



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

FIFTEENTH LOK SABHA

MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES

WORKING OF BRAHMAPUTRA BOARD

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

NINTH REPORT



LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

August, 2011/ Bhadrapada, 1933 (Saka)

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Presented to Lok Sabha on 30.08.2011

Laid in Rajya Sabha on 30.08.2011



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI**

August, 2011 /Bhadrapada, 1933 (Saka)

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CONTENTS

	PAGE
COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE (2010-11).....	(iii)
INTRODUCTION	(iv)
CHAPTER I Report	1
CHAPTER II Recommendations/Observations which have been accepted by the Government	10
CHAPTER III Recommendations/Observations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of the Government's replies	24
CHAPTER IV Recommendations/Observations in respect of which replies of the Government have not been accepted by the Committee	32

APPENDICES

I. Minutes of the Fourteenth Sitting of the Committee held on 11.08.2011.	35
II. Analysis of action taken by the Government on the Recommendations / Observations contained in the Fourth Report (Fifteenth Lok Sabha) of the Committee.....	38

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

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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
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RAJYA SABHA

22. Shri Balwinder Singh Bhunder
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3. Shri B.S. Dahiya - Director
4. Smt. Rita Jaikhani - Additional Director
5. Smt. B. Visala - Deputy Secretary
6. Shri G. Guite - Committee Officer
7. Shri Samresh Kumar Parcha - Sr. Committee Assistant

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairman, Standing Committee on Water Resources (2010-2011) having been authorised by the Committee, present on their behalf the Ninth Report to Parliament on the Action Taken by Government on the recommendations/observations contained in the Fourth Report (Fifteenth Lok Sabha) of the Standing Committee on Water Resources (2010-2011) on "Working of Brahmaputra Board".

2. The Fourth Report of the Committee was presented to Lok Sabha on 05 August 2010. The replies of the Government to all the recommendations contained in the Report were received on 25 April 2011.

3. The replies of the Government were examined and the Report was considered and adopted by the Committee at their sitting held on 11 August 2011.

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

NEW DELHI;
29 August, 2011
07 Bhadrapada, 1933 (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 Fourth Report (15th Lok Sabha) on 'Working of Brahmaputra Board' which was presented to Lok Sabha on 05 August 2010.

2. Action taken notes were received from the Government in respect of all the 16 recommendations/observations of the Committee which have been categorised as follows:-

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

Para Nos. 1, 4, 6, 11, 13, 14, 15 and 16 (Total - 08)

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

Para Nos. 2, 7, 8, 9, 10 and 12 (Total -06)

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

Para Nos. 3 and 5 (Total -02)

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

Nil (Total - NIL)

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

A. Need to expedite amendment to the Brahmaputra Board Act, 1980.

Recommendation (Para No. 3)

4. The Committee had noted that the Ministry initiated a proposal for restructuring of the Brahmaputra Board in October 2004 which would also have addressed the problem of staff shortage. Another aim of restructuring was, statedly, to redefine and widen the objective of the Board so as to include integrated water resources development involving irrigation, flood management, generation of hydropower, etc. A bill was to be introduced in the Parliament during the Monsoon Session 2009 seeking amendment of the existing Brahmaputra Board Act, 1980. The Committee were surprised to note that the proposal to restructure the Board mooted in October 2004, is yet to take first step in its legislative journey. The Committee, therefore, while reiterating the recommendation made by them in their 9th Report presented to Parliament on 22 April 2008, had earnestly expressed the hope that the Ministry would be able to introduce the Bill at least in the Monsoon Session of Parliament, 2010.

5. The Ministry, in its action taken reply, has stated that the Bill is yet to be introduced in the Parliament. It has been added that the Draft Cabinet Note was prepared and circulated to concerned Ministries and the State Governments. Based on the comments received, "the note is being modified before sending the same to the Ministry of Law & Justice and thereafter the approval of the Cabinet will be obtained."

6. The Committee, while noting the inordinate delay in introducing the Bill seeking amendment to the Brahmaputra Board Act, 1980, had expressed the hope that the Ministry would be able to introduce the Bill at least in the Monsoon Session of

Parliament, 2010. The Ministry, in its action taken reply, has stated that on the basis of comments received from the concerned Ministries and the State Governments, the Draft Cabinet Note is being modified before sending the same to the Ministry of Law & Justice and thereafter the approval of the Cabinet will be obtained. The Committee are constrained to note that the proposal for restructuring the Brahmaputra Board which was initiated way back in 2004, has not so far made much headway even after a lapse of about six years. The Committee, therefore, while reiterating their earlier recommendations desire the Ministry to introduce the said Bill in the Parliament without any further delay.

B. Need for Expeditious redressal of grievances of the employees of the Brahmaputra Board.

Recommendation (Para No. 4)

7. While observing that a sound grievance redressal mechanism for its employees is a sine qua non for the effective functioning of any organization, the Committee had desired the Ministry/Brahmaputra Board to set up the same.

8. The Ministry, in its action taken reply, has stated that earlier the Under Secretary of Brahmaputra Board was designated as a Grievances Officer and he was dealing with grievances related matters in the Brahmaputra Board. With a view to further strengthen and improve the grievances redressal mechanism in the Brahmaputra Board, the Secretary to the Brahmaputra Board has now been designated as a Grievances Officer of Brahmaputra Board. The grievances expressed by the Board's employees are duly examined and recommended for

redressal within the ambit of rules & regulations. The meeting between the Board's management and representatives of different association /unions are also held from time to time to chalk out action for collective redressal of genuine grievances, the latest being on 4th January, 2011 with the Stenographers Association of Brahmaputra Board.

9. The Committee had desired the Ministry/Brahmaputra Board to set up a grievance redressal mechanism so that the genuine grievances of the employees are resolved amicably. In its reply, the Ministry has stated that the Secretary to the Brahmaputra Board has since been designated as a 'Grievances Officer' of the Board in an effort to strengthen and improve the grievances redressal mechanism in the Brahmaputra Board. The Ministry has also stated that meetings between the Board's Management and representatives of different association/unions are also held from time to time to chalk out action for collective redressal of grievances. The Committee, while appreciating the efforts made by the Ministry in this regard, desire that the meetings between the Board's management and representatives of various employee associations/unions be held more frequently for speedy and effective redressal of grievances and motivation of the employees, in the interest of smooth functioning of the Brahmaputra Board.

