



**STANDING COMMITTEE ON WATER RESOURCES
(2013-2014)**

FIFTEENTH LOK SABHA

MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (2013-14)

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

TWENTIETH REPORT



LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

December, 2013/Agrahayana, 1935 (Saka)

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Presented to Lok Sabha on 17.12.2013

Laid in Rajya Sabha on 17.12.2013



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
*NEW DELHI***

December, 2013/Agrahayana, 1935 (Saka)

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COMPOSITION OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON WATER RESOURCES (2013-2014)

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LOK SABHA

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18. Shri D.K. Suresh*
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20. Shri Sajjan Verma
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28. Shri A.V. Swamy
29. Smt. Wansuk Syiem
30. Vacant
31. Vacant

* Nominated w.e.f. 09.09.2013

** Expired on 04.12.2013

SECRETARIAT

1. Shri Devender Singh - Joint Secretary
2. Shri Pawan Kumar - Director
3. Smt. Rita Jaikhani - Additional Director
4. Smt. Shanta Banerjee Datta - Sr. Committee Assistant

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairman, Standing Committee on Water Resources (2013-2014) having been authorised by the Committee to submit the Report on their behalf, do present the Twentieth Report on the Action Taken by Government on the recommendations/observations contained in the Seventeenth Report (Fifteenth Lok Sabha) of the Standing Committee on Water Resources (2012-2013) on Demands for Grants (2013-14) of the Ministry of Water Resources.

2. The Seventeenth Report of the Committee was presented to Lok Sabha on 29 April, 2013. The replies of the Government to all the recommendations/observations contained in the Report were received on 20 August, 2013.

3. The replies of the Government were examined and the Report was considered and adopted by the Committee at their sitting held on 10 December, 2013.

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

NEW DELHI;
16 December, 2013
25 Agrahayana, 1935 (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 Seventeenth Report (15th Lok Sabha) on "Demands for Grants (2013-14)" of the Ministry of Water Resources which was presented to Lok Sabha on 29 April 2013.

2. Action taken notes were received from the Government in respect of all the 44 recommendations/observations of the Committee which have been categorised as follows:-

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

Para Nos. 1.41, 1.42, 1.43, 1.44, 1.45, 1.46, 1.47, 1.48, 1.49, 1.50, 1.52, 1.53, 2.57, 2.58, 2.59, 2.60, 2.61, 2.63, 2.64, 2.65, 2.66, 3.26, 3.27, 3.28, 3.29, 4.29, 4.30, 4.31, 4.32, 4.33, 5.7, 6.39, 6.40, 6.41, 6.43, 6.44 and 6.45 (Total =37)

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

Para Nos. 2.62 and 4.28 (Total=2)

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

Para Nos. 3.25, 4.27, 6.38 and 6.42 (Total=4)

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

Para No. 1.51 (Total -1)

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

A. Budgetary Allocations

Recommendation (Para No.1.42)

4. The Committee observed that the total budget allocation for 2012-13 was Rs. 2067.60 crore which was substantially reduced by Rs. 831.15 crore to the level of Rs.1236.45 crore at RE stage. According to the Ministry, the reason for this reduction at RE stage was due to non-approval of EFC (Expenditure Finance Committee) in respect of the new plan schemes and new components in the ongoing scheme. The Committee were not convinced with the explanation given by the Ministry for substantial reduction of Budget Estimates (BE) at RE stage as it reflected that the Ministry was either too unrealistic while making budgetary projections or too idle to make all out efforts to persuade the authorities for obtaining all requisite approvals in time for completion of the projects for which budgetary allocations were initially made and thus it was a serious reflection on the functioning of the Ministry. The Committee felt that the Ministry, in either case, had to revamp its budget making processes and fine-tune its style of functioning so that the budgetary projections were made on realistic and sound considerations and the funds allocated were fully utilized during the year. The Committee desired the Ministry to initiate necessary steps in this regard and also to ensure that at least now the matter should be processed with all seriousness to obtain EFC approval well in time in respect of all projects where such approval is necessary. The Committee desired to be apprised of the steps taken by the Ministry in this regard.

