sprinkler/drip irrigation systems i.e. for construction of stilling tanks, pump houses and laying of conveyance pipes up to farmer’s fields. The cost norms as fixed for On-Farm Development Works i.e. 50% of actual expenditure subject to maximum of Rs.11,000/- per ha as central assistance in Special category States and projects located in difficult areas and Rs.7500/- per ha central assistance for States/areas other than mentioned above is also applicable for development of infrastructure to facilitate use of sprinkler and drip irrigation system. One of the identified goal of National Water Mission envisaged under National Action Plan on Climate Change is “increasing water use efficiency by 20%”. Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Water Resources have worked closely in preparation of draft Mission Document of National Water Mission.

Recommendation (Para No.3.14)

3.14 The Budget allocation (Plan) for Major & Medium Irrigation for the year 2008-09 was Rs. 209.90 crore which was reduced to Rs.186.78 crore at RE stage. The reason for reduction at RE 2008-09 stage was mainly in two schemes i.e. Hydrology Project where delay took place in negotiations in respect of World Bank assisted schemes and Research and Development where allocation was reduced by Rs.10.00 crore in view of delay in completion of some specific activities related to geomorphological studies and Farmers Participatory Action Research Programme. The Committee are inclined to believe that had the Ministry done intensive monitoring of the physical and financial targets for each of the schemes there would have been optimal utilization of the allocated funds within the prescribed time period. The increase in allocation for 2009-10 by Rs.9.30 crore is primarily for the scheme "Development of Water Resources Information System' as per the actual requirement. The Committee are perturbed to note that allocations were reduced during 2008-09 at RE stage due to delay in Hydrology project and R&D as they feel that delay not only affects the growth but also leads to increase in the cost of the work. The Committee, therefore, desire that Ministry should take concrete steps to avoid delays on their part particularly in projects like R&D so vital in the implementation of the project/scheme.

Reply of the Government

The budget requirement for Hydrology Project II was reduced from Rs.44 crores to Rs.25.51 crores mainly due to delay in appointment of consultants. However, the project cost and duration has not changed. During the Mid-Term Review of the Project in October 2009, the World Bank has expressed satisfaction over the progress made during 2009-10. The project is being effectively monitored and is expected to achieve its objectives within stipulated cost and time.

Budget Estimate (BE) for the Research & Development plan scheme was Rs.60 crores during 2008-09, which was reduced to Rs.50 crores at RE stage. BE was reduced at RE stage mainly because of delay in award of works related to morphological studies and sedimentation studies. Following actions have been taken for achievement of physical and financial targets under some of the components:

- All the Indian National Committees have been requested to expedite the examination and appraisal of research proposal.
- The Indian National Committees have been reconstituted during September 2008 and the frequency of meetings of Indian National Committees (INCs) has been increased from minimum one meeting to two meetings in a year in the newly reconstituted all 5 INCs.
- The progress is being closely monitored.

Recommendation (Para No.3.15)

3.15 The Committee note that 477 on-going projects (166 Major, 222 Medium and 89 ERM) have spilled over to XI Plan. Also 309 new projects (78 Major, 145 Medium and 86 ERM) were proposed to be taken up during the XI Plan. Out of 477 projects 26 Major, Medium and ERM projects have been completed and 39 new Major / Medium projects have been taken up under AIBP so far. Keeping in view the pace of completion of projects, and the past trends, the Committee are apprehensive whether the projects so selected would be completed within the scheduled timeframe. The Committee were informed that the information on other projects taken up by the State Governments will be collected and submitted as soon as possible. The Committee desire the Ministry to take immediate steps to increase the pace of implementation of projects so that the farmers reap the benefits of the irrigation potential created.

Reply of the Government

The Ministry of Water Resources is of the view that states should focus on completion of the ongoing projects so that huge investment made in the ongoing projects by the state

governments could yield intended benefits from them. In order to encourage state governments to complete ongoing irrigation projects, Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) has been started since 1996. The Central Assistance under the AIBP has increased rapidly during the XI Plan. While total releases under AIBP during 1996-97 till 2006-07 in 10 years was Rs.21740 crore resulting in annual average releases of Rs.2174 crore, the releases made during 2007-08 and 2008-09 were Rs.13044 crore giving average annual release of Rs.6522 crore.