C. Need to augment the earnings of NEHARI.

Recommendation (Para No. 5)

10. While observing that North Eastern Hydraulic and Allied Research Institute (NEHARI) manages its affairs with the funds provided by the Government and it also generates fund by

providing services to different agencies, the Committee noted that the earnings of NEHARI had drastically declined from Rs.49.78 lakh in 2002-03 to Rs.6.70 lakh only in 2008-09 and as against the required staff strength of 45, only 29 were then in place. The Committee had recommended that MoWR/Brahmaputra Board need to expedite the process of providing adequate staff to NEHARI at the earliest and NEHARI should also take steps to mobilise the available resources to increase their income.

11. The Ministry, in its action taken reply, has stated that the proposal for strengthening of NEHARI alongwith the restructuring of non restructuring posts of the Brahmaputra Board is proposed in the restructuring of Brahmaputra Board and will be taken up separately with the Ministry of Finance after amendment of Brahmaputra Board Act for its restructuring.

12. The Committee, while pointing out that the shortage of staff is bound to hamper the smooth functioning of NEHARI, had recommended that MoWR/Brahmaputra Board need to expedite the process of providing adequate staff to NEHARI at the earliest. The Committee had further recommended that NEHARI should also take steps to mobilise the available resources to increase its income. The Ministry, in its reply, has stated that the proposal for strengthening of the NEHARI alongwith the restructuring of posts of the Brahmaputra Board is proposed in the restructuring of Brahmaputra Board after amendment of Brahmaputra Board Act. The Committee, however, note that the reply of the Ministry is silent on the steps taken by NEHARI for mobilizing the available resources to augment its funds/earnings. The Committee desire the Ministry to ascertain the reasons for a drastic reduction in the earnings and apprise them of the steps taken by NEHARI to mobilize the available resources to augment its earnings.

Since shortage of staff is bound to adversely affect the smooth functioning of NEHARI, the Committee are of the considered view that vigorous efforts be made to fill up the vacant posts in NEHARI. Reiterating their recommendation that the Ministry expedite the process of providing adequate staff to NEHARI and take urgent steps to augment its earnings, the Committee desire to be kept apprised of the position in the matter.

D. Brahmaputra Board should endeavour to raise its own resources.

Recommendation (Para No. 6)

13. Considering the importance and the necessity of effective monitoring mechanism, the Committee expected the Board to evolve suitable procedural guidelines and time schedule regarding administrative approval, technical sanction and tendering process so that the allocated funds are utilized within the stipulated time and in the prescribed manner. The Committee also expected the Board to endeavour to raise its own resources to mop up its fluctuating income.

14. The Ministry, in its action taken reply, has stated that as advised by the Parliamentary Standing Committee, a mechanism is being developed within the Board to avoid delay in according 'Administrative Approval', 'Technical sanction' & Tendering Process. In this regard, a dedicated unit headed by a Superintending Engineer shall carry out tendering works for the consideration of the tender committee of the level of Chief Engineer (I&W) and above. The Deputy Chief Engineer would also look after the quality control aspect of the projects being constructed by the Board.

15. The Committee expected the Board to evolve suitable procedural guidelines and time schedule regarding administrative approval, technical sanction and tendering process, so that the allocated funds are utilized within the stipulated time and in the prescribed manner. The Committee had also expected the Board to endeavour to raise its own resources to mop up its fluctuating income. In its reply, the Ministry has stated that a mechanism is being developed within the Brahmaputra Board to avoid delay in according administrative approval, technical sanction and tendering process. The Committee urge the Ministry to expedite the mechanism being developed so as to achieve the fixed targets and avoid any delays. The Committee are, however, distressed to note that the Ministry has preferred to remain silent regarding the efforts made by the Brahmaputra Board to raise its own resources to mop up its fluctuating income. The Committee, therefore, reiterate their earlier recommendation that the Board should endeavour to raise its own resources to mop up its fluctuating income. The Committee be kept apprised of the position in the matter.

E. Protection of Majuli Island.

Recommendation (Para No. 10)

16. The Committee had expressed the hope that implementation of the suggestions of the Experts Committee would be completed at the earliest so that the people of Majuli Island are not exposed to recurrent nightmare of floods year after year. They had also desired to see that works for Phase-II & III are completed by the scheduled target of 2011-2012. The Committee further desired to be apprised of the recommendation of the Committee of Experts and the action taken to implement them.

17. The Ministry, in its action taken reply, has stated that Phase-I work of protection of Majuli Island is nearing completion. Phase-II & III has been undertaken in line with the recommendation of the Standing Committee. The Committee after examining all the aspects of the scheme and field condition after field visit from 16 to 19 June 2008 recommended only 5 (five) spurs to be constructed and after study of their efficacy, the balance spurs should be constructed. The schedule date of completion of the initial 5 spurs is September 2011. Considering the construction of spurs to take at least 2 years including collection time of boulders, their transportation to site etc. there is no possibility of construction of the remaining spurs by March 2012. However, the 5(five) nos. of spurs already taken for construction would be completed by March 2012.

18. The Committee had expressed the hope that implementation of the suggestions of the Experts Committee would be completed at the earliest and they had also recommended that the works for Phase-II & III be completed by the scheduled target of 2011-2012. The Ministry, in its action taken reply, has stated that the work of Phase-I for protection of Majuli Island is nearing completion and Phase-II & III has been undertaken. The Committee are dismayed to note that Phase-I of the work for protection of Majuli Island which was to be completed by the end of Xth Plan has not yet been completed, with just about one year left for the end of even the XIth Plan also. The Committee feel that the works for Phase-II and Phase-III of the Scheme which are scheduled for completion by 2011-2012 are also not likely to meet the target. The Committee take a serious view of the inordinate delay in completion of these works and desire that the works for Phase I, II and III are expeditiously completed. The Committee call upon the

Ministry to effectively implement the suggestions of the Experts Committee for protection of Majuli Island from recurrent floods and erosion problems so that the sufferings of the people of the Island could be mitigated. The Committee also desire to be kept apprised of the status in the matter.

