



**STANDING COMMITTEE ON WATER RESOURCES
(2010-2011)**

FIFTEENTH LOK SABHA

MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES

**DEMANDS FOR GRANTS
(2010-2011)**

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

SIXTH REPORT



LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

March, 2011/Chaitra, 1933 (Saka)

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Presented to Lok Sabha on 23.03.2011

Laid in Rajya Sabha on 23.03.2011



LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

NEW DELHI

March, 2011/Chaitra, 1933 (Saka)

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**COMPOSITION OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE
ON WATER RESOURCES (2010-11)**

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LOK SABHA

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4. **Shri Sher Singh Ghubaya**
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6. **Shri Haribhau Jawale**
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11. **Shri S.P.Y. Reddy**
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13. **Smt. J. Shantha**
14. **Shri K. Shivkumar alias J.K. Ritheesh**
15. **Smt. Annu Tandon**
16. **Dr. P. Venugopal (Tiruvallur)**
17. **Shri Sajjan Verma**
18. **Vacant**
19. **Vacant**
20. **Vacant**
21. **Vacant**

RAJYA SABHA

22. **Shri Balwinder Singh Bhunder**
23. **Shri Kumar Deepak Das**
24. **Shri Anil Madhav Dave**
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28. **Shri Mangala Kisan**
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30. **Dr. Gyan Prakash Pilania**
31. **Smt. Bimla Kashyap Sood**

SECRETARIAT

- | | | | |
|----|---------------------|---|----------------------|
| 1. | Shri N.K. Sapra | - | Additional Secretary |
| 2. | Shri Devender Singh | - | Joint Secretary |
| 3. | Shri B.S. Dahiya | - | Director |
| 4. | Smt. Rita Jaikhani | - | Additional Director |
| 5. | Shri A.K. Yadav | - | Committee Officer |

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairman, Standing Committee on Water Resources (2010-2011) having been authorised by the Committee to submit the Report on their behalf, present the Sixth Report on the Action Taken by Government on the recommendations/observations contained in the Second Report (Fifteenth Lok Sabha) of the Standing Committee on Water Resources (2010-2011) on Demands for Grants (2010-2011) of the Ministry of Water Resources.

2. The Second Report of the Committee was presented to Lok Sabha on 20 April 2010. The replies of the Government to all the recommendations contained in the Report were received on 21 July 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 March 2011.

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

NEW DELHI;
17 March, 2011
26 Phalgun, 1932 (Saka)

DIP GOGOI,
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 Second Report (15th Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants (2010-2011) of the Ministry of Water Resources which was presented to Lok Sabha on 20 April 2010.

2. Action taken notes were received from the Government in respect of all the 26 recommendations/observations of the Committee which have been categorised as follows:-

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

Para Nos. 1.3, 2.40, 2.41, 2.42, 2.45, 2.46, 2.47, 2.48, 3.17, 3.19, 3.20, 4.12, 4.13, 4.14, 5.11, 6.16, 6.17, 6.19 and 6.20 (Total - 19)

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

Para Nos. 2.43, 2.44, and 6.18 (Total -03)

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

Para Nos. 2.49, 3.18 and 5.10 (Total - 03)

(iv) Recommendation/Observation in respect of which final reply of the Government is still awaited:

Para Nos. 3.16 (Total - 01)

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

A. ***Augmenting staff strength in Ministry through revival of posts under deemed abolition.***

Recommendation (Para No. 2.47)

4. The Committee, while noting that the present staff strength was not sufficient for the smooth functioning of various wings of the Ministry, had recommended that the Ministry should pursue vigorously with the Ministry of Finance for revival of some posts gone under deemed abolition and which are crucial for smooth functioning of the Ministry particularly on technical side which constitutes the backbone of the activities of the Ministry of Water Resources. They also recommended that the Ministry of Water Resources should conduct a fresh review of staff strength to ascertain the actual requirement of the staff and officers in its various wings and offices and the bodies under it considering the importance of its expanding mandate.

5. The Ministry, in its action taken reply, stated that a number of posts in the Ministry and the organizations under it have been revived in recent years with the approval of Ministry of Finance. In the light of Standing Committee's recommendation, a fresh exercise has now been initiated for revival of posts under deemed abolition. All the organizations under the Ministry have been requested to intimate the number and names of the technical posts which they would like to recommend for revival. The proposal is being taken up with the Ministry of Finance for revival of posts. Further, Staff Inspection Unit of the Ministry of Finance has already been requested to conduct a study of the manpower requirement of the Ministry and its organizations.

6. **The Committee had urged the Ministry to pursue with the Ministry of Finance for revival of posts under deemed abolition which are crucial for smooth functioning of the Ministry, and also to undertake a fresh review of staff strength to ascertain the actual requirement of manpower in its various wings and offices and the bodies under it. The Ministry has, in its reply, stated that it is initiating a fresh exercise for revival of posts going under deemed abolition in the light of the Committee's recommendation and**

taking up the matter with the Ministry of Finance again. Further, the Staff Inspection Unit of Ministry of Finance has also been requested to conduct a study of manpower requirement of the Ministry and its organizations. The Committee, therefore, call upon the Ministry to expedite completion of the exercise for revival of posts under deemed abolition and also ensure that the desired staff strength is in position at the earliest, so that the smooth functioning of the Ministry is not impaired in any way. The Committee would, in the meanwhile, like to be apprised of the findings of the study being undertaken by the Staff Inspection Unit of Ministry of Finance in this regard at the earliest.

B. Time-frame for submission of Utilization Certificates

Recommendation (Para No. 2.49)

7. The Committee had noted that a number of Utilisation Certificates (as on 31.12.2009) from Institutions/Autonomous Bodies and State Governments were outstanding in respect of Grants released upto 31 March 2007. The Committee had therefore desired that in order to ensure timely submission of UCs, the Ministry while releasing the funds should put some conditions like imposition of penalty for failure in submission of UCs in time. They had expressed confidence that such or similar innovative measures can certainly be devised by the Ministry to contain the pendency of UCs.

8. The Ministry in its action taken reply stated that the State Governments are required to submit proposals for release of Central assistance each year in time along with utilization certificate for funds released in preceding years. No further Central assistance is released to States without submission of utilization certificates. The State Governments are also pursued vigorously from time to time in different forums to submit the pending utilization certificates.

9. The Committee note that the State Governments/organisations are required to submit proposals for release of Central assistance each year in time along with

utilization certificates (UCs) for funds released in the preceding year. The Committee would like to reiterate that in order to curb the State's tendencies for non-utilisation of Central assistance there is a need to ensure timely submission of UCs by State Governments. For the purpose, measures like imposition of penalty may be thought of in respect of States who fail to submit the same in time. The Committee deplore that this persistent problem has been plaguing the Ministry for long. The Committee hardly need to stress that the proper and timely utilization of allocated funds is a necessary condition precedent for release of further funds. They, therefore reiterate that the Ministry ensures strict compliance by the States on the issue of submission of UCs for ensuring timely and proper utilization of Central funds released to the States and organizations working under them. They also reiterate their earlier recommendation contained in the First and Fifth Reports on Demands for Grants that a definite time-frame for submission of UCs should be set incorporating a penalty clause to ward off such delays. The States may also be asked to review periodically the reconciliation of accounts of States' implementing agencies.

C. Need for regularizing backlog of Unapproved Projects under XI Plan.

Recommendation (Para No. 3.18)

10. The Committee had observed that the Schemes under Plan Sector require investment clearance from Planning Commission for which there is an established procedure. But in spite of well-defined policy and guidelines in place, a large number of major and medium projects have been under execution without investment clearance from the Planning Commission. They had desired that while considering to bring the unapproved projects under the category of approved projects, Ministry of Water Resources should impress upon the State Governments to accord first priority to such unapproved projects at various stages of completion for getting them regularised instead of sending new proposals for sanction.

11. The Ministry in its action taken reply stated that out of 477 spilled over projects, 300 projects (90 major, 136 Medium and 74 ERM) were unapproved. However, out of 553 projects ongoing in XI Plan, 288 projects (comprising 74 major, 137 medium and 77 ERM) are unapproved. These unapproved projects are estimated to cost Rs. 91,508 crore and Rs. 30,864 crore have been spent till X Plan.

Further, in CWC, 186 new and 77 revised projects are under various stages of appraisal, which include 62 new and 31 revised projects accepted by the Advisory Committee of MoWR conditionally or otherwise awaiting investment clearance from the Planning Commission. The Ministry of Water Resources has held 15 meetings of Advisory Committee of MOWR and 134 major/medium projects have been cleared in last 3 years ending March 2010. Ministry of Water Resources is also taking up the issue with the State Governments from time to time.

12. The Committee had desired the Ministry to impress upon the State Governments for getting regularized the long-pending, unapproved projects in the ongoing XI Plan, instead of sending new proposals for investment clearance from the Planning Commission. The Ministry, in its reply, has simply stated that out of 553 projects ongoing in XI Plan, 288 projects comprising 74 major, 137 medium and 77 ERM projects are unapproved and that these are estimated to cost the exchequer Rs.91,508 crore. The reply of the Ministry is, however, silent on the efforts being made for regulation of these 288 unapproved projects, as desired by the Committee. The Committee deplore the perfunctory manner in which such a vital issue has been sidetracked by the Ministry. The Committee, therefore, reiterate their earlier recommendation that the Ministry of Water Resources impress upon the State Governments to get regularized their unapproved schemes which are at various stages of completion, before sending new proposals to the Planning Commission for investment clearance.

D. Development of Water Resources Information System (WRIS)

Recommendation (Para No. 3.19)

13. The Committee had noted that the management of Water Resources is a highly complex task that involves multi-disciplinary domains including data acquisition, numerical modelling, optimisation, data warehousing, and the analysis of socio-economic, environmental and legal issues. The development of Water Resources Information System (WRIS) was approved in June 2008 for implementation during the XI Plan with the total outlay of Rs.234.30 crore. Two main activities under the scheme are (i) Data Bank and Online Information System, and (ii) Creation of Watershed Maps and Geographic Information System. The works related to studies for assessment of irrigation potential by remote sensing technique are also undertaken under the scheme. The website of India WRIS has been launched during 2009. The Development of WRIS by Indian Space Research Organization is under progress. About 86.7% of the works related to data entry has also been completed. The Committee had expressed the hope that development of WRIS would be taken up at a faster pace so that the information uploaded becomes available and utilized for various studies, research and to help evaluate various schemes.