5. The Ministry, in its action taken note replied as under :

"MoWR is pursuing with the Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance in respect of approval of EFC. This is also being monitored periodically in the MoWR."

6. **The Committee note with concern that the approval of Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC) for new plan schemes and new components in the ongoing schemes is still awaited. They find that the Ministry of Water Resources is pursuing with the Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance for approval of EFC. The Committee feel that this is a clear reflection of the unplanned manner in which schemes are being formulated and taken up for implementation by the Ministry. The Committee would therefore, urge the Ministry to take the issue of non approval of schemes / programmes by EFC seriously and initiate measures to get approvals in time so as not to hamper their implementation and also ensure economic utilisation of resources.**

B. River Basin Management

Recommendation (Para No.1.47)

7. The Committee observed that the Ministry of Water Resources had set up a Committee under the Chairmanship of Justice T.S. Doabia to study the activities required for optimal development of a river basin and changes required in the existing River Boards Act, 1956 for achievement of the same and the report was submitted in this regard on 06.11.2012. As informed, the consultation with the State Governments on the said Report was being initiated. The Committee desired to be apprised of the details of the Doabia Committee Report and also urged the Ministry to speedily complete the process of consultation with the State

Governments on the subject with a view to implementing the recommendations given in the Report at the earliest so that the issues and problems related to water basin management and development could be addressed in a result-oriented manner in a fixed time frame.

8. The Ministry, in its action taken note replied as under :

"The broad recommendations in the report submitted by Justice Doabia Committee to Ministry of Water Resources for Amendment of the River Boards Act, 1956 are as follows:

The committee proposes establishment of River Basin Authority for regulation and development of water of an inter-State river basin or any specified part thereof and further makes it clear that different Authorities shall be established for different inter-State river basin. It also proposes provision for space for creation of a separate River Basin Authority for a sub- basin within an inter-State river basin.

The report also proposes a two-tier structure for a River Basin Authority. Every River Basin Authority shall have to consist of an upper layer being a Governing Council and a lower layer being the Executive Board charged with the technical and implementation powers for the Council decisions to succeed. The Governing Council has extensive membership and representation including Chief Ministers of the co-basin States, the Minister in charge of Water Resources, one Member of Parliament, one Member of the State Legislature, two representatives of District Panchayat, the Chief Secretary to the State Government, one representative from the Water User Associations, one representative from the Urban Local Bodies / Municipalities and at least five experts including eminent citizens. Likewise the Executive Board has also been given an extensive membership base under the Bill.

A legal foundation for a River Basin Master Plan for inter-State river basins can help achieve the protection, improvement and sustainable use of the water environment across the basin. Such a river basin master plan can be the singular guidance tool and basis for the River Basin Authorities to perform their powers and functions under the Act.

The formulation and implementation of the river basin master plan can potentially make all water use and land uses in the inter-State basin compatible with the principles of integrated river basin management.

It also provides that a River Basin Authority shall ensure that a River Basin Master Plan is produced for the inter-State river basin under its jurisdiction. It further makes clear that the River Basin Master Plan shall be coordinated with the plans for national economic and social development, the general plans for land use and general urban plans and

plans for environmental protection, and at the same time the needs of various regions and industries shall be taken into consideration."

9. The Committee observe that the Committee headed by Justice T. S. Doabia, constituted to study the activities required for optimal development of a river basin and changes required in the existing River Boards Act, 1956 has made several important recommendations for integrated development of inter-State river basins, such as establishment of River Basin Authority having a two layer structure viz. Governing Council and Executive Board, a legal foundation for River Basin Master Plan which will be implemented in conjunction with the plans for national economic and social development, the general plans for land use and general urban plans and plans for environmental protection and the needs of various regions and industries. However, the Ministry has not furnished any reply with regard to the period by which consultation in this regard with State Governments will be over. Further, there is no specific time period fixed for implementation of these recommendations. The Committee would therefore, again urge the Ministry to speed up the process of consultation and fix a time frame by which these recommendations will be implemented so as to finalise the required amendments to the existing River Boards Act, 1956 which will facilitate development of river basins in the country in a holistic manner.