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

Recommendation (Para No.1)

The Committee note that the North East region is endowed with a huge water potential, being drained by two main river systems – the Brahmaputra and the Barak. The Brahmaputra is braided and unstable in its entire reach in the Assam Valley except for a few places. Due to heavy deposition of silt, the river has frequently changed its course, giving rise to braiding and meandering pattern in the alignment of the river system. This problem was compounded further by earthquake shocks of moderate severe intensity that visited the region from time to time. The Barak is the second largest river in the region. The Brahmaputra and the Barak rivers have been causing recurrent annual floods in the North Eastern part of the country. The Brahmaputra Board was, therefore, constituted in 1980 under The Brahmaputra Board Act (Act of 1980) with the objective of planning and integrated implementation of measures for control of floods and bank erosion in Brahmaputra and Barak Valley and to deal with matters connected therewith. Other functions entrusted to the Board include preparation of detailed project reports (DPRs) and estimates of projects in the Master Plans approved by the Union Government; and construction of multipurpose dams and other works in Master Plans. The Board started functioning in January 1982 with its headquarters at Guwahati, Assam. Subsequently, parts of all other North Eastern States and West Bengal were also added to the jurisdiction of the Board. The Committee note that the Board has carried out detailed planning and documentation of the water resources in the North Eastern Region and related problems and potentials. The Board has prepared 44 Master Plans which, after approval of the Union Government, have been sent to the States for implementation. In addition, seven Master Plans are under different stages of preparation while six are under survey and investigation. The Committee also note that all the Master Plans have been partially implemented. The reason cited by the Ministry for partial implementation is that water being a State subject, the flood control, anti-erosion and flood proofing works are planned, implemented and funded by the

State Governments according to their own priorities. Implementation of Master Plans is, therefore, mainly to be carried out by the concerned States. It is also noted that the Brahmaputra Board had stipulated the XI Five Year Plan as the time frame for completing all the remaining Master Plans. In fact, the DPRs for some identified projects have been taken up in consultation with the State Governments in respect of multi-purpose projects and drainage development schemes. The Committee note that since the regulation and development of Inter-State rivers and river valleys figures in the Union List, they recommend that the Government should take necessary legal and administrative measures for proper planning, implementation and funding of flood control, anti erosion and flood proofing works in all the riparian States of Brahmaputra. The Committee would also like to be apprised of the measures being taken by the Brahmaputra Board to ensure that the targets fixed for completion of the remaining Master Plans in the XI Plan are achieved.

Reply of the Government

In regard to the Committee's recommendation that Government should take necessary legal and administrative measures for proper planning, implementation and funding of flood control, anti erosion and flood proofing works in all the riparian States of Brahmaputra.

It is stated that in order to provide assistance to the State Governments, a plan scheme, namely, "Flood Management Programme (FMP)" under State Sector has been approved by the Government of India at a total cost of Rs.8000 crores during XI plan to provide central assistance to the State Governments to undertake the flood management and anti erosion works including anti-sea erosion, drainage development, flood proofing works, etc. in the critical reaches. During XI Plan, a total of 166 flood management and anti erosion schemes of North Eastern States including Sikkim and West Bengal (North Bengal) amounting to Rs.1153.07 crore with central assistance component of Rs.1034.43 crore have been included under FMP and central assistance amounting to Rs.570.62 crore towards 166 schemes has been released upto 23.02.2011. In addition to this Brahmaputra Board is also executing some of floods and anti-erosion schemes in critical reaches of Brahmaputra.

It is also stated that as per the Section 13 (1) (d) of the Brahmaputra Board Act (No.46 of 1980), the Board shall prepare, in consultation with State Government concerned, a phased programme for the construction by the State Governments of all dams and other projects proposed in the Master Plans approved by the Central Government other than those referred to in Clause 13(1) (c) i.e. construct, with the approval of the Central Government, multipurpose dams and works connected therewith proposed in the Master Plan as approved by the Central Government and maintain and operate such dams and works.

Accordingly, the Brahmaputra Board has been interacting with respect State Governments and other agencies regarding status of implementation of the recommendations made in the approved Master Plans. In this regard, a meeting was convened by the Chairman, Brahmaputra Board on 25.07.2009 at Guwahati to discuss the status of implementation of the Master Plans prepared by the Board and the meeting was attended by the representatives of State Governments of Assam, Nagaland, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, West Bengal, Central Water Commission, India Meteorological Department and officials of Brahmaputra Board. Further, all the concerned States/ agencies have been requested from time to time to intimate the Brahmaputra Board regarding updated status of implementation of the recommendations made in the approved Master Plans. Besides, the State Governments were requested to propose schemes, for funding by the Government of India under FMP, which have been recommended for implementation in the approved Master Plans prepared by the Board.

To ensure that targets fixed for completion of remaining Master Plans within XI Plan are achieved, the following measures have been taken up by Brahmaputra Board.

- (i) Out of the total of 57 Master Plans, 44 are approved by the Government of India.
- (ii) Out of remaining 13, three Master Plans completed and in the process of approval by Board/ Ministry of Water Resources.
- (iii) Out of balance 10 Master Plans, relevant data have been collected and analyses have been done in respect of 4 Nos. of Master Plans and these are under preparation. In

respect of remaining 6 Master Plans, communication with respective departments/agencies has been made and data collection process has already been started. Compilation and analysis of collected data are also under progress. The balance 10 Master Plans are targeted to be completed by March, 2012.

As such, all 57 Master Plans are expected to be completed by end of XI Plan.

Recommendation (Para No. 4)

The Committee note that the employees of the Brahmaputra Board have certain grievances relating to their promotional avenues and pension. According to the Board, employees are given due opportunities to air their grievances in the meetings with the officials of the Board and representatives of different Associations/Unions. It was also explained that the Assured Career Progression (ACP) Scheme introduced by the Government has also motivated the employees to a certain extent. Further, the Committee were apprised that the Board has taken some steps such as training of employees in office automation and other technical matters like computer aided design, drawings, data management, etc. to improve their skills. Undoubtedly, the employees of Brahmaputra Board have some genuine grievances particularly these related to service conditions and promotional avenues which need to be addressed to expeditiously by the Ministry. The Committee are of the considered view that a sound grievance redressal mechanism for its employees is a sine-qua-non for the effective functioning of any organization. They, therefore, desire the Ministry/Brahmaputra Board to set up a grievance redressal mechanism so that the genuine grievances of the employees are resolved amicably and the employees are motivated to contribute their best for the smooth functioning of the Brahmaputra Board.

Reply of the Government

Earlier the Under Secretary of Brahmaputra Board was designated as a Grievances Officer and he was dealing with grievances related matters in the Brahmaputra Board. With a view to further strengthen and improve the grievances redressal mechanism in the

Brahmaputra Board, the Secretary to the Brahmaputra Board has now been designated as a Grievances Officer of Brahmaputra Board. The grievances expressed by the Board's employees are duly examined and recommended for redressal within the ambit of rules & regulations. The meeting between the Board's management and representatives of different association /unions are also held from time to time to chalk out action for collective redressal of genuine grievances, the latest being on 4th January, 2011 with the Stenographer Association of Brahmaputra Board.