14. The Ministry in the action taken replies has submitted that the objective of the plan scheme, Water Resources Information System (WRIS) is to develop information system on water resources at the national level. The Water Resources Information System website was launched during 2010-11 and the work is under progress in ISRO – DOS. The WRIS website proposes to have web enabled query system on its data base to generate any desired basin wise information. The matter has been taken up with the Department of Space for ensuring timely completion of the target. The Department of Space has informed that the first phase of WRIS would be operational by September 2010. The Ministry in a further communication dated 22 February, 2011, has informed that the first version of the information system was inaugurated by the then Minister of Water Resources on 7 December 2010 at New Delhi. The project is scheduled to be completed by December 2012.

15. The Committee, while keeping in view the promise of many-sided applications held out by WRIS, had desired fast-tracking of its development so that the uploaded information becomes available and is utilized for various studies, research and also to help evaluate various schemes. The Committee hope that the remaining version of the

Information System would be completed by the scheduled date, i.e. December 2012. They would like to be kept informed of the latest position in this regard at regular intervals.

E. Feed back from States on studies of NRSA Hyderabad

Recommendation (Para No. 3.20)

16. The Committee had noted that reports of 52 projects were received from NRSA Hyderabad on the remote sensing monitoring of AIBP assisted major and medium irrigation projects. The reports were analyzed and the analysis of the results indicated that the variations between the figures of irrigation potential creation as reported by the respective State Governments and that assessed by the remote sensing data were within $\pm 15\%$ in respect of 30 projects. However, in other cases the variations were relatively higher. The monitoring of projects through remote sensing also helped in identifying the specific reasons for non-creation of irrigation potential and also in identifying the specific location where the works remained incomplete resulting in non-utilization of created facilities. The Committee had hoped that the good work would continue with greater vigour so as to expand its reach. The Committee had expressed their desire to be apprised of the response of various States to whom project reports and findings have been conveyed, and also desired that services of NRSA be extended to other activities of water resource availability, conservation, depletion and development particularly the ground water.

17. The Government in reply intimated that the State Governments have been requested to give feedback in respect of those projects where variation was large. CWC field units have also been directed to pursue with the State Governments and obtain the feedback from the States. The efforts are made by the Project Authorities to close the gaps in the canal network wherever pointed out in the Report of the National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC) of the Department of Space. Further, AIBP assisted extension of the work of assessing potential creation by cartosat satellite data to 50 additional irrigation projects has been approved. In addition, several activities in water sector have been undertaken by using remote sensing data in association

with NRSC by concerned organizations of the Government of India as well as the State Governments.

Further, a major project to study the snow and glacier in the country has been launched by Ministry of Environment & Forest and ISRO. In addition, satellite derived inputs have also been used in assessing the feasibility of proposed irrigation projects in upper Betwa basin on part of Ken-Betwa link project. River morphology studies have also been carried out by using remote sensing data.

18. The Committee, while pointing out that a variation in figures of irrigation potential created as reported by State Governments and as assessed by NRSA, Hyderabad was in the range of $\pm 15\%$ in cases of 32 out of 52 AIBP assisted projects, had desired to know the responses of the concerned State Governments to the findings of NRSA. Far from satisfied with the reply, the Committee would like the Ministry to gather the responses of various States in the matter expeditiously. The Committee would like to be apprised of the progress made in this regard.

F. Achieving set target for Minor Irrigation in XI Plan.

Recommendation (Para No. 4.13)

19. The Committee had regretted to note that despite downward revision in the target for creation of Minor Irrigation, the actual output was further down. The target for XI Plan has been fixed at 7 mha against which actual creation in first two years is meagre 1.79 mha, a figure far from encouraging. During the mid-term appraisal, the target for XI Plan has also been revised to 4.50 mha. They, therefore, had desired to be apprised of the strategy and the measures to be taken by MOWR to achieve the revised target fixed for XI Plan during the remaining period of the Plan. The Committee had further desired to be apprised of the State-wise break-up of irrigation potential to be created during XI plan and achieved so far.

20. According to the Ministry, the irrigation projects including the minor irrigation projects are undertaken by respective State Governments as per their own priorities. With a view to encourage the completion of ongoing projects and help States in creation of irrigation potential,

Government of India provides financial assistance under Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP). In case of minor irrigation schemes, the Central assistance to States is provided to the projects in the States of North-Eastern Region, Hilly States namely, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Uttarakhand, undivided Koraput, Bolangir and Kalahandi (KBK) districts of Orissa and projects benefiting tribal areas and drought prone areas. As per the updated information provided by the respective State Governments, a total of 2.322 million hectare of irrigation potential has been created through minor irrigation schemes since April 2007.

21. The Committee had desired the Ministry to apprise them of the strategy and the measures which it may take up for achieving the revised target fixed for XI Plan during the remaining period of the Plan, and also the detailed break-up of irrigation potential to be created during XI Plan and the achievements made so far. The Ministry's reply, while mentioning Central financial assistance to help the States to complete the ongoing irrigation projects under AIBP, also stated that a total of 2.322 Mha. of irrigation potential had been created through MI since April 2007. But while giving these details, the State-wise target for creation of irrigation potential during XI Plan, the utilization of the potential created, the shortfalls as also the appropriate strategy and the steps for achieving the revised, scaled down target during the remaining period of XI Plan have not been furnished to the Committee. They, therefore, reiterate their earlier recommendation that State-wise target for creation of irrigation potential for XI Plan and suitable strategy/steps for attainment of the revised, scaled down target for the remaining plan period may be furnished to the Committee without further loss of time.

G. Flood Control.

Recommendation (Para No. 5.10)

22. The Committee had noted that there was reduction in Plan allocation at RE Stage due to late starting of anti-erosion works by the Brahmaputra Board and delay in finalisation of the

tenders for procurement of telemetry equipment and had asked the Ministry to fix responsibility for the delay.

23. The Ministry in action taken reply stated that the reasons for delay in taking up anti-erosion works by Brahmaputra Board and delay in finalisation of the tenders for procurement of telemetry equipment by the Central Water Commission leading to reduction at the RE 2009-10 stage are being enquired. It is, however, mentioned that the work for supply, installation, test and commissioning of 222 Telemetry Stations has been awarded by the Central Water Commission in April 2010. Efforts are also being made to obviate such delays in implementation in future.

24. The reply of the Government is not acceptable as they firmly believe that the anti-erosion works being carried out by the Brahmaputra Board were being badly managed. Obviously, due to delay in finalization of the tenders for procurement of telemetry equipment by the Central Water Commission led to reduction at the RE (2009-10) stage for Flood control. The Ministry, while conceding the delay, has given assurance to obviate such delays in future. The Committee desire the Ministry to fix responsibility for delay in finalisation of the tenders for procurement of telemetry equipment and also to put in place firm accountability procedures. The Committee would like to be apprised of the action taken to fix responsibility for the delay within three months of presentation of this Report.

H. Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme

Recommendation (Para No. 6.16)

25. The Committee had noted that AIBP was launched in 1996-97 to give loan assistance to the States to help them complete some of the incomplete projects which were in advanced stage of completion and to create additional irrigation potential in the country. The Committee, not satisfied with the progress achieved under AIBP scheme, had desired that concerted and concrete efforts be made to make the programme successful by achieving the targets.

26. The Government in action taken reply submitted that up to March 2009, irrigation potential of 5.94 mha was reported to have been created under the AIBP. During 2009-10, irrigation potential of about 9.00 lakh ha. is estimated to have been created though the same would be confirmed by end of working season in July 2010. Apart from 110 major / medium projects already reported as completed, 14 more projects are expected to have been completed for which completion report is awaited and is likely to be received shortly. 7,882 surface MI schemes are also reported as completed under AIBP so far. The Ministry of Water Resources is making concerted efforts for making AIBP a more successful programme.

27 In view of the tardy pace of progress under AIBP scheme, the Committee had recommended for concerted and concrete efforts on the part of Ministry of Water Resources to achieve the targets to make the programme successful. The reply of the Ministry, however, mentioned that a miniscule irrigation potential of only about 9.00 lakh ha. was likely to be created during 2009-10, and only 14 additional projects are expected to be completed in addition to 110 major/medium projects already completed. The Committee not satisfied with the progress made so far under AIBP, desire that vigorous and sustained efforts be made by the Ministry so that the targets set under AIBP could be achieved without further delays. The Committee also feel that the AIBP Scheme needs to be restructured and the monitoring mechanism suitably strengthened so that the AIBP achieves the intended objectives without time and cost overrun.

I. Status of 43 MMI Projects and MI schemes under AIBP.

Recommendation (Para No. 6.17)

28. The Committee had noted that a large number of Medium Irrigation Schemes under AIBP were pending for release of subsequent instalment for want of request of State Governments and utilization certificates for the instalments released earlier. They had therefore, desired MoWR to take up the matter vigorously with State Governments regarding delay in submission of utilization certificates and request for release of grant. They had also desired to fix some time frame for submission of UCs alongwith a penalty clause so that State

Governments may expedite submission of UCs in time. The Committee had liked to see the list of defaulter States and the projects and their costs that are likely to be affected.

29. The Ministry in reply stated that the State Governments usually submit UCs for earlier released grant under AIBP along with proposals for next instalment of grant and it is a continuous process. The delay in submission of UCs occurs if the grant released under AIBP could not be utilized due to slow progress of works which occurs due to various reasons such as land acquisition problems, resettlement and rehabilitation problems, contractual problems, geological surprises, litigation etc. The Ministry of Water Resources consistently reviews performance of the projects under AIBP and suggest remedial measures for timely completion of the projects. The Ministry usually does not approve extension of time for completion of projects unless there is full justification for delay and obtains undertaking from State Governments that any further cost overrun due to time overrun shall be borne by the State governments themselves. The projects indicated below have not approached MoWR for further release of grant after 2007-08 and Utilization Certificate for the last grant are pending with them.