Recommendation (Para No.3.16)

The Committee note that the ultimate irrigation potential is 140 Mha whereas 34 Mha is yet to be created. Under MMI the ultimate irrigation potential is 54.465 Mha out of which 42.277 Mha has been created upto the end of Tenth Plan. The target for XI Plan is 9.0 Mha. The Committee note that the targets were not achieved in the past inspite of the assistance given under AIBP. According to the Ministry, bottlenecks in the implementation of the projects have been brought to the knowledge of the concerned authorities for taking necessary action for early completion of the projects. The Committee further note that against the irrigation potential created to the extent of 42.277 Mha, the utilization of irrigation potential was 34.42 Mha upto X Plan, i.e. 81% of the created potential has been utilized. The Ministry is providing assistance under CADWM programme to increase the utilization of created potential. The Committee are perturbed to note that despite providing assistance under AIBP, the targets set for creation of irrigation potential are yet to be achieved. The Committee desire the Ministry to look into the causes of the underutilization and take appropriate and effective steps to increase the utilisation of irrigation potential.

Reply of the Government

The ultimate irrigation potential is estimated to be about 140 million hectare out of which about 102.7 million hectare of irrigation potential was reported to be created by the end of X Plan. As per the information provided by the State Governments, total irrigation potential

created up to March 2009 is about 106.4 Million hectare. Thus about 33.6 million hectare remains to be created.

The ultimate irrigation potential under major & medium irrigation projects has been estimated to be about 58.5 million hectare out of which about 42.35 million hectare of creation of irrigation potential has been reported by States up to the end of X Plan. However, the corresponding irrigation potential utilization is about 34.42 million hectare.

Ministry of Water Resources awarded studies to Indian Institute of Management (IIMs) Ahmedabad, Bangalore, Kolkatta and Luckhnow to examine the various issues related to the gap between irrigation potential created and utilised and for suggesting measures for reducing the gap. In the reports submitted by IIMs, several reasons have been identified for the gap between irrigation potential created and irrigation potential utilised and some of the important reasons are as under:

- i. Lack of proper operation and maintenance
- ii. Incomplete distribution system
- iii. Non-completion of command area development
- iv. Changes from the initially designed cropping pattern
- v. Diversion of irrigable land for other purposes.

The report of the studies carried out by IIMs was circulated to all the State Governments and other stakeholders. With a view to further deliberate on the findings of the studies and recommendations made by IIMs and the suggestions received from the State Governments and other stakeholders, a workshop was organised by Ministry of Water Resources on 17th March 2009 at Delhi. The findings of the studies and the important points which emerged during the deliberations at the workshop have been forwarded to the State Governments for necessary actions.

In this regard, it is submitted that a total of 18.68 million hectare of command area has since been covered under CAD&WM. Further, the allocation for the scheme of CAD&WM has been enhanced from Rs 400 crore during 2009-10 to Rs 499 crore during 2010-11. Ministry of Water Resources provides assistance to extension, renovation and modernisation (ERM) of major and medium irrigation projects under Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) as per approved guidelines. Further, scheme for “Repair, Renovation and Restoration (RRR) of water bodies” has been approved by the Government of India under which assistance is provided to States for restoration of water bodies as per approved guidelines. The allocation of the scheme “RRR of water bodies” has been enhanced from Rs 399 crore during 2009-10 to Rs 600 crore in 2010-11.

Comments of the Committee

(Please see Para No.15 of Chapter-I of the Report)

Recommendation (Para No.4.11)

4.11 The Scheme of Ground Water Management and Regulation was launched at a cost of Rs.460 crore for implementation by the Central Ground Water Board during the XI Plan. The allocation for BE 2008-09 was Rs.95.00 crore and Rs.84.29 crore at RE stage and for 2009-10 it is Rs.70.00 crore. The demonstrative projects on Artificial Recharge to Ground Water and Rain Water Harvesting have been proposed to be taken up at a cost of Rs.100 crore with total funding by Central Government. The States of Kerala, West Bengal, Punjab, Arunachal Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Orissa, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Karnataka have taken interest in the Scheme and submitted proposal for setting up demonstrative projects. Some basic exercises for identification of project sites have been taken up so far and DPRs are being prepared where CGWB is helping the States. A total of 75 artificial recharge projects consisting of 1,300 structures are proposed for construction during XI Plan whereas 475 structures in 7 States have been approved by State level Committees. The proposals for construction of 317 structures at an estimated cost of Rs.1,070 lakh are being examined by

CGWB. The Government has taken several steps to encourage recharge of Ground Water and Rain Water Harvesting. The Committee at this point of time expect the Ministry to implement these projects at the earliest so that the benefit in the form of increase in ground water level becomes visible so that other States are encouraged to adopt these measures which in turn would considerably ward off the threat of climate change. The Committee hope that the work of examination of the proposals for construction of 317 structures be completed expeditiously but within a definitive timeframe.