Comments of the Committee

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

Recommendation (Para No.6)

The Committee note that the Board is not facing any shortage of funds to carry into execution its assigned mandate. Apart from Grants-in-aid received from MoWR, the Board also receives funds from other Government agencies towards 'deposit works' i.e. works assigned by other organizations to the Board on payment basis. It is noticed that from 2005-06 to 2008-09, the Board received meager and fluctuating income on account of deposit works rendered to 17 organisations/ individuals. In addition, its earnings include interest on loans and advances paid to employees, guest house rent, tender fee, rent of building, laboratory testing charges and license fee recovery. As regards the achievement of targets, the representatives of the Ministry stated that the Board should have proper mechanism for optimal utilization of allocated funds and monitoring the progress of works so that the targets fixed are achieved within the stipulated time. Considering the importance and the necessity of effective monitoring mechanism, the Committee ardently hope and expect the Board to evolve suitable procedural guidelines and time schedule regarding administrative approval, technical sanction and tendering process so that the allocated funds are utilized within the stipulated time and in the prescribed manner. The Board should also endeavour to raise its own resources to mop up its fluctuating income.

Reply of the Government

As advised by the Parliamentary Standing Committee, a mechanism is being developed within the Board to avoid delay in according 'Administrative Approval', 'Technical sanction' & Tendering Process. In this regard, a dedicated unit headed by a Superintending Engineer shall carry out tendering works for the consideration of the tender committee of the level of Chief Engineer (I&W) and above. The Deputy Chief Engineer would also look after the quality control aspect of the projects being constructed by Board.

Comments of the Committee

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

Recommendation (Para No.11)

During their visit to Majuli Island, several representations were received by the Committee pertaining to the problem of annual flood and erosion havoc in East Barpeta District of Assam, including the region from Bahari Satra to Pazarbhanga and the urgent measures needed for rehabilitation of the affected families. The Committee are optimistic that a permanent solution for annual flood and erosion problem at Barpeta District of Assam is feasible, and must be put in place expeditiously. The Committee would like to be apprised to the action taken by the Board in regard to detailed field survey and studies for hammering out an effective long term solution to annual flood and erosion havoc in Barpeta District of Assam.

Reply of the Government

The erosion problem of Bohari area in East Barpeta District is being tackled by Water Resources Department, Assam. The Govt. of Assam has not entrusted the scheme to Brahmaputra Board. In this regard, State Govt. has informed that at present two schemes as stated below are under execution by them.

(1) Immediate measure to protect Bohari & its adjoining area from the erosion of river Brahmaputra for 2008-09- Rs. 22.36 crore.

(2) Raising/Strengthening (R/S) to Brahmaputra dyke from Bohari to Baghbor & construction of retirement at Belortari and Chesra including anti-erosion measures of different area under Bahani, Pazarbhanga, Chesra & Baghbor to protect erosion of river Brahmaputra.

In addition to the above, one major work costing Rs. 67.90 crore is under process for execution. The scheme was recommended by 45th Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) of Water Resources Department, Assam. The scheme will protect an area of about 15000 bighas of land.

Recommendation (Para No.13)

The Committee note that the Ministry has approved 148 schemes for flood management in the North Eastern States at an estimated cost of Rs.948.84 crore. The Board has also chalked out a long term strategy for Flood Management and Erosion Control in Brahmaputra River. The Board has also prepared a concept Note on Bank stabilization on river Brahmaputra and forwarded it to IITs, CWC, CWPRS, Government of Assam etc. The modalities are also being worked out for carrying out mathematical model studies to ascertain the feasibility of the proposed channelization of the river Brahmaputra. Though the representative of the Board in his oral testimony before the Committee described complete immunity from perennial floods as 'utopian', the Committee are optimistic that with the speedy implementation of various structural and non-structural measures planned by the Board, the problem of recurrent floods and land erosion can be contained to a great extent and resultant human misery mitigated substantially.

Reply of the Government

The schemes undertaken by the State Governments under Flood Management Programme (FMP) and anti erosion works taken by Brahmaputra Board will reduce the problems of flood and erosion in the North Eastern Region after their completion. During the XI Plan total 166 number of schemes with estimated cost Rs. 1153.07 crore has been included under Flood Management Programme for North Eastern Region and North Bengal as on 23.02.2011.

Recommendation (Para No.14)

The Committee observe that China reportedly propose to construct a dam on the upstream of Brahmaputra inside the territory under its suzerainty. The Committee were informed that this issue was raised several times with China but each time China denied the media reports but conceded that there exists an MoU under which China is required to provide flood season data on river Brahmaputra to facilitate better flood management by India. In the absence of an international treaty or convention between India and China, the issue of construction of dam and diversion of waters of Brahmaputra by China was taken up through the Ministry of External Affairs which only met denial by China. However, according to subsequent media reports, China has conceded construction of dam but denied diversion of water of Brahmaputra. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the matter be taken up at the highest level with China through diplomatic channels to clear the misgivings of the people of India in this behalf.

Reply of the Government

The matter has been taken up by Ministry of External Affairs and MEA informed that “During External Affairs Minister’s visit to China in April, 2010, the Chinese Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi said that Zangmu hydropower station, whose construction is yet to start, is small with its main function being generation of power and not water supply. This power station will not have an adverse impact on the downstream area”.

Further, the matter was also raised during the India-China Strategic Dialogue held between Foreign Secretary and the Chinese Vice Foreign Minister on 16 November 2010, during which the Chinese side conveyed that the Zangmu power “station has very small capacity and does not divert river from the mainstream. It will not reduce flow to the lower reaches. It will also not have an impact on the environment. During construction and operation of the station, we will ensure that we will carry out sound management so that it does not negatively impact on the downstream.”

The matter was also discussed during the visit of Chinese Premier Wen to India in December, 2010. He said that on trans-border rivers China will proceed from scientific studies,

taking into account the interests of both upper and lower reaches. Government keeps a constant watch on all developments in this regard.

Recommendation (Para No.15)

To a query of the Committee, it was stated that the flow of water in Brahmaputra river when it enters India, as per a survey conducted by the Central Water Commission (CWC), is 78 Billion Cubic Meter (BCM). The Committee were also informed that the CWC has established a site of the near Indo-China Border to observe the flow of water in the Brahmaputra river. The Committee observed that in spite of the substantial expenditure on the Brahmaputra Board since its inception over the last three decades, there has been little achievement in the field of erosion control, irrigation and hydro-power in the region. The Committee note that on being sought information about position of erosion control, increase in area of irrigation and in hydropower in the region from the period when Brahmaputra Board was established, the representatives of the Ministry assured the Committee that the relevant information will be made available to the Committee. Regretably, the desired information is yet to be furnished to the Committee. The inability of the Board to compile, maintain and supply such vital statistics speaks volumes about the functioning of the Board. They, therefore, desire that the requisite information be compiled and furnished to the Committee without further loss of time.