Amount in Rs Crores		
S.No.	State / Project	Grant released in 2007-08
	Andhra Pardesh	
1	Pushkara	13.96
2	Gollavavu	32.12
3	Valligallu	26.25
4	Nilwai	15.55
	Bihar	
5	4 MI schemes	3.55
	Jharkhand	
6	Gumani	3.71
7	Sonua	0.90
	Karnataka	
8	Varahi	0.29
	Madhya Pradesh	
9	Indira Sagar	94.77
	Orissa	

10	Titlagarh	17.33
11	Chhaligadda	5.53

30. Noting that a number of MMI projects and MI/new schemes were pending for release of subsequent instalment for want of request of State Governments and utilization certificates (UCs) for the released instalments, the Committee had recommended the Ministry to vigorously take up the matter with the State Governments besides fixing some time frame for submission of UCs alongwith a penalty clause to secure compliance. The Committee had also sought the list of defaulter States and the projects alongwith their costs that are likely to be affected. In its action taken reply the Ministry has merely given the names of projects in defaulting States along with the grants released in the year 2007-08 without furnishing details of time and cost overrun of the projects. The Committee, therefore, reiterate their earlier recommendation and call upon the Ministry of Water Resources to fix some time frame for submission of UCs besides introducing a penalty clause to compel States to submit UCs in time. The Committee would further like to be apprised of not only the list of AIBP projects in defaulting States along with amount of the grant released, but also the status of these projects, including the percentage of Central grant already released to each of the projects and the revised time line and cost for the completion of the said projects.

CHAPTER II
RECOMMENDATIONS/OBSERVATIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED
BY THE GOVERNMENT

Recommendation (Para No.1.3)

The Committee note that despite assurance given by the Secretary, Ministry of Water Resources before the Committee regarding submission of action taken notes on the recommendations/observations contained in the First Report of the Committee (2009-10), the Ministry has failed to furnish the action taken notes even after the lapse of prescribed period of three months from the date of presentation of Report. The Committee take an adverse note of this and desire that action taken notes on the First Report of the Committee be furnished expeditiously. The reasons for the inordinate delay may also be furnished to the Committee for their consideration.

Reply of the Government

The action taken notes on the First Report of the Committee were furnished by this Ministry on 7.5.2010. The main reason for delay in furnishing the action taken notes is attributable to time taken in collecting information from various organizations, including State Governments. The delay is, however, regretted.

Recommendation (Para No.2.40)

The Committee note that the budget provision in the Demands for Grants of the MoWR for the year 2010-11 is Rs.1,131.52 crore. This excludes the funds earmarked for Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) and other Water Resources Programmes which are directly released by the Ministry of Finance under Centrally Assisted Programme. There is an increase of Rs.100 crore (14.04%) in the Plan side in comparison to Budget Estimate 2009-10. The Demand shows an overall increase of Rs.101.98 crore (9.01%) over the corresponding figure of BE 2009-10. The Plan allocation was reduced from Rs.612.00 to Rs.552.00 crore at

RE 2009-10 stage, i.e. a decrease of 9.95%, whereas the Non-Plan expenditure was raised by 8.94%, i.e. from Rs.417.54 crore to Rs.458.55 crore, which consists of Revenue Section of Rs.455.39 crore and Capital Section of Rs.3.16 crore. According to the Ministry, the allocations for the year 2010-11 are considered sufficient for meeting the requirement of various activities planned during the year under different Plan Schemes. The increase of Rs.100 crores for Central Sector Scheme is mainly due to increase in the allocation for the schemes of 'Ground Water Management and Regulation', 'Hydrology Project', 'Investigation of Water Resources Development Schemes', 'Farraka Barrage Project', 'Flood Forecasting', 'Infrastructure Development' and 'Rajiv Gandhi National Ground Water Training and Research Institute'. The reductions in the allocation at RE stage have been made mainly in respect of Hydrology Project, Research and Development, Flood Forecasting, River Management & Works in Border Areas due to delay in procurement of equipment, delay in taking up morphological studies, delay in finalization of award of works related to installation of telemetry system. The Committee note that the reasons attributed by the Ministry for reduction in allocation at RE stage, far from plausible, reflect poor budgeting, lack of foresightedness, lack of proper Central control and monitoring on the part of the Ministry. They, therefore, desire the Ministry to evolve a rational and sound system of budgeting so that there is no reduction in allocations at the RE stage in future. Needless to say, reduction in allocation at the RE stage, is prima facie, indicative of poor planning, lack of monitoring and poor control by the Ministry over field offices / attached / subordinate offices / institutes.

Reply of the Government

In view of the recommendation of the Standing Committee, various organizations have been advised for estimating the final requirements very meticulously and ensure that the allocated funds are effectively utilized to fully achieve the physical and financial targets. They have also been asked for regular monitoring of the projects in respect of schemes implemented by them. Simultaneously, the progress is being reviewed by the Secretary (WR) every month

with a view to identify the constraints and bottlenecks and take necessary remedial measures to ensure that the targets are fully achieved.

Recommendation (Para No.2.41)

The Committee note that during the year 2008-09 the actual expenditure was less than the Budget estimates as the Ministry incurred expenditure of Rs.830 crore against BE of Rs.906 crore. The Committee further note that the expenditure was erratically distributed during all the quarters of 2009-10. They, therefore, desire the Ministry to incur expenditure strictly according to the directions of the Ministry of Finance so as to avoid March rush of expenditure. It is, therefore, imperative that the Ministry watch and monitor the flow of expenditure throughout the year so as to ensure strict scrutiny before the release of funds.

Reply of the Government

The pace of expenditure under various schemes is reviewed in the Ministry of Water Resources at the level of Secretary (WR) on monthly basis. Meetings of all concerned Wing Heads and Heads of Organizations are also convened at regular intervals to identify the bottlenecks in implementation of schemes, if any, and take appropriate remedial measures to accelerate the implementation. Further, instructions of Ministry of Finance on FRBM ceiling, including incurring of not more than 15% expenditure during the last month of the financial year, are followed.

Recommendation (Para No.2.42)

The Committee note that the number of spill over projects into the Eleventh Five Year Plan works out to 477 including 166 major 222 medium and 89 ERM projects. Some of these projects have been under execution from as back as the Second Five Year Plan, i.e. to say from the year 1956-57. About 63% of the above 477 projects are unapproved and are ineligible for Central assistance. Also, 309 new projects including 78 major, 145 medium and 86 ERM

were proposed to be taken up during the XI Plan. Though detailed information about completion of all the ongoing projects and delay of new projects during XI Plan has not been made available by the State Governments, as per updated information available on AIBP, 37 major/medium/ERM projects have been reported as completed during XI Plan till March 2010 and 10 new projects have been taken up under the AIBP. Further, the Committee observe that delay in implementation of irrigation projects occurs due to various reasons such as resource crunch with the States, land acquisition problems, resettlement and rehabilitation problems, contractual problems, litigation, delay in execution of work by other agencies such as railway or highway, etc. The Committee are unhappy to note that due to delay in completion of projects, notwithstanding the reasons these usually spill over to next plan. The Committee desire that MoWR should take concrete steps so that spilled over projects, particularly of the distant past five year plans, are completed during the Eleventh Plan period itself.

Reply of the Government

As per the Report of the Working Group on Water Resources for XI Five Year Plan, 477 projects (including 166 major, 222 medium and 89 ERM) were likely to spill over to XI Plan. Working Group also anticipated completion of 178 Project (including 48 Major, 91 Medium and 39 ERM) during X Plan. However, all of these 178 projects could not be completed and 76 projects (including 16 major, 51 medium and 9 ERM) were spilled over to XI Plan along with 477 projects, making 553 projects (182 Major, 273 Medium and 98 ERM) spill over to XI Plan.

Irrigation being a state subject, execution and completion of irrigation projects is within the purview of the respective State Governments. Out of 321 projects which were taken up prior to IX Plan, 132 projects have been included in AIBP since 1996 and 30 projects out of these have been completed till March 2010. Ministry of Water Resources is pursuing States by convening meetings and urging the States to expedite completion.

Recommendation (Para No.2.45)

The Committee note that the Ministry of Water Resources proposes to establish two River Basin Organisations (RBOs) for Mahanadi and Godavari river basins during XI Plan under River Boards Act, 1956. The main purpose of creation of RBOs is preparation of the comprehensive and integrated basin plan for sustainable development of available resources to derive optimum benefits and Integrated management of Water Resources with active participation of the stake holders. These RBOs can also provide a platform for discussion among co-basin States for arriving at consensus on interstate issues. As per the River Boards Act 1956, the RBOs are to be established in consultation with the interested States. The proposals for above two RBOs in this regard have been sent to the co-basin States for their comments which are awaited. The Committee appreciate the efforts of the Ministry and desire that the matter be pursued vigorously and conclusively at appropriate levels with the concerned State Governments. Action needs to be initiated for such RBOs for other river basins as well so that solution of many water disputes among the co-basin States could be resolved amicably and swiftly. They are of the considered view that efficacious functioning of RBOs will obviate the need for formation of new Water Disputes Tribunals.

Reply of the Government

It has been proposed to set up two RBOs/River Boards in the XI plan under the River Boards Act 1956 in respect of Mahanadi and Godavari basins As per the Act, the RBOs are to be established in consultation with and for the interested States. The proposal in this regard was sent to the co-basin states for their views. They were reminded vide letters dated 13.1.2009, 25.05.2009 and 11.8.2009. The matter was also discussed in the 13th meeting of National Water Board held on 18th September, 2009 with concerned States. The States were again requested on 7.1.2010 & 23.3.2010 to give their views in this regard. The Govt. of Chhattisgarh has favoured the proposal of setting up of Mahanadi River Basin Organisation(MRBO) and Godavari River Basin Organisation (GRBO) with certain

observations. The Govt. of Orissa has also favoured the setting up of MRBO with certain observations. However, the Govt. of Maharashtra has not favoured the proposal of setting up of MRBO and GRBO at this stage. Other co-basin States of Godavari & Mahanadi basin have not offered their views. The matter is being pursued with all concerned State Governments

As the setting up of RBO is a time consuming process, initially the efforts are focused on these two basins only. After the success in the setup of RBO in Mahanadi & Godavari basins, the setting up of RBOs on other basins would also be taken up.