Reply of the Government

Central Ground Water Board has taken up demonstrative artificial recharge projects in priority areas such as over-exploited / critical, urban and semi urban areas showing decline in ground water levels and areas affected by problems of water quality during XI Plan. During the years 2008-09 and 2009-10, thirteen demonstrative artificial recharge project proposals with 507 recharge structures were prepared in close coordination with state government agencies and Rs. 12.50 Crores released out of approved cost of Rs. 20.75 Crores to state government agencies for undertaking civil works in 8 states viz. Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal, Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. The construction of Civil Works in respect of approved projects are expected to be completed by 31.03.2011.

CGWB is actively involved in implementation of Demonstrative Artificial Recharge Projects and construction of recharge structures expected to be completed within the specified period.

Recommendation (Para No.5.14)

The Committee note that Ganga Flood Control Commission and Brahmaputra Board prepare the master plans for management of flood in the respective river basins. Also flood management centre of NIH at Patna and Guwahati also undertake studies. Assistance is also provided to academic/research institutions in this regard to promote R & D activities in flood

management. Under the Flood Forecasting Scheme, the Central Water Commission maintains a network of hydrological observation sites along the major river systems in the country and issue level forecast for 147 towns / cities and inflow forecast for 28 major reservoirs during flood seasons. The satellite based communication system has also been set-up in seven major river basins of the country. The Committee are happy to note that efforts are being made to modernize the flood forecasting activities particularly the communication systems during XI Plan. They expect the Ministry to make vigorous efforts to modernize the flood forecasting, instant information sharing with States concerned and also undertake R & D activities for flood management to minimize the devastation and the resultant human agonies.

Reply of the Government

Central Water Commission under Ministry of Water Resources has undertaken modernization of its flood forecasting network by providing sensor-based equipment at 235 stations during XI plan period for collection of hydrological data, satellite-based telecommunication system for quick transmission of flood data and adopting state-of-the-art mathematical models for flood forecast formulation. All efforts are being made to complete the modernisation works during the XI Plan period.

Recommendation (Para No.6.7)

6.7 The Committee note that a pilot project for Repair, Renovation and Restoration of Water Bodies was launched in January 2005 in 26 districts of 15 States to augment and restore the capacity of water bodies and expand their irrigation potential. These projects cover 1,098 water bodies with total original culturable command area of 1.72 lakh ha. An additional irrigation potential of 0.78 lakh ha. was targeted under the Scheme. So far 966 water bodies have been restored in 15 States. The Committee regret to note that the pace of restoration of water bodies is rather slow as 966 Water Bodies have been restored so far against a small target of 1,098 water bodies. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Ministry make

concerted efforts to restore expeditiously the remaining 116 water bodies for which the work is in progress.

Reply of the Government

The activities in respect of pilot scheme were undertaken in the year 2005 and were to be completed by the end of X five year plan period. However, the spill over activities are being continued in some states. The state Governments were being pursued vigorously for early completion of project activities. A number of communications have been sent to the state governments in this regard and officials from the Ministry also visit the states to ensure early completion of project activities. Presently, works have been completed in 1033 water bodies and works in 17 water bodies have been dropped. It is further stated that out of 15 states works have been completed in 12 states and they are yet to be completed in the state of AP, Maharashtra & Gujarat. In the latest communication dated 6th January, 2010, addressed to the state governments of AP, Maharashtra and Gujarat, the state governments have been requested to complete all activities under the scheme and arrange furnishing the report to the Ministry immediately.