Reply of the Government

The Brahmaputra Board was constituted in 1980 by an Act of Parliament (Act 46 of 1980 called "The Brahmaputra Board Act") with the objective of planning and integrated implementation of measures for control of floods and bank erosion in Brahmaputra and Barak Valley and for matters connected therewith. As per Section 13(1) (d) of the Brahmaputra Board Act, the Board shall prepare, in consultation with State Government concerned, a phased programme for the construction by the State Governments of all dams and other projects proposed in the Master Plans approved by the Central Government other than those referred to in Clause 13(1) (c). So far 44 Master Plans prepared by Brahmaputra Board are approved by the Government of India Out of the total 57 identified Master Plans.

The Master Plans prepared by Brahmaputra Board have been utilized by the user States of the North Eastern Region as a Data base. These have immensely helped the State Govts. In identifying, formulating and executing the flood management and erosion control scheme. Also, the survey & investigation carried out and Detailed Project Report (DPR) prepared for Multipurpose Projects by Brahmaputra Board has provided the readymade basic inputs for preparation of bankable DPRs and to initiate process for their execution by the different implementing agency. As such, the works carried out by the Board in the form of survey & investigation and preparation of Master Plans have immensely helped and contributed in the flood management and anti erosion works carried out by the States. The improvements achieved through these works carried out by different N.E. States under above head are as below:-

Flood Management & Erosion control:

As per publication “A review of flood management measures in Assam” of Water Resources Department, Assam 2006:

Name of work	Flood management measures performed in Assam up to 1980	Flood management measures performed in Assam up-to 2006	Flood management measures performed in Assam since creation of Brahmaputra Board up-to 2006
1. Embankment Constructed	4176.00Km	4465.00 Km	289.00 Km
2. Area benefitted from flood	13.98 Lakh Ha.	16.49 Lakh Ha.	2.51.00 Lakh Ha.
3. Drainage channel constructed	772.00 Km	857.00 Km	85.00 Km
4. Nos. of Village/town protection works	67 Nos.	704 Nos.	637 Nos.

As per “Report of the Task Force for flood management/ erosion control-2004”

Name of work	Flood management measure performed in NE Region up to 1980	Flood management measures performed in NE Region up-to 2004	Flood management measures performed in NE Region since creation of Brahmaputra Board up-to 2004
1. Embankment Constructed	4286.64 Km	5222.00 Km	935.36 Km
2. Area benefitted from flood	14.00 Lakh Ha.	18.00 Lakh Ha.	4.00 Lakh Ha.
3. Drainage channel constructed	772.00 Km	997.00 Km	225.00 Km
4. Nos. of Village/town protection works	67 Nos.	719 Nos.	652 Nos.

A. Hydro-power -Development:

Name of work	Hydropower developed in NE Region since inception up-to 1980	Hydropower developed in NE Region since inception up-to 1st July'2005	Hydropower developed in NE Region since creation of Brahmaputra Board up-to 1st July'2005
Gross Hydro-power -Developed	125.00 MW(60% load factor)	1202.50 MW(60% load factor)	1077.70 MW(60% load factor)

Source : CEA website

The benefit achieved on taking up of Flood Management, Drainage Development and Anti Erosion Schemes by Brahmaputra Board are stated below:

Sl.No.	Name of scheme	Date of completion	Area benefitted in Ha.	Remarks
1.	Protection of Majuli Island from flood & erosion Phase-I	Jan/2011	40,000	80% of total area of Majuli main island
2.	Harrang Drainage Development Scheme	Jan/2011	11,850	

3.	Protection of Kushia Bill, Durgajan & Nagrihan area	March/2008	150	
4.	Protection works in Nagrijuli area	March/2010	40,289	
	Total		92,289	

The Brahmaputra Board has been interacting with respective State Governments and other agencies regarding status of implementation of the recommendations made in the approved Master Plans. They have also been requested from time to time to intimate the Brahmaputra Board regarding updated status of implementation of the recommendations made in the approved Master Plans. However, due response is yet to be received from the State Governments.

In addition to the schemes executed by Brahmaputra Board as stated above, Board is also acting as nodal department in respect of NE States for scrutinizing, recommending and monitoring of Flood Management & Anti Erosion Schemes being executed by the States with Central Assistance under Flood Management Programme. The number of schemes executed by the eight North Eastern States during XI Plan period & area benefited by these schemes are shown below:-

Sl.No.	State	No. of scheme sanctioned	No. of scheme completed upto Feb/11	Area benefited by completed schemes (lakh Ha)	Area restored by completed schemes (lakh Ha.)
1	Arunachal Pradesh	11	9	0.55	0
2	Assam	85	50	1.007	1.871
3	Manipur	22	12	0.28	0
4	Meghalaya	0	0	0	0
5	Mizoram	2	0	0	0
6	Nagaland	5	3	0.003	0
7	Sikkim	24	16	0.179	0
8	Tripura	11	0	0	0
	Total	160	90	2.019	1.871

Recommendation (Para No.16)

The Committee note that the works of Brahmaputra Board are monitored by the MoWR and also by the High Powered Review Board under the Chairmanship of Minister of Water Resources and Chief Ministers of North Eastern States as Members. The Brahmaputra Board does not have manpower to collect data regarding mathematical modeling of Brahmaputra Basin. The Board has, therefore, approached CWPRS, Pune for the purpose while contact has been established with the IIT, Guwahati in this behalf. The work will be assigned after receiving the detailed work plan from the said institutes. As regards the cost of the work, the Board has requested CWPRS, Pune to estimate the probable cost for the same. The Committee desire that the evaluation studies being carried out by Assam Engineering College and IIT Guwahati of the schemes of Brahmaputra Board be completed in a time bound manner for the speedy evaluation of the schemes of the Board. CWPRS, Pune may also be asked to estimate the probable cost of the project at the earliest.

Reply of the Government

Regarding the evaluation study, it is stated that Assam Engineering College (AEC), Guwahati have submitted the evaluation reports in respect of four master plans prepared during the 10th Plan. AEC has stated that master plans are useful documents and mostly followed by the implementing agencies. They have also recommended that master plans may be regularly updated due to change in morphology of river and implanted status. The recommendations of AEC Guwahati have been accepted by the Ministry of Water Resources and suggested to Brahmaputra Board that the suggestions made in the Evaluation Report may be taken care of by the Board.

Regarding the evaluation study of works of Dhola Hatighuli Phase-I & Phase-II, it is stated that draft report is submitted by IIT, Guwahati to Brahmaputra Board and Brahmaputra Board has examined the reports and submitted observations to IIT, Guwahati. The IIT, Guwahati will submit the final report shortly.

The Brahmaputra Board has prepared a proposal for mathematical model study of Brahmaputra River with an estimated cost of Rs.2.52 crore in consultation with the IIT

Guwahati and proposal is under examination in Central Water Commission, after receiving the clearance from Central Water Commission the work will be awarded.