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Recommendation (Para No.2.46)

The Committee note that Dams require constant management and monitoring and to establish an institutional system to maintain and regularly monitor the safety of dams, legislation is required to be made. The Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly and the West

Bengal Legislative Assembly have passed Resolutions empowering the Parliament to pass the necessary Dam Safety Act. The legislation on dam safety would help the States in adopting uniform dam safety norms. Such statutory dam safety norms will provide for proper surveillance, inspection and maintenance of dams of certain parameters to ensure their safe functioning. According to the Ministry, the proposed Dam Safety Bill, 2010 is under finalization in consultation with the Ministry of Law & Justice and is expected to be taken up during the Fourth Session of 15th Lok Sabha. The Committee, therefore, desire that the said Dam Safety Legislation be introduced expeditiously in Parliament within the stipulated time.

Reply of the Government

As regard introduction of Dam Safety Bill, 2010 it is mentioned that the Cabinet in its meeting dt. 13.5.2010 considered the Dam Safety Bill, 2010 and approved the Bill with certain modifications which are being carried out in consultation with the Ministry of Law & Justice. After finalization of the same, the Bill would be introduced in Parliament.

Recommendation (Para No.2.47)

The Committee note that there are 12 Wings in the Ministry. According to the MoWR the present staff strength is not sufficient for the smooth functioning of the various activities of the Ministry, as over a period of time, on the one hand the sanctioned posts have been abolished due to various reasons, like abolition of 2/3rd of direct recruitment vacancies every year since 16.5.2001 till 31.3.2009 under the Annual Direct Recruitment Plan of the Ministry of Finance, and on the other hand new activities have been assigned to the Ministry. According to the Ministry, efforts have been made to augment the staff strength by revival of posts gone under deemed abolition though a few new posts have also been created. The Committee, therefore, reiterate that the Ministry should pursue vigorously with the Ministry of Finance for revival of some posts gone under deemed abolition and which are crucial for smooth functioning of the Ministry particularly on technical side which constitutes the backbone of the

activities of the Ministry of Water Resources. The Ministry of Water Resources should also conduct a fresh review of staff strength to ascertain the actual requirement of the staff and officers in its various wings and offices and the bodies under it considering the importance of its expanding mandate.

Reply of the Government

A number of posts have been revived in this Ministry and its organizations in recent years with the approval of Ministry of Finance. In the light of Standing Committee's recommendation, a fresh exercise has now been initiated for revival of posts going under deemed abolition. All the organizations under the Ministry have been requested to intimate the number and names of the technical posts which they would like to recommend for revival. The proposal is being taken up with the Ministry of Finance for revival of posts. Further, it is mentioned that Staff Inspection Unit of Ministry of Finance has already been requested to conduct a study of the manpower requirement of the Ministry and its organizations.

Comments of the Committee

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

Recommendation (Para No.2.48)

The Committee note that replies to several Audit Paras for the year 2007-08 and 2008-09 are still at the stage of preparation of draft Action Taken Notes. They were apprised that the process of final settlement of each para is very time consuming and piecemeal settlement of individual para is not permitted. However, they are unable to accept the explanation of the Ministry of Water Resources that since the offices of the Ministry including attached and subordinate offices, autonomous organizations and statutory bodies are located far and across the country and therefore, collection of information from the controlling officers causes delay. The explanation sounds hollow and baseless considering the lead taken by India in IT application. Further, the Committee would like to caution the Ministry that wilful delay in furnishing

explanation to the Audit or any sign of non cooperation gives misgivings and only adds to suspicion and mistrust. They hope that the Ministry would take appropriate measures to computerize the functioning of its offices including field formations for speedy exchange of communication and would also take suitable steps to settle the audit findings/observations expeditiously.

Reply of the Government

Ministry of Water Resources has taken appropriate measures to expedite the pace of submission of Draft ATN/Final ATN. In this direction, efforts are also being made to computerize the functioning of offices, including field formations, which will facilitate speedy compilation and transmission of information.

Recommendation (Para No.3.17)

The Committee note that the target for creation of irrigation potential through major and medium irrigation projects during X Plan was 9.936 mha which was reduced to 6.5 mha during Mid-Term Appraisal of X Plan. The reported creation of irrigation potential was 5.30 mha through major and medium irrigation projects during X Plan as against the target of 9.936 mha. The target for creation of irrigation potential through major and medium projects during XI Plan is 9.0 mha. The total irrigation potential of 1.86 mha has been created during the first two years of XI Plan i.e. during 2007-08 and 2008-09. At mid term appraisal of the XI Plan the target has since been revised to 5.00 mha. The Committee are anguished to note that targets were reduced in Tenth Plan and even those reduced targets could not be achieved. The same pattern is also seen in the XI Plan as the figures of reference at 2 years and mid term appraisal of scheme indicate that only 1.86 mha irrigation potential has been created thus far. With this snail's pace, the much reduced target of 5.00 mha prima facie appears to be unachievable. The Committee are, therefore, of the considered view that something has gone awry with the plan target formulation process and the Ministry must, therefore, reflect deeply to devise suitable measures to achieve the target fixed so as to avoid cost and time overrun.

Reply of the Government

Irrigation being a State subject, the planning, implementation, development and maintenance of water resources projects is the responsibility of the State Governments. However, the realization of targeted potential lies with the implementing authorities. The Planning Commission has further observed that during the formulation of the XI Plan and its targets (in the year 2006-07), the average cost of the creation of irrigation potential was about Rs.1.7 lakh per hectare which has risen to the extent of Rs.2.00 to 3.5 lakh per hectare because of price hike in material, labour cost and land acquisition etc, Against the revised target of 6.5 mha in Mid-Term Appraisal (MTA) of X Plan, the irrigation potential creation through major and medium irrigation projects in X Plan was 5.30 mha (81.53%) . Further, the target set for XI Plan was 9.0 mha which has been revised to 5.00 mha in MTA of XI Plan., against which creation of total irrigation potential of 2.98 mha during the first three years of 11th Plan i.e. 2007-08, 2008-09 & 2009-10 has been reported so far by the State Governments. Some of the major issues in non-achievement of the target in irrigation sector are as under:

- Environment and forest clearances.
- Rehabilitation and resettlement issues.
- Land acquisition problems.
- Contractual Litigations.
- Lack of operation and maintenance.

Ministry of Water Resources is pursuing the matter with respective State Governments and making all out efforts to ensure the achievement of revised target.

Recommendation (Para No.3.19)

The Committee note that the management of Water Resources is a highly complex task that involves multi-disciplinary domains including data acquisition, numerical modelling, optimisation, data warehousing, and the analysis of socio-economic, environmental and legal issues. The development of Water Resources Information System (WRIS) was approved in

June 2008 for implementation during the XI Plan with the total outlay of Rs.234.30 crore. The Budget allocation (Plan) has been earmarked at Rs.66.00 crore for the year 2010-11 which is Rs.4.00 crore less as compared to BE 2009-10. The objective of the scheme is to develop information system for water resources. All the processed information will be made available to all users through a web enabled system. Two main activities under the scheme are (i) Data Bank and Online Information System, and (ii) Creation of Watershed Maps and Geographic Information System. The works related to studies for assessment of irrigation potential by remote sensing technique are also undertaken under the scheme. The website of India WRIS has been launched during 2009. The Development of WRIS by Indian Space Research Organization is under progress. In respect of minor irrigation census, 99.4% field work has been reported as completed. About 86.7% of the works related to data entry has also been completed. At this stage the Committee hope that development of WRIS will be taken up at a faster pace so that the information uploaded becomes available and utilized for various studies, research and to help evaluate various schemes.

Reply of the Government

The objective of the plan scheme, Water Resources Information System (WRIS) is to develop information system on water resources at the national level. The Water Resources Information System web site was launched during 2010-11 and the work is under progress in ISRO – DOS. The WRIS web site proposes to have web enabled query system on its data base to generate any desired basin wise information. The matter has been taken up with Department of Space for ensuring timely completion of the target. Department of Space has informed that the first phase of WRIS would be operational by September 2010.

Further Reply of the Government

During XI Plan CWC & ISRO are jointly developing web based Water Resources Information System. In this information system 30 GIS layers (as given below) will be developed. This information system will be on 1:50000 scale with WGS 84 projection system.

The project is scheduled to be completed by December 2012. The first version of the information system was inaugurated by the then Hon'ble Minister for Water Resources Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal on 7th December 2010 at New Delhi. The URL of website is www.india-wris.nrsc.gov.in/webgis.php.

SI.No.	Name of GIS Layer
1.	Basin, sub basin, catchment, water shed
2.	River network
3.	Digital Elevation Model
4.	Administrative boundary like International, State, District & Block boundary
5.	Village boundary
6.	Town/village location and extent
7.	Road network
8.	Major tourist station
9.	Location of Major & Medium Irrigation Projects
10.	Location of Hydroelectric Project
11.	Location of Multipurpose projects
12.	Major & Medium Irrigation command boundary
13.	Waterlogged and salt affected area in major & medium command
14.	Soil samples of Major & Medium Irrigation Project command
15.	Canal Network
16.	Surface water bodies
17.	Ground water observation well location & data
18.	Litholog data with aquifer data
19.	Land use/ Land cover
20.	Land degradation
21.	Wasteland map
22.	Snow cover area
23.	Flood inundation map
24.	Drought prone area map
25.	Inland navigation waterways
26.	Inter-basin transfer link as per NWDA
27.	Hydro-meteorological (Gauge & Discharge) sties of CWC
28.	Meteorological station of IMB & CWC
29.	Climate related data
30.	Pollution monitoring station/water quality station of CWC

[Ministry of Water Resources Letter No.3/129/2010-RS/207 dated 22.02.2011]

Comments of the Committee

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

Recommendation (Para No.3.20)

The Committee further note that reports of 52 projects have been received from NRSA Hyderabad on the remote sensing monitoring of AIBP assisted major and medium irrigation projects. The reports have been analyzed and the analysis of the results indicated that the variations between the figures of irrigation potential creation as reported by the respective State Governments and that assessed by the remote sensing data were within $\pm 15\%$ in respect of 30 projects. However, in other cases the variations were relatively higher. The monitoring of projects through remote sensing also helped in identifying the specific reasons for non-creation of irrigation potential and also in identifying the specific location where the works remained incomplete resulting in non-utilization of created facilities. According to the Ministry, the findings of the studies have been conveyed to respective State Governments for necessary action. The Committee is happy to note that reports of NRSA, Hyderabad is proving as a major help in finding the status/lacuna in the implementation of projects. The Committee hope that the good work will continue with greater vigour so as to expand its reach. The Committee would like to be apprised of the response of various States to whom project reports and findings have been conveyed. They also desire that services of NRSA should be extended to other activities of water resource availability, conservation, depletion and development particularly the ground water.