Comments of the Committee

(Please see Para No.24 of Chapter-I of the Report)

Recommendation (Para No.6.8)

6.8 The Committee note that the Government with a view to expand the project, approved two schemes one with external assistance, i.e. from World Bank and another with domestic support for implementation during XI Plan. The scheme envisages comprehensive improvement of selected tank systems, catchment area of tank commands, increase in storage capacity of water bodies, ground water recharge, increased agriculture and availability of drinking water. With external assistance, 23,000 water bodies have been targeted whereas agreements have been signed with the World Bank to cover 10,887 additional water bodies. The works have been completed in respect of 602 water bodies. Under the domestic support, one lakh water bodies are covered where 11 States have shown interest covering 8,908 water

bodies. According to the Ministry, the State Governments have been requested to explore the possibility of submission of more projects for approval under World Bank Scheme. It is surprising to note that under the scheme with external assistance against a target of 23,000 Water Bodies, agreements have been signed with the World Bank to cover only 10,887 Water Bodies and the work has been completed in 602 Water Bodies only. In the case of the scheme under domestic support against 1 lakh Water Bodies, 11 States have shown interest in 8,908 Water Bodies only. Considering the immense benefits that will accrue to the nation, the Committee desire the Ministry to take up the matter at the highest level with the remaining State Governments to come forward with their projects under the Scheme with World Bank assistance and also the scheme with domestic support.

The Committee hope and expect that the project preparation work for the West Bengal project will be completed by the scheduled date, i.e. 30 June 2010.

Reply of the Government

Government of India approved two schemes for repair, renovation and restoration of water bodies (RRR of Water Bodies) (i) one with external assistance with an outlay of Rs. 1500 crore and (ii) the other with domestic support with an outlay of Rs. 1250 crore for implementation during XI Plan Period. Under the scheme covered by external assistance, the Gol provides assistance to the extent of 25% and borrows necessary funds as loan from World Bank while 75% State share is borrowed from the World Bank by Concerned State. Under the scheme with domestic support funding is in the ratio of 90:10 (Centre:State) for special category States (NE States including Sikkim, HP, Uttarakhand, J&K and undivided Koraput, Bolangir and Kalahandi (KBK) districts of Orissa) and drought prone/naxal affected/ tribal areas of non special category States and in the ratio of 25:75 (Centre: State) for other areas of non-special category States. These schemes were approved during the end of financial year 2008-09. Public water bodies are covered under the scheme. A budget provision of Rs. 399 crore has been kept during 2009-10 for the schemes of RRR of water bodies with domestic support/external assistance. The scheme of RRR of water bodies includes the comprehensive

improvement of water bodies, catchment area treatment, command area development and capacity building of stakeholders, increased availability of drinking water. The guidelines for the scheme of RRR of water bodies with domestic support/external assistance have already been circulated to the State Government.

Steps have already been taken for implementation of scheme of RRR of water bodies both with external assistance and domestic support and proposals have been called from the State Governments. A number of meeting, video conferences etc. have also been arranged with the state Govts. to facilitate the project preparation work. A number of communications have been sent to the State Govts. to ensure that project proposals are received from the State Govts. without any delay. The officials of the Ministry are also continuously interacting with the State Governments.

Under the scheme of RRR of Water Bodies with external assistance World Bank Loan Agreement has been signed with Tamil Nadu for Rs. 2182 crore to restore 5763 water bodies having a CCA of 4 lakh hectares, with Andhra Pradesh for Rs. 835 crore for restoration of 3000 water bodies with a CCA of 2.5 lakh hectares, with Karnataka for Rs. 268.78 crore for restoration of 1224 water bodies with CCA of 0.52 lakh hectare and with Orissa for Rs.448 crore for restoration of 900 water bodies having CCA of 1.2 lakh hectares. Tamil Nadu Govt. has taken up works in 50 water bodies in 2007-08, 1103 water bodies in 2008-09 and 1009 water bodies in 2009-10 and works have been completed in 1617 water bodies covering CCA of 86868 hectare. Works have been commenced in 1500 water bodies in Andhra Pradesh during 2009-10 under the scheme. Besides, administrative approval has been accorded for 1160 water bodies. Orissa and Karnataka Governments have taken up works in 67 water bodies and 1160 water bodies respectively during 2009-10. In so far as World Bank assisted West Bengal project is concerned, it is stated that project preparation activities in West Bengal is expected to be completed by 30th June 2010. The Government of West Bengal is being pursued for completion of project preparation work under the scheme as per the schedule.