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

Recommendation (Para No.2)

The Committee observes that the Brahmaputra Board has a sanctioned staff strength of 626, out of which 245 are technical and the remaining 381 non-technical posts. The Ministry reported that 38 posts – 13 technical and 25 non-technical – are lying vacant. Admittedly, the actual staff strength of 588 is inadequate considering the enormity of the mandate assigned to the Board. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Government must take immediate measures to provide adequate manpower to Brahmaputra Board by way of regular recruitment, deputation or on contractual basis keeping in view the short term and long term requirements of the Board.

Reply of the Government

Due to abolition of one post, the present sanctioned staff strength of the Brahmaputra Board is 625 only of which 245 are technical and remaining 380 non-technical posts. Presently, a total 575 posts are filled up. 10 technical posts and 40 non-technical posts are lying vacant. From these three posts have gone under deemed abolition category and proposal for their revival is under processing in this Ministry. Presently one post of Chairman of Brahmaputra Board has been filled up with additional charge. Ministry of Water Resources has initiated necessary steps for filling of the statutory posts (4 numbers) including Chairman. The Brahmaputra Board has initiated steps for filling up 43 non statutory posts. For three posts (1 Junior Engineer and 2, Assistant Engineer) the appointment orders have already been issued. Out of remaining 40 posts, 29 posts are to be filled up by direct recruitment and 11 posts by promotion. The Brahmaputra Board has initiated the process to hold the Departmental Promotion Committee (DPC) for filling up the posts by promotion. For the

remaining posts, the revised recruitment rules of Brahmaputra Board incorporating latest guidelines of Department of Personnel & Training (DoPT) and recommendation of 6th Pay Commission is under process in this Ministry.

Recommendation (Para No.7)

The Committee note that the Board has taken up 14 multipurpose projects in Brahmaputra and Barak Basin and in the south flowing river in Meghalaya for survey, investigation and preparation of DPRs. The number of projects for which DPRs have been completed are five viz. Siang Single Stage & Subansiri Single Stage in Arunachal Pradesh, Tipaimukh in Manipur and Mizoram, Pagladiya in Assam and Bairabi in Mizoram. The Siang and Subansiri Dam Projects have been handed over to the National Hydro Electric Power Corporation (NHPC) for implementation, while Tipaimukh and Bairabi Dam Projects have been handed over to the North East Electric Power Corporation (NEEPCO) and the Government of Mizoram respectively. The Pagladiya Dam Project is under execution by the Board. The Ministry claimed that they keep a tab on the pace of execution of works by calling for the implementation status. The Committee regret to observe that though DPRs have been prepared by the Brahmaputra Board for five projects, these projects are still languishing for want of implementation by the States for one reason or the other. The Committee hope that the Board will make genuine efforts in clearing the bottlenecks in the implementation of these five projects and pursue vigorously with the State Governments to ensure that these are completed without any further time and cost overruns. The Committee would like to be informed of the latest position in the matter.

Reply of the Government

Detailed Project Report of the under mentioned projects were completed by the Board and handed over to different agencies/organizations and State Government for execution as per direction of Govt. of India and request of Mizoram Government. The status of projects is as below:-

1. Dihang (Siang) Dam Project:- The project is handed over to NHPC as per direction of Govt. of India. As the project is submerging villages in the Arunachal Pradesh, the project was not taken up. Now, the Govt. of Arunachal Pradesh has carried out the pre-feasibility studies from National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) by avoiding the submergence of villages in Arunachal Pradesh. Feasibility Report prepared by NTPC for Siang Upper Stage-I(6000 MW) and Stage-II(3750 MW) by avoiding submergence of important towns of Tuting, Yingkiong. The Project is yet to be allotted for implementation by Govt. of Arunachal Pradesh. It is also informed that Siang Upper Project is declared as a National Project.
2. Subansiri Dam Project: The project is handed over to NHPC by Brahmaputra Board and presently it is under implementation by NHPC as Subansiri Lower Project for 2000 MW and likely to commissioned by the year 2012-14.
3. Tipaimukh Dam Project: - The project is handed over to NEEPCO. Thereafter Ministry of Power has decided that Tipaimukh (1500 MW) project shall be executed as a Joint Venture among NHPC, Sutlej Jal Vidyut Nigam Ltd. (SJVNL) and Government of Manipur with share holding of 69%, 26% and 5% respectively. Techno-economic clearance (TEC) was accorded by CEA on 02.7.2003. Environment clearance was accorded on 24.10.2010. The forest clearance for the project is in process. The MoU for functioning of Joint Venture for implementation of the project has been signed among the partners on 26.4.2010
4. Bairabi Dam Project:- The project is handed over to Mizoram Govt. and project is yet to be implemented by the State Government.
5. Pagladiya Dam Project: The project is under execution by Brahmaputra Board. However, no progress was made due to non-completion of Zirat Survey and land acquisition.

After handing over of these projects to the different implementing Organisation/Agencies and State Government, it is beyond the control of Brahmaputra Board as they are under administrative control of different Ministries of Government of India and state government. However, the Board has been offering all possible supports to complete the DPRs and technical clearance of these projects.

Recommendation (Para No.8)

The Committee note that the Brahmaputra Board had identified 41 potential drainage congested areas in the North Eastern Region in the Master Plans of which two DDSs have been suspended. DPRs for 20 schemes out of the 39 Drainage Development Schemes (DDS) have been prepared and 11 of them already implemented by the Board except a few where some difficulty is being faced. 19 other DDS are under various stages of investigations and DPR preparation. The Committee are given to understand that after the DPRs have been prepared by the Board, they are handed over to concerned Departments/ agencies/ State Governments. Reportedly, the Board sometimes faces delay in execution because of tardy land acquisition process but the Board keeps a watch by calling for the status of implementation by the States. The committee hope that the Board will exercise their good influence with the State Governments to avoid any delay in land acquisition process which may consequently result in delay in completion of projects.

Reply of the Government

The Board has been utilizing its good relation with States for acquisition of land for execution of various DDS. However, in some cases Viz. Kailashahar DDS in Tripura, Singla DDS in Barak valley & Joysagar DDS in Nagaon District of Assam (Brahmaputra Valley), there was strong opposition to the projects by the people of the respective area and the State administration could not proceed with the land acquisition process.