Reply of the Government

State Governments have been requested to give feedback in respect of those projects where variation was large. CWC field units have also been directed to pursue with the State Governments and obtain the feedback from the States. The efforts are made by the Project Authorities to close the gaps in the canal network wherever pointed out in the Report of the National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC) of the Department of

Space. Further, AIBP assisted extension of the work of assessing potential creation by cartosat satellite data to 50 additional irrigation projects has been approved. In addition to the assessment of irrigation potential creation for AIBP assisted projects, several activities in water sector have been undertaken by using remote sensing data in association with NRSC by concerned organizations of the Government of India as well as the State Governments. Some of important works undertaken by NRSC are as under.

- a. Satellite Remote Sensing based sedimentation analysis for selected reservoirs in India jointly with Central Water Commission.
- b. Assessment and Monitoring of Water Logging & Salinity in Major & Medium Irrigation Project in the country jointly with Central Water Commission.
- c. Preparation of maps showing prospective zones of groundwater occurrence and recharge on 1:50,000 scale under Rajiv Gandhi National Drinking Water Mission (RGNDWM) jointly with Department of Drinking Water Supply.
- d. Monitoring and evaluation of Watersheds treated under NWDPRAs jointly with Ministry of Agriculture.
- e. Satellite based evaluation study of 14 major irrigation commands under Command Area Development (CAD) programme
- f. Snowmelt runoff forecasting in Sutluj basin jointly with Bhakra Beas Management Board.
- g. Organization of training courses on “Application of Remote Sensing GIS in water sector” jointly with National Water Academy, Pune.
- h. Development of Water Resources Information System jointly with Central Water Commission

Further, a major project to study the snow and glacier in the country has been launched by Ministry of Environment & Forest and ISRO. In addition, satellite derived inputs have also been used in assessing the feasibility of proposed irrigation projects in upper Betwa

basin on part of Ken-Betwa link project. River morphology studies have also been carried out by using remote sensing data.

Comments of the Committee

(Please see Para No.18 of Chapter-I of the Report)

Recommendation (Para No.4.12)

The Committee note that Minor Irrigation Schemes are those ground water and surface water schemes which have a culturable command area upto 2,000 hectares individually. During XI Plan period many schemes under Minor Irrigation have been transferred to State Sector and some others have been merged in a new scheme. The Budget Allocation (Plan) for Minor Irrigation Scheme during 2010-11 is Rs.116.50 crore which is Rs.42.50 crore more as compared to the previous financial year in 2009-10. The schemes covered under Minor Irrigation are Ground Water Management and Regulation, Rajiv Gandhi National Training and Research Institute for Ground Water and Infrastructure Development. The reasons for increased allocation for 2010-11, as submitted by the Ministry, are enhanced activities for work in respect of rain water harvesting and artificial recharge of ground water, work of office building of CWC and CGWB and for training of officers of State Governments in India and abroad. The Committee hope that the increased allocation of Rs.116.50 crore would be utilised fully in 2010-11. The Committee, however, desire that they may be apprised of the achievement under the schemes of rain water harvesting and artificial recharge of ground water during the first two years of the XI Plan.

Reply of the Government

In the 1st year of XI Plan, State implementing agencies were requested to prepare Detailed Project Report (DPR) for proposed Demonstrative Projects indicating design and cost estimate. CGWB regional Offices, jointly with State Agencies made feasibility studies for

preparation of DPRs. State Level Technical Advisory Committees in States were also constituted for recommending project proposals submitted by State Agencies for release of funds to construct artificial recharge structures under demonstrative recharge component of Central Sector Scheme.

In the 2nd year of the Plan, 8 project proposals for construction of recharge structures in States of Tamil Nadu, Kerala, West Bengal, Punjab and Arunachal Pradesh were approved. In the 3rd year of Plan, 8 more proposals were approved and the progressive release of Rs. 15.36 crore made against the total project cost of Rs. 25.06 crores to the States of Kerala, Punjab, Arunachal Pradesh, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh.

In order to utilize the enhanced allocation during 2010-11 under the scheme, the matter is being vigorously pursued with the States through Central Ground Water Board and periodical review of the physical and financial progress of the works are being undertaken by the Ministry of Water Resources.

Recommendation (Para No. 4.13)

The Committee note that the target for creation of irrigation potential through Minor Irrigation during X Plan was 6.807 mha which was revised to 4.00 mha at mid term appraisals and actual creation of potential was 3.52 mha and its utilization was 2.82 mha. The target for creation of irrigation potential through MI during XI Plan is 7 million hectare and the achievement, as reported by the respective State Governments during the first two years of XI Plan, i.e. during 2007-08 and 2008-09 has been 1.79 Million hectare. The Committee regret to note that despite downward revision in the target for creation of irrigation, the actual output was further down. The target for XI Plan has been fixed at 7 mha against which actual creation in first two years is meagre 1.79 mha, a figure far from encouraging. During the mid- term appraisal, the target for XI Plan has also been revised to 4.50 mha. The Committee, therefore, would like to be apprised of the strategy and the measures to be taken by MOWR to achieve the revised target fixed for XI Plan during the remaining period of the Plan. The Committee

would also like to be apprised of the State-wise break-up of irrigation potential to be created during XI plan and achieved so far.

Reply of the Government

The irrigation projects including the minor irrigation projects are undertaken by respective State Governments as per their own priorities. With a view to encourage the completion of ongoing projects and help States in creation of irrigation potential, Government of India provides financial assistance under Accelerated Irrigation Benefited Programme (AIBP). In case of minor irrigation schemes, the central assistance to States is provided to the projects in the States of North-Eastern Region, Hilly States namely, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Ultrakhand, undivided Koraput, Bolangir and Kalahandi (KBK) districts of Orissa and projects benefiting tribal areas and drought prone areas. As per the updated information provided by the respective State Governments, a total of 2.322 million hectare of irrigation potential has been created through minor irrigation schemes since April, 2007. State-wise details are as under:

State-wise irrigation potential created under Minor Irrigation during XIth Plan upto 22.06.2010

S. No.	State/UT	Irrigation Potential created (in thousand hectare)			
		2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	Total
1	Andhra Pradesh	93.621	0.000	1.220	94.841
2	Arunachal Pradesh	7.000	4.350	3.470	14.820
3	Assam	10.661	25.709	50.944	87.314
4	Bihar	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
5	Chhattisgarh	19.524	29.520	27.126	76.170
6	Goa	0.384	0.472	0.106	0.962
7	Gujarat	50.810	70.270	22.130	143.210

8	Haryana	2.150	6.788	3.236	12.174
9	Himachal Pradesh	2.700	2.800	29.472	34.972
10	Jammu & Kashmir	13.450	0.000	12.120	25.570
11	Jharkhand	8.482	24.210	2.828	35.520
12	Karnataka	14.431	41.709	0.000	56.140
13	Kerala	6.818	8.636	0.462	15.916
14	Madhya Pradesh	22.680	49.480	1.092	73.252
15	Maharashtra	0.000	35.000	29.423	64.423
16	Manipur	0.000	0.000	2.072	2.072
17	Meghalaya	0.932	5.056	4.589	10.577
18	Mizoram	3.031	5.248	3.509	11.788
19	Nagaland	4.195	3.872	3.344	11.411
20	Orissa	34.354	50.250	6.654	91.258
21	Punjab	26.202	0.000	0.000	26.202
22	Rajasthan	11.010	5.870	3.000	19.880
23	Sikkim	1.080	0.797	0.914	2.791
24	Tamil Nadu	1.700	98.000	264.580	364.280
25	Tripura	0.508	0.270	0.812	1.590
26	Uttar Pradesh	494.400	373.200	34.030	901.630
27	Uttaranchal	29.280	12.086	12.139	53.505
28	West Bengal	31.936	48.959	9.105	90.000
29	UTs	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
	Total	891.339	902.552	528.377	2322.268

Comments of the Committee

(Please see Para No. 21 of Chapter-I of the Report)

Recommendation (Para No. 4.14)

The Committee note that the Scheme of Ground Water Management & Regulation (GWM&R) was launched at a cost of Rs. 460 crore for implementation by Central Ground Water Board during XI Plan. Demonstrative projects on Artificial Recharge to ground water and Rain Water Harvesting proposed to be taken up under Central Sector Scheme by CGWB, at an estimated cost of Rs. 100 crore with 100% funding by the Central Government. Exploratory Drilling, Carrying out Ground Water Management studies, Ground Water regime monitoring through observation wells and Regulation and Control of ground Water development through CGWA are other activities covered in the Scheme. So far the State Level Technical Advisory Committees (SLTAC) of the 11 States (Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Karnataka, Punjab, West Bengal, Mizoram, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Orissa) have forwarded the proposals to the CGWB for funding under 'demonstrative projects on artificial recharge' and 'rain water harvesting' component of the scheme. The proposal, in respect of the remaining States are under preparation. During the XI Plan, a total of 794 Artificial Recharge Structures in 7 States have been proposed for funding from Central Sector Scheme, out of which 121 AR structures are completed and remaining are under progress. Efforts are being made to make these schemes popular / mandatory in public so that adverse effects of over exploitation of ground water can be dealt with. The efforts include mass awareness programmes, workshops and publication of Information brochures in local languages. The Committee appreciate the efforts being made to make aware the masses about the importance of water, adverse effects of over exploitation etc. However, the Committee regret to note that against a target of 794 Artificial Recharge Structures during XI Plan only 121 structures have been completed whereas half of the term of the XIth plan is over. Considering such a tardy pace of execution, the Committee are highly concerned and worried how the targets would be achieved by the end of the XIth Plan. Therefore, the Committee desire that Ministry of Water Resources should pursue the matter with the State Governments with greater vigour and persuade them to push forward the pace of construction

of remaining structures of artificial recharge so that the targets fixed for the XI Plan are achieved.