CHAPTER III

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

Recommendation (Para No.2.42)

The Committee note that the Government have declared 14 Projects as 'National Projects' and the irrigation benefit from these projects is estimated to be about 21 lakh ha. apart from additional benefits and availability of drinking water. The Government has also made provision of Rs. 1,800 crore for National Projects out of Rs. 8,000 crore allocation made for AIBP during 2009-10. The Government of Andhra Pradesh submitted proposals for Polavaram and J. Chokkarao Lift Irrigation Scheme. Proposals of Karhar, Bansagar, ERM of Sharda Sahayak Canal, Saryu Nahar, Baghar and Rajghat projects have been submitted by Government of Uttar Pradesh. The Governments of Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Orissa are also in the process of giving some proposals for inclusion in the list of National Projects. The Committee further note that since the cost of the Saryu Nahar Project has increased manifold, the State Government is required to get the revised cost approved from the TAC and obtain revised investment clearance from Planning Commission before any further action could be taken. The Committee find that the whole process of inclusion of the projects of State Government in the list of National Projects is exceedingly time consuming and far from encouraging to the State Governments. The Committee, therefore, desire that Ministry should streamline the whole process and encourage the States about the scheme of National Projects so that they come forward with such more proposals.

Reply of the Government

The Union Cabinet approved the Scheme of National Projects with the stipulation that mode of financing be worked out in consultation with the Planning Commission and Ministry of Finance. The guidelines of the scheme of National Projects have been finalized in consultation with the Planning Commission and Ministry of Finance.

Inclusion of more numbers of projects in the scheme of National Projects would primarily depend on the availability of resources so as to meet funding requirement of all the ongoing national projects to ensure their timely completion. At present, the funds to the national projects are being earmarked from the funds allocated under the Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP).

As far as streamlining of process for inclusion of more number of projects in the scheme of National Projects is concerned, it may be stated here that total allocation in XI Plan for National Project is of Rs. 7000 crore. After meeting the fund requirement of already approved National Projects during the XI Plan, very limited amount remains available for including new projects in the scheme. Further, even for projects to be funded under normal AIBP, techno-economic clearance for the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) of Ministry of Water Resources and investment clearance from Planning Commission is required to be obtained by the state government. After getting the investment clearance, as per the scheme approved by the Cabinet, the proposal for inclusion of a new project as National Project is to be cleared by Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC) and then by the Union Cabinet. Efforts are made to expedite the whole process. However, in view of availability of limited resources for new projects in XI Plan, it is proposed that further streamlining of the process may be considered in XII Plan.

Recommendation (Para No.2.46)

The Committee note that according to a recent Study conducted by American researchers and published in on-line edition of the Journal *Nature* dated 12 August 2009, human consumption caused a decline of 109 cubic km in the amount of ground water beneath northern India since 2002. The findings of the Study are similar to that conducted by the Central Ground Water Board related to identification of over exploited blocks (305) in this region. The Government have taken steps to rationalize use of ground water for various uses which include (i) Model Bill circulated to States/UTs for enactment of suitable legislation; (ii) Constitution of Central Ground Water Authority; and (iii) 43 areas of the country notified by CGWA for regulation of Ground Water development and management by concerned DCs/DMs.

The Committee observe that law on the pattern of the Model Bill has been enacted so far only in 11 States. The Committee hardly need to emphasise the importance and urgency for proper and efficient use of Ground Water considering the fast receding underground water table. They would, therefore, like the Ministry of Water Resources to chalk out an innovative and attractive strategy so that the remainder States also enact the model legislation. The Committee would also like to be apprised of the specific initiatives made in this direction and the concrete outcome thereof.

Reply of the Government

The Central Government through Central Ground Water Authority has been monitoring the progress of enactment of legislation by the States/Union Territories on the lines of the model bill for regulation and control of ground water development circulated by the Ministry of Water Resources.

Apart from 11 States/Union Territories who have enacted legislation, 18 States/Union Territories are in the process of enactment of legislation. Government of Punjab is of the view that recourse to Ground water legislation needs to be given reconsideration. 4 States namely Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Nagaland and Tripura have stated that in view of the ground water development being quite low, it is not necessary to enact such a legislation. The State Government of Sikkim is of view that requirement of drinking water supply for the people is being done by exploiting the various streams. Therefore, enactment of legislation on control and extraction of ground water in the State of Sikkim is not felt necessary.

The issue of enactment of legislation by the States was raised during the recently concluded Chief Secretaries' Conference in Delhi. It was empathized that the Chief Secretaries may undertake the periodical review of the status of the enactment to speed up the process.