Recommendation (Para No. 9)

The Committee observe that since 1999-2000, the Board has taken up various construction projects for drainage development and prevention of erosion and flood control. The major components include Pagladiya Dam Project, construction of Drainage Development Schemes (DDSs), anti-erosion and flood control schemes at various places in Assam, and protection of Majuli Island from erosion. The Pagladiya Dam being constructed across Pagladiya river at Thalkuchi, Baksa District, Assam, has a proposed height of 25 m. and 21 km. long earth dam with a spillway. Sanctioned by the Government of India in January 2001 at an

estimated cost of Rs. 542.90 crore, the Project is expected to bring flood moderation benefit to 40,000 ha., irrigation benefit to 54,160 ha., and incidental power generation of **3 MW**. Till now, works carried out pertaining to this Project include pre-construction survey, investigations, studies, design, drainage, etc.; taking possession of land (956 ha.) for resettlement and rehabilitation purpose, construction of project roads, offices, etc. However, the Committee regrets to note that the works for Pagladiya Dam Project are presently held up due to non-completion of Zirat Survey and land acquisition. To resolve these issues, a discussion in January 2009 between the officials of the Board and Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC) was held. The Committee notes that the BTC suggested the possibility of finding an alternative project site way upstream of the present site. Subsequent to a meeting convened by Secretary, MoWR in February 2009, Chief Secretary, Assam had a meeting on 23.10.2009 with officials of Brahmaputra Board and BTC wherein it was decided that the Board should take up investigations for alternate project location near the Assam-Bhutan border, and subsequently, it has carried out reconnaissance and topographic survey in this regard. The Committee, therefore, desires the Ministry to make vigorous and intelligent efforts to resolve all the bottlenecks impeding the construction of Pagladiya Dam. They would like to be apprised of action taken in the matter by the Ministry.

Reply of the Government

This Ministry has requested the Brahmaputra Board to explore the possibility of alternative project location without affecting the Bhutan territory and keeping the submergence within Indian territory. As per studies carried out by Brahmaputra Board there is no other suitable alternative site available in the upstream of present location (at Thalkuchi). The Board has opined that the present site is the best suitable location for a multi-purpose project with benefits of flood moderation, irrigation and power to the desired extent.

The above views of the Brahmaputra Board have been conveyed to the State Government of Assam on 27th December, 2010 with the request to offer the views of the State Government in the matter. On getting the response of the State Government, this Ministry will formulate the final opinion about the alternative project location.

Recommendation (Para No. 10)

The Committee observes that the Board took up the task of the protection of Majuli Island from flood and erosion on the request made by the Government of Assam in November 1999. The Board prepared the DPR for protection of Majuli Island and submitted to the CWC in August 2000, which was revised and approved by CWC in August 2003 with an estimated cost of Rs.86.56 crore to be taken up in three phases. Due to the gravity of erosion problem, and as the Government sanction for Phase-I works was anticipated to take some time, the Board took up several immediate measures from January 2004 and February 2005 to provide relief to the people at an expenditure of Rs.5.92 crore. The immediate measures were followed by the regular flood and erosion protection works under Phase-I in March 2005 as per DPR. The Phase-I was to be completed by the end of X Plan. However, due to non-availability of construction materials, transport bottlenecks, non-performance of some contractors, the work programme was re-scheduled for completion by March 2009. Phase-II & Phase-III of the Scheme estimating Rs.116.02 crore, have also been cleared by CWC in November, 2008, and tender preparation for works have already been started. The works are scheduled to be completed by 2011-12.

Though there appeared to be a degree of success in the efforts of Brahmaputra Board and the resultant mitigation of erosion and flood in several places of Majuli Island, the Committee note that the flood and erosion problem in the Island is far from being contained as the Island was ravaged by the floods during the monsoon season in 2008. The apparent cause of the flood was the breaches that occurred at Brahmaputra dyke and on other embankments at Majuli Island. The seriousness of the erosion and the ravages of floods prompted the Standing Committee on Water Resources of Parliament to make an on-the-spot visit to Majuli Island during 2009. The Committee note that a Standing Committee of Experts was constituted by the Government of India in 2007 which reviews and suggests measures for protection of Majuli Island. The Experts Committee had visited the Island five times from January 2008 to April 2010 and recommended several works to be taken up by the Brahmaputra Board as well as the Government of Assam. The Committee hope that implementation of the suggestions of the Experts Committee would be completed at the earliest so that the people of Majuli Island

are not exposed to recurrent nightmare of floods year after year. They also desire to see that works for Phase-II & III are completed by the scheduled target of 2011-2012. The Committee would like to be apprised of the recommendation of the Committee of Experts and the action taken to implement them.

Reply of the Government

Phase-I work of protection of Majuli Island is nearing completion. Phase-II & III has been undertaken in line with the recommendation of the Standing Committee. The Committee after examining all the aspect of the scheme and field condition after field visit from 16 to 19th June 2008 recommended only 5 (five) spurs to be constructed and after study on the efficacy of these 5 nos. of spurs, the balance spurs should be constructed. The schedule date of completion of the initial 5 spurs is September, 2011. Considering the construction of spurs to take at least 2 years including collection time of boulders, their transportation to site etc., there is no possibility of construction of the remaining spurs within March, 2012. However, the 5(five) nos. of spurs already taken for construction would be completed by March, 2012.

Comments of the Committee

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

Recommendation (Para No. 12)

The representatives of the NGOs/ resident welfare association complained to the Committee during their field visit about the limited time period available for work i.e. 2-3 months to carry out for the erosion control and flood control works due to long time span of floods, delay in release of funds, delay in payment to contractors, etc. The Committee are not happy with this situation and desire that the Board should plan the works and sanction and release of funds in such a way that the limited available time is utilized by carrying out the maximum work possible.

Reply of the Government

The Board is not doing any work in the East Barpeta District of Assam including the region from Bahari Satra to Bazabhaga. Perhaps complain pertains to works carried out by other department.

However, in respect of schemes being executed by Board, all efforts are indeed made to complete the official formalities by the Board well before the start of the working season.

CHAPTER IV

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

Recommendation (Para No. 3)

The Committee note that the Ministry had initiated a proposal for restructuring of the Brahmaputra Board in October 2004 which would also have addressed the problem of staff shortage. Another aim of restructuring is, statedly, to redefine and widen the objective of the Board so as to include integrated water resources development involving irrigation, flood management, generation of hydropower, etc. The draft Cabinet note prepared by the MoWR in this regard had been reportedly circulated to all concerned Ministries and the State Governments. Based on such inter-ministerial and inter-governmental consultation, a bill was to be introduced in the Parliament during the Monsoon Session 2009 seeking amendment of the existing Brahmaputra Board Act, 1980. The Committee are surprised to note that the proposal to restructure the Board mooted in October 2004, is yet to take first step in its legislative journey. The Ministry has not furnished any cogent reason for such an inordinate delay. The Committee, therefore, reiterate the recommendation made by them in their 9th Report presented to Parliament on 22 April, 2008 and hope earnestly that the Ministry would be able to introduce the Bill at least in the Monsoon Session of Parliament, 2010.