Reply of the Government

Out of 794 recharge structures approved, 318 have been completed upto March, 2010. Further, Regional Directors and CGWB are constantly pursuing the matter with State Government implementing agencies to complete construction of the recharge structures in approved demonstrative artificial recharge projects on priority following timelines indicated in project proposals so as to complete the work by March, 2011.

Recommendation (Para No. 5.11)

The Committee note that two on-going schemes of X plan, namely, 'Establishment and Modernization of Flood Forecasting Network in India including Inflow forecast' and 'Strengthening and modernization of flood forecasting and hydrological observation network in the Brahmaputra and Barak Basin' of Central Water Commission (CWC) have been amalgamated into a combined scheme, namely, "Flood Forecasting" during XI Plan. Under the new scheme, it is proposed (i) to modernize the flood forecasting network by installing automatic water level and rainfall sensors at all the observation sites and satellite based transmission system for getting real time flood data expeditiously and (ii) to develop appropriate software/models for flood/inflow forecasting to reduce the time for analysis of data. The outlay on Flood Forecasting for the year 2010-11 has been increased to Rs.36.00 crore in comparison to Rs.25.00 crore at BE 2009-10. The increase of Rs.11 crore in the outlay is mainly for procurement of telemetry equipment, the work orders of which are being finalized and payments will be made in 2010-11 which could not be done in 2009-10. Presently, Flood Forecasts are issued by CWC at 175 stations (28 Inflow Forecast Stations and 147 Level Forecast Stations). The existing data acquisition and transmission system, though time tested for the past 35 years, needs modernization. During X Plan, the work of modernization of existing data acquisition, forecasting and transmission network at 168 data collection stations was undertaken by CWC. The activity of flood forecasting comprises Level Forecasting and

Inflow Forecasting. The level forecasts help the user agencies in deciding mitigating measures. The Inflow Forecasting is used by various dam authorities in optimum operation of reservoirs for safe passage of flood downstream as well as to ensure adequate storage in the reservoirs for meeting demands during non-monsoon period. At present, accuracy of flood forecasts issued to the local authorities by CWC is above 96%. During the X Plan, the activity of installation of telemetry equipments at 168 stations in the five river basins namely, the Godavari (63 nos.), the Krishna (41 nos.), the Brahmaputra (21 nos.), the Damodar (20 nos.), the Yamuna (15 nos.) and part of Mahanadi basin (8 nos.) was undertaken. Due to time and other constraints, works on only 147 stations could be completed out of 168 stations and the works for the remaining 21 stations spilled over to XI Plan. During XI Plan, the targets of 222 telemetry stations have been fixed. The target for 99 stations has been revised from 2009-10 to 2010-11. The remaining 123 telemetry stations are proposed to be installed during 2011-12. The Committee hope that the Ministry would make sincere and concerted efforts to install the remaining 123 telemetry equipments by 2011-12. The particulars of the States if any, where the Union Government have not installed their own telemetry equipments may also be furnished along with the reasons for such omission.

Reply of the Government

The work for supply, installation, test and commissioning of 222 Telemetry Stations has been awarded by Central Water Commission in April, 2010. Central Water Commission has constituted an Implementation Committee, headed by the Chief Engineer, to monitor the progress of works. The target of installation of 99 telemetry stations during 2010-11 and remaining 123 telemetry stations during 2011-12 has been fixed.

The telemetry equipment are not installed by CWC so far in the States of Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Goa, Punjab, Sikkim, Manipur, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Tripura, Mizoram and Jammu & Kashmir. These states would be covered under telemetry network in the next Five Year Plan.

Recommendation (Para No.6.16)

The Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) was launched during 1996-97 to give loan assistance to the States to help them complete some of the incomplete major/medium irrigation projects which were in an advanced stage of completion with a view to speed up creation of additional irrigation potential in the country. Grant component has been introduced in the programme from April 2004 like other Central sector schemes. As per the existing AIBP criteria effective from December 2006, grant amounting to 25% of the project cost for major and medium irrigation projects in non-special category States and 90% grant of the project cost in special category States are provided to the selected projects. The minor irrigation schemes in non-special category States falling in drought prone/tribal areas are treated at par with special category States and are released 90% grant of the project cost. Drought prone/Tribal area and flood prone area are also eligible for 90% grant of the project cost. After commencement of this Programme 110 major/medium and 6,959 Surface MI Schemes have so far been completed. An additional irrigation potential of 5.486 million hectare has been created through major/medium irrigation projects and an irrigation potential of 0.454 million hectare has been created through Surface MI Schemes upto March 2009. Of the 65 major/medium projects initially included in the Prime Minister's relief package for agrarian distressed districts of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala and Maharashtra, so far 38 projects have been funded under AIBP. The State Governments have reported creation of 18.60 lakh ha. (1.86 mha) irrigation potential through major/medium projects during first two years of XI Plan of which 10.817 lakh ha. (1.08 mha) were through AIBP assisted major/medium projects and through surface water minor irrigation schemes it is 2.175 lakh ha (0.21 mha). The Committee note that AIBP was launched to give loan assistance to the States to help them complete some of the incomplete projects which were in advanced stage of completion and to create additional irrigation potential in the country. As per the information made available to the Committee, the irrigation potential created under AIBP up to March 2009 is 5.940 mha (4.846 mha under MMI projects and 0.454 mha under surface MI projects). Moreover, out of 275 MMI projects and 10316 surface MI schemes funded under the scheme till 01.02.2010 only 110

MMI and 6,959 surface MI scheme have so far been completed. The Committee are not at all satisfied with the progress achieved under AIBP scheme so far and desire that concerted and concrete efforts be made to make the programme successful by achieving the targets.

Reply of the Government

Up to March 2009, irrigation potential of 5.94 mha was reported to have been created under the AIBP. During 2009-10, irrigation potential of about 9.00 lakh ha is estimated to have been created though the same will be confirmed by end of current working season in July 2010. Apart from 110 major / medium projects already reported as completed, 14 more projects are expected to have been completed for which completion report is awaited and is likely to be received shortly. 7882 surface MI schemes are also reported as completed under AIBP so far. The Ministry of Water Resources is making concerted efforts for making AIBP a more successful programme.

Comments of the Committee

(Please see Para No. 27 of Chapter-I of the Report)

Recommendation (Para No. 6.17)

A list each of the ongoing MMI projects and surface MI schemes under AIBP indicate that there are 43 MMI projects and a large number of MI/new schemes pending for release of subsequent instalment for want of request of State Governments and utilization certificates for the instalments released earlier. The Committee are surprised to note that State Governments have neither submitted utilization certificate nor requested for subsequent release of funds. The Committee are of the view that such delay in submission of utilization certificate leads to cost overrun and time overrun and delay in benefits to farmers in the form of irrigation facilities. The Committee desire MoWR to take up the matter vigorously with State Governments regarding delay in submission of utilization certificates and request for release of grant. They also desire to fix some time frame for submission of UCs alongwith a penalty clause that may

be a tool of deterrence and force State Governments in submitting UCs in time. The Committee would also like to see the list of defaulter States and the projects and their costs that are likely to be affected.

Reply of the Government

The State Governments usually submit UCs for earlier released grant under AIBP along with proposals for next instalment of grant and it is a continuous process. The delay in submission of UCs occurs if the grant released under AIBP could not be utilized due to slow progress of works which occurs due to various reasons such as land acquisition problems, resettlement and rehabilitation problems, contractual problems, geological surprises, litigation etc. The Ministry of Water Resources consistently reviews performance of the projects under AIBP and suggest remedial measures for timely completion of the projects. The Ministry usually do not approve extension of time for completion of project unless there is full justification for delay in completion of projects and usually obtains undertaking from State Governments that any further cost overrun due to time overrun shall be borne by the state governments themselves. The projects indicated below have not approached MoWR for further release of grant after 2007-08 and Utilization Certificate for the last grant are pending with them.

Amount in Rs Crores

S.No.	State / Project	Grant released in 2007-08
	Andhra Pardesh	
1	Pushkara	13.96
2	Gollavavu	32.12
3	Valligallu	26.25
4	Nilwai	15.55
	Bihar	
5	4 MI schemes	3.55
	Jharkhand	
6	Gumani	3.71
7	Sonua	0.90

	Karnataka	
8	Varahi	0.29
	Madhya Pradesh	
9	Indira Sagar	94.77
	Orissa	
10	Titlagarh	17.33
11	Chhaligadda	5.53

Comments of the Committee

(Please see Para No. 30 of Chapter-I of the Report)

Recommendation (Para No.6.19)

The Committee note that for the year 2009-10, Budget allocation of Rs.8,000 crore has been made by the Ministry of Finance for AIBP which includes Rs.1,800 crore for the National Projects. The Union Cabinet in February 2008 approved the proposal of the Ministry of Water Resources on implementation of National Projects with Central assistance of 90% of the cost of the project. A new project is eligible for consideration for inclusion in the scheme of National Project with the approval of the Union Cabinet if it is an International project where usage of water in India is required by a treaty or where Inter-state projects which are dragging on due to non-resolution of inter-state issues including river inter-linking projects and Intra-state projects with additional potential of more than 2 lakh ha. and with no dispute regarding sharing of water. The Central Government has declared 14 water resource projects as National Projects. Out of these 14 projects, detailed project reports of nine projects are under various stages of preparation. DPR of Ken-Betwa Link Project was prepared and sent for concurrence of M.P. and U.P. Govts. Reportedly, the comments of the Government of U.P. and M.P. on the DPR are under examination by NWDA. The Committee desire NWDA to take early decision on the comments of the State Governments on the DPR of Ken-Betwa link. The Committee also note that no addition in the Scheme of National Project

has been made in the last one year. The Committee would like to be apprised of the reasons therefor. The Committee also desire that to increase the irrigation potential, MoWR should consider to include more projects in the Scheme of National Projects.

Reply of the Government

Keeping in view overall availability of budget allocation, two new projects, namely Polavaram Project of Andhra Pradesh and Bargi Diversion Project of Madhya Pradesh are under active consideration of the Ministry for inclusion in the scheme of national projects. The High Powered Steering Committee for National Projects has approved their inclusion in the scheme of national projects and further action is being taken by this Ministry for obtaining EFC clearance required for seeking the approval of Union Cabinet.