Recommendation (Para No.4.10)

The Committee note that the allocation for 2008-09 for Minor Irrigation Schemes (Plan) was Rs.104.10 crore which was reduced to 89.70 crore i.e. Rs.14.40 crore less and during 2009-10 it has been further reduced to Rs.76 crore. It was stated that the allocation was revised due to non procurement of drilling rigs, ban on procurement of vehicles, non-creation of sanctioned posts at Rajiv Gandhi NGTRI and non finalization of land and building plan under infrastructure development. The allocation during 2009-10 has been reduced due to rescheduling of the purchase of deep drilling rigs and the equipment and non-creation of sanctioned posts at RGNTRI. The Committee feel that the reduced allocations at RE 2008-09 stage and further reduction at BE 2009-10 stage reflects poor planning and slackness in procurement of equipments. The Committee desire the Ministry to take prompt action to avoid delays and streamline the process of procurement of equipment.

Reply of the Government

- (i) A provision of Rs. 30.00 crore was made in the BE 2008-09 for procurement of material and equipments including two 1000 m Direct Rotary Heavy Duty drilling rigs by CGWB. Global Tenders were floated and procurement of the rigs could not be made as there was only single bid and no competition of tenders. As a result the provision had to be reduced.
- (ii) In B.E. 2009-10 allocation of Rs. 1.00 crore was made which was revised to Rs. 1.13 crore at the R.E. stage. Necessary action to procure one 1000 mt deep drilling rig through DGS&D has been initiated by the CGWB. An indent for procurement of one Direct Rotary Heavy Duty rig was placed with DGS&D on 5th January, 2010 along with the specifications. Expression of Interest (EOI) was also floated through DAVP and document uploaded on CGWB

website for the construction of 1000 m deep wells. However, no response was received.

In addition to this, request for approval to procure 6 DTH rigs of 300 m depth capacity and 2 Environmental rigs of 100 m depth capacity on replacement basis through DGS&D is also under consideration in the Ministry. Procurement of these items will be completed during 2010-11 and 2011-12 as the lead time taken by DGS&D is nearly one and a half year. Thus, the Ministry has taken concrete steps in this direction.

Recommendation (Para No.5.13)

5.13 The Committee note that under the 'Flood Control' Programme, various schemes are covered which include Flood Forecasting, River Management Activities and Water Works related to Border Areas. The allocation under Plan head was Rs. 211 crore in 2008-09 which was reduced to Rs. 197.84 crore due to delay in procurement of telemetry equipments required for modernization of flood forecasting system and also slow progress of investigation works of Sapta Kosi High Dam Project and anti-erosion works undertaken by Brahmaputra Board. The allocation was increased to Rs. 234.80 crore for 2009-10, i.e. an increase of Rs. 23.80 crore. Also under River Management activities Rs. 199.30 crore have been allocated. The increase, according to Ministry, is due to Grants-in-aid provided to Government of Bihar for closure of breach in Eastern Afflux Bund of Kosi Barrage in August 2008, and also to Government of West Bengal, Tripura and Jammu & Kashmir for river bank protection. The grant-in-aid to the J & K Government would be released shortly to undertake bank protection works in Jammu sector for protection of security check posts and other strategic installations. The Committee are dismayed that the allocation for 2008-09 was reduced for such an important programme for want of proper foresight, planning and administrative action. The Committee also desire that the grant-in-aid to J & K Government be released expeditiously so that vital works are undertaken and executed without further delay.

Reply of the Government

Under the Plan Scheme “Flood Forecasting”, a budget provision of Rs.23.00 crore was made in the year 2008-09, out of which an expenditure of Rs.13.32 crore only could be incurred; as first phase of installation of telemetry equipment in various basins of India could not commence due to changes in specifications of telemetry equipment considered necessary due to developments in data transmission technology. However, the tenders for installation of 222 telemetry stations in various basins, setting up of one Earth Receiving Stations and 10 Modelling Centres have been finalized in the financial year 2009-10.

Under the Plan Scheme “River Management Activities & Works related to Border Areas”, an expenditure of Rs.176.65 crore was incurred against the budget outlay of Rs.160 crore in the financial year 2008-09.

As regards release of grant-in-aid to J&K Government under “River Management Activities and Works Related to Border Areas” scheme, it is mentioned that Secretary, Public Works Department (I&FC), Government of J&K has been requested repeatedly vide MOWR letters dated 7.9.09, 30.9.09 and 19.01.2010 to send the work plan and make necessary budgetary provision in the State budget for undertaking bank protection works for security check posts during the financial year 2009-10 so that central assistance could be released to the State Government. However, there was no response from State Government till date.

However, during the Financial Year 2009-10, Central assistance amounting to Rs.41.18 crore has been released to the Government of Jammu & Kashmir under “Flood Management Programme”, a state sector scheme on funding pattern of 90 (Central share): 10 (State share) for 19 on-going flood protection works in the State.