Reply of the Government

The Bill is yet to be introduced in the Parliament. The status is as below: -

The Draft Cabinet Note was prepared and circulated to concerned Ministries and the State Governments. Based on the comments received the note is being modified before sending the same the Ministry of Law & Justice thereafter the approval of the Cabinet will be obtained.

Comments of the Committee

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

Recommendation (Para No. 5)

The Committee note that the North Eastern Hydraulic and Allied Research Institute (NEHARI) was established under the Brahmaputra Board at Rudreshwara (North Guwahati) as per the Assam Accord and operationalised during 1996 at a cost of Rs.14 Crore. Its main functions are material testing, carrying out model studies, etc. It is assisted by the Central Water & Power Research Station (CWPRS), Pune and Central Soil & Materials Research Station (CS&MRS), New Delhi. The Committee were informed that the Institute has successfully completed model studies of (i) Jadhah River, (ii) River Brahmaputra from Porvita to South Salmara, (iii) Majuli Island, and (iv) Kameng River. It is observed that NEHARI manages its affairs with the funds provided by the Government. It also generates fund by providing services to different agencies. It has, however, been observed that its earning had drastically declined from Rs.49.78 lakh in 2002-03 to Rs.6.70 lakh only in 2008.09. It is also noted that in place of required staff strength of 45, only 29 are in place at present. The Committee had recommended earlier (9th Report/14th Lok Sabha) for filling up of posts by reviving the deemed abolished posts. According to the Ministry the posts required for strengthening of NEHARI are being worked out. Since shortage of staff is bound to hamper the smooth functioning of NEHARI, the Committee recommend that MoWR/Brahmaputra Board need to expedite the process of providing adequate staff to NEHARI at the earliest. NEHARI should also take steps to mobilise the available resources to increase their income.

Reply of the Government

The proposal for strengthening of NEHARI alongwith the restructuring of non restructuring posts of the Brahmaputra Board is proposed in the restructuring of Brahmaputra

Board and will be taken up separately with the Ministry of Finance after amendment of Brahmaputra Board Act for its restructuring.

Comments of the Committee

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

NEW DELHI;
29 August, 2011
07 Bhadrapada, 1933 (Saka)

DIP GOGOI
Chairman,
Standing Committee on Water Resources

APPENDIX – I

MINUTES OF THE FOURTEENTH SITTING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON WATER RESOURCES (2010-11) HELD ON THURSDAY, 11 AUGUST 2011

The Committee sat from 1530 hours to 1620 hours in Main Committee Room, Ground Floor, Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

PRESENT

Shri Dip Gogoi – Chairman

MEMBERS

LOK SABHA

5. Shri Ghanshyam Anuragi
6. Shri Mahendrasinh P. Chauhan
7. Shri Badri Ram Jakhar
8. Shri Haribhau Jawale
9. Shri Virender Kashyap
10. Shri Ramashankar Rajbhar
8. Shri S.P.Y. Reddy
9. Shri Arjun Roy
10. Smt. Annu Tandon
11. Shri Sajjan Verma

RAJYA SABHA

12. Dr. Ashok S. Ganguly
13. Shri Ranjitsinh Vijaysinh Mohite-Patil
14. Dr. Gyan Prakash Pilonia
15. Smt. Bimla Kashyap Sood

SECRETARIAT

- | | | | |
|----|---------------------|---|-----------------|
| 1. | Shri N.K. Sapra | - | Secretary |
| 2. | Shri Devender Singh | - | Joint Secretary |
| 2. | Shri B.S. Dahiya | - | Director |

At the outset, the Chairman welcomed the Members to the sitting of the Committee. Thereafter, the Committee took up for consideration (i) Memorandum No. 2 regarding Action Taken by Government on the recommendations/observations contained in the Fourth Report (15th Lok Sabha) on "Working of Brahmaputra Board"; and (ii) and draft Report on "Depletion of Ground Water Level".

2. After some discussion, the Committee adopted the above mentioned two Reports with certain amendments/modifications made during deliberations in the recommendation portions on Draft Report on 'Depletion of Ground Water Level'. These amendments/modifications include the following points:

- (i) To incorporate the Committee's concern on the growing construction of septic tanks in the country side as another possible source of sub-soil contamination and the need for appropriate action in this regard;
- (ii) To incorporate information on contaminated habitations indicating the nature of contamination of water State-wise/UTwise, giving total number of such habitations in the country;
- (iii) To incorporate tanneries in the list of factories/industries located in high pollution zones which need to be regularly inspected by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) and the District Collectors;
- (iv) To extend the Scheme of demonstrative artificial recharge projects taken up by CGWB during the Eleventh Plan to other areas including Bundelkhand region of UP and Madhya Pradesh;
- (v) To recommend to the Government to explore the possibility of making rain water harvesting mandatory for all Departments of Government – Central as well as State;
- (vi) To incorporate perennial drought prone States, such as Rajasthan, Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh in the list of projects undertaken by the Government of India under pilot scheme in 2005 in respect of National Project for Repair, Renovation and Restoration of Water Bodies (RRR);

- (vii) To urge the Government to furnish the complete data of the major national/international rivers of the country regarding their water volume of the flow, utilization for irrigation purpose and volume at the point of entry to India or at point of entry to other country or the sea for the last ten years; and
- (viii) To change the title of the report to 'Augmentation of Depleted Ground Water Level, Sustainable Development, Conservation, Management, Use of Ground Water and Prevention of Water Pollution'.

3. The Committee then authorized the Chairman to finalize both the above mentioned Reports in view of the consequential changes after incorporating the above mentioned suggestions made by the Members in the draft Report on "Depletion of Ground Water Level" and changes arising out of factual verification and to present the same to both the Houses of Parliament in the current Session.

The Committee then adjourned

APPENDIX II

[Vide Para 4 of the Introduction]

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

(i)	Total number of Recommendations/Observations	16
(ii)	Recommendation/Observations which have been accepted by the Government	
	Para Nos. 1, 4, 6, 11, 13, 14, 15 and 16	
	<i>Total</i>	08
	<i>Percentage</i>	50.00%
(iii)	Recommendations/Observations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of the Government's replies	
	Para Nos. 2, 7, 8, 9, 10 and 12	
	<i>Total</i>	06
	<i>Percentage</i>	37.5 %
(iv)	Recommendations/Observations in respect of which replies of the Government have not been accepted by the Committee	
	Para Nos. 3 and 5	
	<i>Total</i>	02
	<i>Percentage</i>	12.5 %