Recommendation (Para No.6.20)

The Committee note that Irrigation is one of the six components for development of rural infrastructure under Bharat Nirman. Against the aim of creation of irrigation potential of 10 million hectare (Mha) in four years, i.e. from 2005-06 to 2008-09, 7.31 Mha has been created upto March 2009. The target for creation of irrigation potential during the year 2009-10 and 2010-11 is stated to be 3.50 million ha. The Committee express their unhappiness over the non-achievement of the target under the 'Bharat Nirman'. They observe that creation of irrigation potential remained below the target under Bharat Nirman. They desire the Government to give serious consideration to it and take concerted steps to improve the situation during the remaining period of Bharat Nirman.

Reply of the Government

Water being a State subject, planning and implementation of water resources projects are undertaken by respective State Governments. However, central assistance is provided to states under various programmes/schemes of the Ministry of Water Resources. As per the information provided by State Governments, the total irrigation potential created during the four

years i.e., during the period 2005-06 to 2008-09 is 7.31 million hectares against the target of 10 million hectares, which is 73% of the total target. The remaining target is set to be achieved in the extended period of Bharat Nirman i.e. in 2009-10 and 2010-11 by enhanced funding in AIBP and improvement in delivering irrigation system. Creation of 3.5 million hectares of irrigation potential has been targeted in the next two years i.e., 1.75 million hectares each during 2009-10 and 2010-11. Further, irrigation potential of 1.63 million hectare has since been reported to be created by the State Governments during 2009-10 and it is expected that the target of creation of 1.75 mha would be fully achieved during the year 2009-10.

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

Recommendation (Para No.2.43)

The Committee note that the Eleventh Plan document provides that while sanctioning new irrigation projects, it would be made obligatory for the project authorities to implement micro irrigation in at least 10% of the command area as micro-irrigation has the potential to transform Indian agriculture. Under the scheme of Command Area Development and Water Management (CADWM) Programme approved for the XI Plan period, a provision has been made to provide financial assistance to the states for development of infrastructure to facilitate use of sprinkler and drip irrigation system as an alternative to construction of field channels. The assistance is admissible for construction of stilling tank, pump house and laying of conveyance pipes to farmers' fields. However, there is no statutory provision for making it obligatory. The Task Force on Micro Irrigation constituted by the Government of India has assessed a potential of 69 mha. (27 mha under drip and 42 mha under sprinkler) to be achieved under micro irrigation. The target for XI Plan period under micro irrigation is 28 lakh ha. (2.8 mha). The Committee note that so far only about 1.7 mha (about 2.5% of potential area) has been achieved which is a small fraction of micro irrigation potential. The Committee, therefore, recommend that while sanctioning new projects, it should be made obligatory for the project authorities to implement micro irrigation in atleast 10% of the command area. They also desire that a time bound programme be chalked out to achieve the targets fixed for 11th Plan. The Committee may also be apprised of the action taken by the Government to implement the recommendations of the Task Force on Micro Irrigation.

Reply of the Government

Based on the recommendation of the Task Force on Micro Irrigation constituted by the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA), the Department of Agriculture & Corporation has launched a

Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Micro Irrigation in Jan., 2006. Under the Scheme, the assistance is provided to all category of farmers at the rate of 50% of the cost of drip and sprinkler system and at the rate of 75% of the cost of demonstration. In order to implement the recommendation of Task Force to implement Micro Irrigation in new projects, the Ministry of Agriculture has requested all the States that all irrigation projects may be linked with Micro Irrigation so that maximum land can be brought under the cultivation with minimum use of water.

Task Force on Micro Irrigation constituted by the Government of India has assessed a potential of 69 million hectares (27 million hectares under drip irrigation and 42 million hectares under sprinkler Irrigation) to be achieved under Micro irrigation. As per information furnished by Ministry of Agriculture, about 17.69 lakh hectares has been achieved under Micro Irrigation in the country. The target for 11th Plan period under micro irrigation is 28 lakh hectares.

Some important recommendations of the Task Force are -micro Irrigation to be promoted in a holistic manner, assistance for MI to be viewed as an investment for infrastructure support, MI to be made compulsory in new projects, no tax to be levied on MI system and adequate post installation maintenance and extension services to be provided.

In order to promote water use efficiency in irrigation a provision has been made with effect from 1.4.2008 under the Command Area Development and Water Management Programme to provide financial assistance to the States for development of infrastructure from outlet to farmers fields to facilitate use of sprinkler/ drip irrigation system as an alternative to construction of field channels. The assistance under CADWM Programme is not admissible for sprinkler and drip irrigation systems but is limited to construction of a stilling tank, pump house and laying of conveyance pipes up to farmers fields. The cost norms as applicable for on-Farm Development works will also be applicable for such works.

Recommendation (Para No.2.44)

The Committee observe that the subject of water is presently being dealt at the Centre by a number of Ministries/Departments. In such a situation where jurisdictions which generally overlap, effective coordination among different ministries and convergence of programmes becomes quite essential. The Committee note that a suggestion was made by the National Development Council in 2002 for a single administrative Ministry for water and to begin with, setting up of a National Water Resources Programme Coordination Committee under the chairmanship of Member (Agriculture and Water resources), Planning Commission. It has also been brought to the notice of the Committee that keeping in view the responsibilities vested with the Ministry of Water Resources and inter-Ministerial coordination machineries already in position, the Planning Commission is of the view that the existing administrative arrangements in regard to the water sector need not be disturbed for the present. National Water Resources Council representing all the concerned Ministries and States was set up in 1983 under the Prime Minister. Ministry of Water Resources looks after a Technical Advisory Committee on Irrigation, Flood Control & Multipurpose Projects headed by the Secretary, Ministry of Water Resources. The Committee believes that keeping in view the role of various Ministries / Departments in dealing with water, effective coordination among different Ministries is absolutely essential to avoid delay in the projects requiring assistance from other Ministries/ Departments. The Committee, therefore, desire that a sound mechanism be evolved on priority for effective and purposive coordination among all the concerned Ministries dealing with water. All information relating to water depletion, water flow, contamination of surface water and ground water across the country or matters connected therewith be compiled, collated and developed and put under a suitable template for easy access of all.

Reply of the Government

Regarding the need for effective coordination among all the concerned Ministries dealing with water, the Parliamentary Standing Committee was informed about the specific suggestions included in the Xth Plan document approved by the National Development

Council. The Parliamentary Standing Committee was also informed of the subsequent observations of the Planning Commission. Keeping in view the responsibilities vested with the Ministry of Water Resources and that inter Ministerial coordination machineries are already in position, the Planning Commission expressed the view that existing administrative arrangement in regard to water sector need not be disturbed for the present. While taking note of the above observation, the Parliamentary Standing Committee has desired that a sound mechanism be evolved for priority and purposive coordination among all concerned Ministries dealing with water. In this regard, the Planning Commission has further informed as under:

“Water Resources Management in the country is to make a transition to the Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) with river basin as a hydrologic unit for management. For this, Ministry of Water Resources has already initiated setting up of River Basin Organisations (RBO) for two of the river basins in the country. These RBOs would consist of various stakeholders in the basin including various institutions (both Governmental and NGOs) for IWRM. Also at the National level, National Water Resources Council under the Prime Ministry has representations of concerned Central Ministries and States. All major and Medium Irrigation projects and flood control projects appraisal and approval are done by the Advisory Committee of the Ministry of Water Resources which has members from various Ministries including Planning Commission and State Governments.”

As regards accessibility of information about water to all, it is stated that one of the goals of the National Water Mission is to bring comprehensive water data base in public domain. It has been proposed in the Draft Mission Document that all information, except the data of sensitive and clarified nature, would be placed in public domain to facilitate and promote citizens action in water conservation, augmentation and preservation. Central Ground Water Board has developed a web enabled ground water information system and has initiated action to place it in public domain. Similarly, Central Water Commission is working with National Remote Sensing Centre to develop web-enabled Water Resources Information System.

Sharing of knowledge and information between the Central Ground Water Board and other Ministries is a continuous process. Data related to ground water resources is exchanged on a regular basis with the Ministries concerned in the form of reports and maps, Ground Water Year books and also through CDs and floppies as and when required. Important information regarding the ground water resources of the country is also available on the website of CGWB (www.cgwb.gov.in). Coordination of activities between these Ministries is also achieved through inter-ministerial committees on issues of common interest at appropriate levels. The web-enabled Ground Water Information System of CGWB, launched on 22.03.2010 has provided an internet-based platform for dissemination of ground water related information to stakeholders.

The Water Resources Information System website has since been launched which provides general information about various activities included under the project and seeks feedback. The work relating to launching of 1st phase of WRIS is under progress in ISRO – DOS. The WRIS web site proposes to have web enabled query system on its data base to generate any desired basin wise information.

Recommendation (Para No.6.18)

The Committee note that releases under AIBP are made only after confirmation of Budget provision for the year made by the State Governments for both Central and State share. The Committee also note that a new project is included in the AIBP on the basis of specific proposal received from State Governments in accordance with the AIBP guidelines. 10 to 15 new projects are likely to be included in AIBP during 2010-11. As on 15.03.2010, a sum of Rs.4,886.3265 crore has already been released to the States from the allocation of Rs.9,700 crore. The proposals received from various States are under examination to ensure that the guidelines are strictly adhered to. The explanation furnished is that in view of the proposals under examination, the allocated funds are likely to be utilized fully during the current financial year and that the steps are being taken to ensure full utilization of funds allocated for AIBP during 2010-11. The Committee find no cogent ground for such over-optimism as only Rs.4,886.3265 crore, i.e. about 53% of the allocated Rs.9,700 crore had been utilized upto

15.03.2010. The manner in which the Ministry might have spent 47% of the remainder funds during 2009-10, defies reason and sound budgetary practices. The Committee, however, would like to see the final outcome after the close of the financial year 2010-11.