Recommendation (Para No.5.15)

The Committee note that the problem of floods in the States of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar are recurring in nature and primarily due to the rivers flowing from Nepal. These floods can be managed only by constructing dams / reservoirs on the rivers inside Nepal and not in the Indian territory due to topographical reasons. The Committee, therefore, expect the Ministry of Water Resources to make all out and concerted efforts to pursue the Government of Nepal through diplomatic channels and also at the highest level in the Government so that the Government of Nepal in a spirit of mutual benefit and long term gain agree to the construction of dams. Needless to say such dams would be the monuments of our enduring relationship and give a new stimulus and fillip to the deep and long-abiding friendly relations between the peoples of India and Nepal.

Reply of the Government

It is mentioned that a 3-tier bilateral mechanism consisting of (i) Indo-Nepal Joint Ministerial Level Commission on Water Resources (JMCWR) headed by concerned Ministers of India and Nepal, (ii) Indo-Nepal Joint Committee on Water Resources (JCWR) headed by concerned Secretaries of India and Nepal and (iii) Joint Standing Technical Committee (JSTC) headed by Chairman, Ganga Flood Control Commission (GFCC) from India, already exist to discuss all issues related to development of water resources, flood control, etc. between India and Nepal. Pancheshwar Multipurpose Project on river Sarda (Mahakali in Nepal), Sapta Kosi High Dam Project on river Kosi (Sapta Kosi in Nepal), West Rapti (Naumure) Multipurpose Project on river Rapti (West Rapti in Nepal) are under discussion with the Government of Nepal. It has been agreed to set up Pancheshwar Development Authority (PDA) for the development, execution and operation of Pancheshwar Multipurpose Project. Composition and Terms of Reference of PDA have also been finalized. Further, to carry out the field investigations of Sapta Kosi High Dam Multipurpose Project and Sunkosi cum Diversion Scheme in Nepal territory jointly, a Joint Project Office (JPO-SKSKI) was set up at Biratnagar in Nepal during August' 2004 for preparation of a Detailed Project Report (DPR). It was to complete the works by February 2007. However, because of political instability and frequent

strikes / bandhs, the field investigations are delayed. Field works of Sapta Kosi High Dam Multipurpose Project continues to be suspended. Tenure of JPO has been extended to June, 2010 to complete the works. During the 5th meeting of JCWR held on 20-22 November, 2009 at Pokhara (Nepal), Nepalese side informed that despite best efforts put in by Government of Nepal to resume field investigation works suspended since May, 2007, the work environment has not improved to recommence the drilling and drift works at Sapta Kosi Dam sites. JCWR agreed that in case the work cannot be resumed by March 31st, 2010, JPO personnel may be redeployed to effectively utilize their services or the strength may be downsized. The works at Saptakosi dam site have still not resumed.

CHAPTER IV

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

Recommendation (Para No.2.41)

The Committee note that as on 1 April 2009, 43 Utilisation Certificates(UCs) worth Rs. 2.22 crore from 65 institutions and Autonomous Bodies and also 21 UCs worth Rs. 38.38 crore from 25 State Governments were outstanding. According to the Ministry, due to their constant efforts the number of outstanding UCs as on 31 July 2009 in respect of grant released upto 31 March 2007 had come down to 28 for institutions and Autonomous Bodies. However it remained at 21 in respect of State Governments which is stated to be due to non-reconciliation of accounts of the implementing agencies of the States. The Committee, therefore, desire that the Ministry should not allow the States and particularly the autonomous bodies working under them to delay submission of UCs and recommend that the Ministry of Water Resources should set some timeframe for submission of UCs besides introducing penalty clause to ward off such delays. The States should also be asked periodically for reconciliation of accounts of the implementing agencies of the States.

Reply of the Government

The status of outstanding UCs as on 31.10.2009 in respect of Grants released upto 31.03.2007 to Institutions/Autonomous Bodies and State Government is as given below:

Status as on	Institutions/Autonomous Bodies		States / UTs	
	No. of UCs	Amount (Rs in Crore)	No. of UCs	Amount(Rs. in crore)
01.04.2008	87	5.17	47	68.56
30.09.2008	65	2.92	26	51.57
01.04.2009	43	2.22	21	38.38
31.07.2009	28	1.63	21	38.38
01.10.2009	28	1.63	14	36.79

It is stated that strict watch is being kept on receipt of UCs at the time of release of Grant-in-Aid. No grants are being released without getting the UCs for the grants released for the previous year.