Recommendation (Para No.1.48)

10. The Committee observed that restructuring of Central Water Commission had been proposed to expand its activities in the field and reorient the set up at Headquarters to address the emerging challenges in the water sector such as, need to address the likely impact of

climate change, need for holistic planning and development of water resources considering river basin as a unit; and effective co-ordination among planners at one hand and stakeholders at the other. The Committee, in their 14th Report on Demands for Grants (2012-13), had recommended for the restructuring of Central Water Commission (CWC) to be accomplished within XII Plan period as stipulated. The Committee had been informed that the proposal for restructuring of CWC was under process of approval and would be implemented during XII Plan. The Committee hoped that the changes proposed in the restructured CWC would address the issues in a more comprehensive and integrated manner and the new set up would effectively deal with the activities related to water resources development & management, data collection, preparation of integrated basin plans, techno-economic appraisal of water resources projects, looking after water management and flood management aspects, dam safety monitoring and inter-State issues, etc. The Committee hoped that all the processes and formalities involved in the restructuring of CWC would be completed by the Ministry at the earliest and a new revamped set up of CWC would come into existence very soon which would become a catalyst for effective and efficient management of river basin and water resources.

11. The Ministry, in its action taken note replied as under :

"The proposal of Restructuring of CWC was kept as one of the components in the River Basin Management in the Plan Scheme of Ministry. EFC meeting to consider the aforesaid proposal was held on 9th April, 2013 and Ministry of Finance sent its observation, vide its UO No. 10(2)/PF-II/2012/M/o Finance/Department of Expenditure dated 9th April, 2013 wherein it has been decided that the same should be deleted from the EFC proposal and same may be dealt separately. The proposal of restructuring of CWC is currently under consideration in DoPT and Ministry of Finance."

12. The Committee observe that proposal of restructuring of Central Water Commission (CWC) was kept as one of the components of the River Basin Management

in the Plan Scheme of the Ministry of Water Resources which was to be considered in EFC meeting. However, Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance has suggested for separate consideration of this proposal by EFC. At present this issue is being considered by DoPT and the Ministry of Finance. The Committee desire the Ministry of Water Resources to vigorously pursue the issue with DoPT and the Ministry of Finance so as to ensure that the required approval of EFC is attained at the earliest and as envisaged, the process of restructuring of CWC is completed during XII Five Year Plan.

C. *Bharat Nirman*

Recommendation (Para No.1.49)

13. The Committee observed that irrigation is one of the six components for development of rural infrastructure under Bharat Nirman. The irrigation component of Bharat Nirman aimed at creation of irrigation potential of 10 million hectare (Mha.) during four years i.e. from 2005-06 to 2008-09. The target for achieving this objective was proposed to be met through completion of ongoing Major and Medium Irrigation projects, Extension, Renovation and Modernization (ERM) of Major and Medium Irrigation projects, surface water minor Irrigation projects and ground water minor Irrigation projects. Emphasis was also laid on repair, renovation and restoration of water bodies. The Committee's examination of year-wise achievements vis-à-vis the targets fixed revealed that actual irrigation potential created consistently lagged behind the targets set in each year during 2005-06 to 2008-09. The actual achievement under Bharat Nirman was only 1.69 Mha. against the target of 1.90 Mha. during 2005-06. The figures in respect of the years 2006-07, 2007-08, 2008-09 were 1.96 Mha. against 2.40 Mha., 1.73 Mha.

against 2.85 Mha., and 1.93 Mha. against 2.85 Mha. respectively. The total irrigation potential created from 2005-06 to 2008-09 was 7.31 Mha. against the target of 10.00 Mha. leaving a shortfall of 2.69 Mha. during the period. Taking a serious view of the consistently less achievement than the target fixed in each year from the year 2005-06 to 2008-09, the Committee recommended the Ministry to evaluate the scheme to find out the reasons for such shortfall so that these findings could be used by the Ministry for formulation of better policies and effective execution of other projects in future. The Committee also desired to know the total expenditure incurred on Bharat Nirman from its inception and the response received from the States about project-wise gap between the actual irrigation potential created and the target set for each year.