Reply of the Government

The budget allocation for AIBP for the year 2009-10 was Rs. 8000 crore. The total releases made during the year were of Rs. 6945.59 crore which is about 87% of the total budget allocation. Release proposals of about Rs. 600 crore could not be recommended for want of revised investment clearance of the Planning Commission for those projects of which revised cost estimates were approved by the TAC and proposals were ready with the Ministry. Further, release proposal of one national project for Rs. 635.28 crore was sent to the Ministry of Finance but funds could not be released during 2009-10 and was actually released during June 2010. Thus, proposals processed in this Ministry were enough to utilize full budget allocation available under AIBP. A total central assistance of Rs.6945.5903 crore was actually released to States during 2009-10.

CHAPTER IV

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

Recommendation (Para No.2.49)

The Committee note that 43 and 21 Utilisation Certificates (as on 31.12.2009) worth Rs.2.22 crore and Rs.38.38 crore from 65 Institutions/Autonomous Bodies and State Governments respectively were outstanding in respect of Grants released upto 31 March 2007. Out of 42 UCs outstanding involving Rs.38.42 crore, of which Rs.36.79 crore belong to State Governments under Command Area Development Scheme. Low allocation in the State Budget for CADWM Programme is mainly responsible for non utilization of central assistance and consequent delay in submission of UCs. Further, according to the explanation furnished to the Committee, State Governments are being periodically emphasized upon to accelerate the pace of implementation so as to utilize the unspent Central assistance. In addition, officers of the Ministry of Water Resources also visit the States to review the progress and expedite the submission of pending UCs. In order to overcome such a distressing situation, the Committee desire that while funds are released to States, MoWR should also put conditions for timely submission of UCs like imposition of penalty where States fail to submit utilization certificates in time. They are confident that such or similar innovative measures can certainly be devised by the Ministry to contain the pendency of UCs.

Reply of the Government

The State Governments are required to submit proposals for release of central assistance each year in time along with utilization certificate for fund released in preceding years. No further central assistance is released to states without submission of utilization certificates. The State Governments are also pursued vigorously from time to time in different forums to submit the pending utilization certificates.

Comments of the Committee

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

Recommendation (Para No. 3.18)

The Committee observe that Schemes under Plan Sector require investment clearance from Planning Commission for which there is an established procedure. In cases of MMI projects, the State Planning Boards are empowered to clear the proposals if inter-State issues are not involved. In spite of well-defined policy and guidelines in place, a large number of major and medium projects have been under execution without investment clearance from Planning Commission. The unapproved projects aggregate 300 in the Tenth Plan, comprising 90 major, 136 medium, and 74 ERM projects, were likely to spill over to the Eleventh Five Year Plan. Expenditure estimated to be incurred on these projects up to the Tenth Plan is about Rs.41128 crore. However, out of 553 projects ongoing in XI Plan, 290 projects are unapproved including 75 major 136 medium and 79 ERM which are estimated to cost Rs.93670, to be funded out of their own resources to the States. As a result of efforts made by the Government of India, 184 projects are under various stages of appraisal by CWC including 61 projects accepted by the Advisory Committee of MoWR conditionally or otherwise awaiting investment clearance from the Planning Commission. The Committee desire that while considering to bring the unapproved projects under the category of approved projects, Ministry of Water Resources should impress upon the State Governments to accord first priority to such unapproved projects at various stages of completion for getting regularised instead of sending new proposals.

Reply of the Government

Out of 477 spilled over projects, 300 projects (90 major, 136 Medium and 74 ERM) were unapproved. However, out of 553 projects ongoing in XI Plan, 288 projects are unapproved including 74 major, 137 medium and 77 ERM. These unapproved projects are estimated to cost Rs. 91,508 Crore and Rs. 30,864 Crore have been spent till X Plan.

Further, in CWC 186 new and 77 revised projects are under various stages of appraisal including 62 New and 31 Revised projects accepted by the Advisory Committee of MoWR conditionally or otherwise awaiting investment clearance form the Planning Commission. The Ministry of Water Resources has held 15 meetings of Advisory Committee of MOWR and 134

major/medium projects have been cleared in last 3 years ending March, 2010. Ministry of Water Resources is also taking up the issue with State Governments from time to time.

Comments of the Committee

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

Recommendation (Para No. 5.10)

The Committee note that though the management and control of flood falls under jurisdiction of State Governments, the Central Government initiates various supportive measures. Apart from overall planning and coordination of flood management activities, the Ministry has been providing assistance/grants for flood control works. The allocation for Flood Control for the year 2009-10 at Rs.295.75 crore was reduced to Rs.270.29 crore at the RE stage and again increased to Rs.310.24 crore (BE) for 2010-11. The reduction of plan allocation at RE stage according to the Ministry is mainly due to Anti- erosion works taken up by Brahmaputra Board were started late and delay in finalization of the tenders for procurement of telemetry equipment. This is yet another glaring example of faulty planning and budgetary assumption to say the least. The Committee would, therefore, like the Ministry to fix responsibility for delay.

Reply of the Government

The reasons for delay in taking up anti-erosion works by Brahmaputra Board and delay in finalization of the tenders for procurement of telemetry equipment by Central Water Commission leading to reduction at the RE 2009-10 stage are being enquired. It is, however, mentioned that the work for supply, installation, test and commissioning of 222 Telemetry Stations has been awarded by Central Water Commission in April 2010. Efforts are also being made to obviate such delays in implementation in future.

Comments of the Committee

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

CHAPTER V

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

Recommendation (Para No. 3.16)

The planning, formulation and execution of all Major and Medium Irrigation (MMI) Projects are carried out by the concerned State Governments and the required funds are allocated in their State Plan. The Budget allocation (Plan) of Rs.219.20 crore for Major and Medium Irrigation for the year 2009-10 was reduced to Rs.189.20 crore, i.e. reduction of Rs. 30 crore at the Revised Estimates stage. The reduction in the allocations at RE stage is in respect of two schemes namely, "Hydrology Project" for non-procurement of equipment and "Research and Development" due to delay in taking up morphological studies. According to Ministry the reduction at RE stage would result in some delays in the completion of identified activities. However, physical targets are planned to be achieved during the remaining years of the XI Plan. The Committee feel that if proper planning had been done in advance and conscientious efforts made to acquire the needed equipments and to conduct the morphological studies well in time, reduction in the Budget estimates could have been avoided. The Committee, therefore, recommend that Ministry of Water Resources formulate their Budget estimates meticulously and also exercise effective superintendence, direction and control over its various offices/institutes since they are all accountable to Parliament through the Ministry. The Committee would also like a detailed review by the Government of the research institutes/bodies under the Ministry to be placed before them in due course.

Reply of the Government

In view of the recommendation of the Standing Committee, various organizations have been advised for estimating the final requirements very meticulously and ensure that the allocated funds are effectively utilized to fully achieve the physical and financial targets. They

have also been asked for regular monitoring of the projects in respect of schemes implemented by them. Simultaneously, the progress is being reviewed by the Secretary (WR) every month with a view to identify the constraints and bottlenecks and take necessary remedial measures to ensure that the targets are fully achieved.

Regarding the recommendation of the Parliamentary Standing Committee about detailed review of the research institutes/bodies under the Ministry, it is submitted that actions have been initiated by the Ministry for independent review of performance of different research organizations during the Xth Plan. The independent evaluators are also required to make suggestions for improving the functioning of the various organizations. The work has already been taken up in respect of the following organizations:

S.No.	Institute/Organization	Evaluating Agency
1.	Central Water & Power Research Station	Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay
2.	Central Soil Materials Research Station	Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore
3.	National Water Academy	Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore
4.	Central Ground Water Board	Consulting Engineering Services (India) Private Limited, New Delhi

The Ministry would undertake detailed review of the research institutes /bodies after the receipt of the independent evaluation of various research institutions and submit the report to the Committee in due course.

NEW DELHI;
17 March, 2011
 26 Phalgun, 1932 (Saka)

DIP GOGOI
Chairman,
Standing Committee on Water Resources

**MINUTES OF THE SEVENTH SITTING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON WATER RESOURCES
HELD ON THURSDAY, 17 MARCH 2011**

The Committee sat from 1500 hours to 1540 hours in Committee Room 'D', Ground Floor,
Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

PRESENT

Shri Dip Gogoi – Chairman

**MEMBERS
LOK SABHA**

2. Shri Mahendrasinh P. Chauhan
3. Shri Sher Singh Ghubaya
4. Shri Badri Ram Jakhar
5. Shri Haribhau Jawale
6. Shri Virender Kashyap
7. Shri Ramashankar Rajbhar
8. Shri J. Shantha
9. Shri Sajjan Verma

RAJYA SABHA

10. Shri Balwinder Singh
11. Shri Kumar Deepak Das
12. Shri Anil Madhav Dave
13. Dr. Ashok S. Ganguley
14. Shri B.S. Gnanadesikan
15. Shri Rama Chandra Khuntia
16. Dr. Gyan Prakash Pilonia

SECRETARIAT

1. Shri N.K. Sapra - Additional Secretary
2. Shri Devender Singh - Joint Secretary
3. Shri B.S. Dahiya - 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 Second Report (Fifteenth Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants (2010-11) 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.

4. *** *** ***

The Committee then adjourned

***** Minutes in respect of other matters kept separately.**

APPENDIX II

[Vide Para 4 of the Introduction]

ANALYSIS OF ACTION TAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS/OBSERVATIONS CONTAINED IN THE SECOND REPORT (FIFTEENTH LOK SABHA) OF THE COMMITTEE

(i)	Total number of Recommendations/Observations	26
(ii)	Recommendation/Observations which have been accepted by the Government	
	Para Nos. 1.3, 2.40, 2.41, 2.42, 2.45, 2.46, 2.47, 2.48, 3.17, 3.19, 3.20, 4.12, 4.13, 4.14, 5.11, 6.16, 6.17, 6.19 and 6.20	
	<i>Total</i>	19
	<i>Percentage</i>	73.07%
(iii)	Recommendations/Observations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of the Government's replies	
	Para No. 2.43, 2.44 and 6.18	
	<i>Total</i>	03
	<i>Percentage</i>	11.54 %
(iv)	Recommendations/Observations in respect of which replies of the Government have not been accepted by the Committee	
	Para No. 2.49, 3.18 and 5.10	
	<i>Total</i>	03
	<i>Percentage</i>	11.54 %
(v)	Recommendations/Observations in respect of which final replies of the Government are still awaited	
	Para Nos. 3.16	
	<i>Total</i>	01
	<i>Percentage</i>	03.85%