As regards, the UCs of State Governments, the concerned division of this Ministry viz. CAD / Minor Irrigation / Ganga Wings are monitoring regularly.

Comments of the Committee

(Please see Para No.9 of Chapter-I of the Report)

Recommendation (Para No.2.43)

The Committee note that in order to address the possible threat posed by climate change, the Prime Minister announced the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC) on 30 June 2008 which envisages eight National Missions including the National Water Mission (NWM). The Ministry of Water Resources has prepared the draft Mission document and submitted for consideration by Prime Minister's Council on Climate Change. NWM's objectives are 'Conservation of water, minimizing wastage and ensuring equal distribution across and within States'. Also, one of the goals of the NWM is to increase the efficiency of water use. The Committee further note that in view of the strategies proposed, the revisiting of National Water Policy will be undertaken in consultation with the stakeholders particularly the State Governments. It is likely to be discussed in the thirteenth meeting of 'National Water Board.' The Committee expect the Ministry of Water Resources to review the National Water Policy and take note of the various suggestions given by the State Governments, and other stakeholders and eminent climatologists keeping in view the looming threat of climate change and the grave scarcity of water in future.

Reply of the Government

The 13th Meeting of National Water Board was held on 18th September 2009. One of the Agendas for the meeting was “Review of National Water Policy – 2002“. Suggestions have been received from various State Governments. The participants also made valuable suggestions. It is proposed to organize consultation workshops and seek views from various stake holders including specialists, academicians and civil society also on the National Water Policy.

Comments of the Committee

(Please see Para No.12 of Chapter-I of the Report)

CHAPTER V

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

- NIL -

NEW DELHI;
17 August, 2010
26 Shrawana, 1932 (Saka)

BENI PRASAD VERMA
Chairman,
Standing Committee on Water Resources

**MINUTES OF THE SIXTEENTH SITTING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON WATER
RESOURCES (2009-10) HELD ON TUESDAY, 17 AUGUST 2010**

The Committee sat from 1530 hours to 1600 hours in Committee Room No. '63', First Floor, Parliament House, New Delhi.

PRESENT

Shri Beni Prasad Verrma – Chairman

MEMBERS

LOK SABHA

2. Shri Mahendrasinh P. Chauhan
3. Shri Sher Singh Ghubaya
4. Shri Dip Gogoi
5. Shri K.R.G. Reddy
6. Shri S.P.Y. Reddy
7. Smt. J. Shantha
8. Smt. Annu Tandon
9. Shri Sajjan Verma

RAJYA SABHA

10. Shri Kumar Deepak Das
11. Dr. Ashok S. Ganguly

SECRETARIAT

- | | | | |
|----|---------------------|---|---------------------|
| 1. | Shri Devender Singh | - | Joint Secretary |
| 2. | Shri B.S. Dahiya | - | Director |
| 3. | Smt. Rita Jaikhani | - | Additional Director |

At the outset, the Chairman welcomed the Members to the sitting of the Committee.

2. Thereafter, the Committee took up for consideration Memorandum No.2 and the Draft Report on Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations contained in their First Report (Fifteenth Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants (2009-10) of the Ministry of

Water Resources. After some discussion, the Committee adopted the Report without any amendment/modification.

3. The Committee then authorized the Chairman to have the above draft Action Taken Report 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 OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED IN THE FIRST REPORT (FIFTEENTH LOK SABHA) OF THE COMMITTEE

(i)	Total number of Recommendations/Observations	20
(ii)	Recommendation/Observations which have been accepted by the Government	
	Para Nos. 2.39, 2.40, 2.44, 2.45, 2.47, 2.48, 3.14, 3.15, 3.16, 4.11, 5.14, 6.7 and 6.8	
	Total	13
	Percentage	65%
(iii)	Recommendations/Observations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of the Government's replies	
	Para No. 2.42, 2.46, 4.10, 5.13 and 5.15	
	Total	05
	Percentage	25 %
(iv)	Recommendations/Observations in respect of which replies of the Government have not been accepted by the Committee	
	Para No. 2.41 and 2.43	
	Total	02
	Percentage	10 %
(v)	Recommendations/Observations in respect of which final replies of the Government are still awaited	
	Para Nos. Nil	
	Total	Nil
	Percentage	0%