14. The Ministry, in its action taken note replied as under :

"Projects under Bharat Nirman are executed by the State Governments. Ministry is providing Central Assistance under Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP), Command Area Development & Water Management (CAD&WM) and Repair, Renovation & Restoration (RRR) of Irrigation projects to the State Governments. In addition, the State Governments are utilizing their own resources as well for the execution of water resources projects aimed at achievement of irrigation potential. The Central Assistance released by the Ministry to the State Governments under Bharat Nirman in respect of the above said schemes since inception are as under:

Year	Rs in Cr.		
	AIBP	CAD&WM	RRR
From 2005-06 to 2012-13	53,646.5167	2,707.8386	852.289

Also the individual State Governments are pursued to furnish the specific reason, if any, for the non-achievement of creation of irrigation potential and also they are being insisted to stick on to the set targets."

15. The Committee observe that projects under Bharat Nirman are executed by the State Governments. Irrigation projects under this scheme are financed by Central Assistance provided under Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP), Command Area Development & Water Management (CAD&WM) and Repair, Renovation and Rehabilitation (RRR) and also by own resources of the State Governments. The Committee find that the reply mention only the features of the scheme while reasons for not fulfilling the targets under the scheme have not been furnished. This shows that either targets are not realistic or States are not adequately pursued to achieve the targets. The Committee would therefore, reiterate that the Ministry should evaluate the Bharat Nirman scheme to find out the reasons for shortfall in achieving the targets so that these could be used for formulation of better policies and effective execution of other ongoing and future projects. They further recommend the Ministry to consider penal measures, such as, not sanctioning further funds to States which failed to achieve the targets without any plausible reasons. They would also like to be apprised at the earliest of the response received from the States about project-wise gap between the actual irrigation potential created and the target set for each year.

D. Repair, Renovation and Restoration (RRR) of Water Bodies

Recommendation (Para No.1.52)

16. The Committee observed that the Planning Commission allocated Rs. 6235 crore for RRR which was much less than Rs. 30,000 crore proposed by the Ministry. The reason for such substantially reduced allocation was stated to be the resource crunch and the overall cut

in the Budget by the Union Government. The Ministry had, however, informed the Committee that considering the performance of States under the scheme of RRR, the Planning Commission would be approached for higher allocation under RRR during mid-term appraisal of the Scheme to be carried out by Planning Commission. The Committee observed that Repair, Renovation and Restoration (RRR) of Water Bodies is a critically important area and substantial reduction in the budgetary allocation would adversely affect the different activities under this scheme. The Committee, therefore, desired the Ministry to persuade the Planning Commission with a well-conceived proposal for enhancement of allocation under RRR.

17. The Ministry, in its action taken note replied as under :

"The scheme depends on the performance of the States. This Ministry will approach the Planning Commission for the appraisal based on the performance of the States regarding RRR of Water Bodies Schemes for enhanced allocation for the scheme. Also, the States will be requested to take up the work of water bodies on fast track basis."

18. **The Committee find that Planning Commission has reduced allocation for Repair, Renovation and Restoration (RRR) of Water Bodies scheme substantially to Rs. 6,235 crore as against Rs. 30,000 crore proposed by the Ministry, due to scarcity of funds and overall cut in the Budget by the Union Government. They also note that based on the performance of the States regarding RRR of Water Bodies the Ministry will approach the Planning Commission, during mid-term appraisal, for enhanced allocation for the scheme. The Committee would like to know the assessment / evaluation of performance of States by the Ministry and also the basis on which the Ministry had approached Planning Commission for allocation of Rs. 30,000 crore. The Committee feel that an objective evaluation of performance of State Governments will enable realistic**

projections of required funds by the Ministry and strengthen its case for enhanced allocation of funds by Planning Commission.

E. Utilisation Certificate

Recommendation (Para No.1.53)

19. The Committee's examination had revealed that outstanding Utilisation Certificate in respect of institutions and autonomous bodies as on 31.12.2012 were 305 with the amount involved Rs. 26,181.22 lakh. The Committee were apprised that monitoring of pending Utilisation Certificates was being done by the Ministry by organising periodical review meetings with SMDs/institutions and other grantees. The Committee had recommended in their 8th Report on Demand for Grants (2011-12) to the Ministry to consider the feasibility of imposing some penalties on the authorities showing lackadaisical approach towards fund management and utilisation and also to keep strict vigil on the implementation of scheme and timely submission of UCs by way of inspection, periodic reviews, etc. The Committee took serious view of the pendency of large number of Utilisation Certificates and reiterated their recommendation for obtaining UCs from the concerned organisations/departments with constant monitoring and also exploring the desirability of imposing penalties on defaulters. The Committee desired to be apprised of the action taken in this regard.

20. The Ministry, in its action taken note replied as under :

"All the grantee institutions/autonomous bodies have been informed about the strict adherence to the provisions of GFR for emphasizing the production of UCs for further release of Grant in Aid. PAOs are also watching the receipt of UCs at the time of release of Grant in Aid and no grants are being released without getting the UCs for the grant released in previous year.

As regards the UCs of State Government, the concerned Wings are keeping in touch with the State Governments for reconciliation and providing of UCs. Frequent meetings with concerned Wings are also organized for expediting the UCs from the State Governments. Release of Central assistance to the State Governments is made based on the submission of UCs."

21. The Committee note with concern that 305 Utilisation Certificates (UCs) involving an amount of Rs. 26,181.22 lakh were pending in respect of institutions and autonomous bodies as on 31.12.2012. They also note that Ministry has taken steps for strict adherence to the provisions of General Financial Rules (GFR) along with release of further grants after submission of UCs for earlier grants. Regarding UCs of State Governments, concerned wings of the Ministry liaison with State Governments and organise frequent meetings for reconciliation and providing UCs. However, the reply furnished by the Ministry does not indicate provision of any penal measure (taken/proposed to be taken) against authorities showing lackadaisical approach towards fund management and utilisation as recommended by the Committee. They would therefore, again recommend the Ministry to explore the imposition of penal measures for more effective utilisation of funds and desire that the Committee be apprised of the details of the measures initiated/proposed in this regard.

F. Budgetary Allocation – Major and Medium Irrigation (MMI)

Recommendation (Para No.2.57)

22. The Committee observed that Irrigation projects with a Cultivable Command Area (CCA) between 2000 hectares and 10,000 hectares were classified as Medium Irrigation projects and those irrigation projects with CCA of more than 10,000 hectares were classified as Major Irrigation projects. The planning, formulation and execution of all Major and Medium

Irrigation (MMI) are carried out by the concerned State Governments and the required funds are allocated out of their State Plan. The Ministry of Water Resources provides technical know-how to the State Governments through its subsidiary organizations and statutory bodies like Central Water Commission (CWC), Central Soil and Materials Research Station (CSMRS), Central Water and Power Research Station (CWPRS), National Water Development Agency (NWDA) etc. The Committee's examination of the budgetary proposals revealed that the budgetary allocation in Plan section for 2012-13 was Rs. 773.19 crore and which was reduced to Rs. 206.82 crore at RE stage. The budget allocation (Plan) for 2013-14 had been kept at Rs. 643.53 crore. The Committee were unhappy to note that the reason for reduction at BE 2012-13 had been stated to be the curtailment of amount by the Ministry of Finance due to low expenditure upto September, 2012 on account of non approval of EFC. The Committee were pained to observe that it was sheer failure of the Ministry to get approval of EFC in time in such important areas which ultimately resulted in curtailment of funds. Surprisingly, the Ministry had denied any adverse impact on schemes and projects of the Ministry due to reduced allocation at RE stage. The Committee needed to be explained as to how all the activities for which budgetary projections of Rs. 773.19 crore were made at BE stage could be completed by the Ministry with the reduced allocation of Rs.206.82 crore. The Committee further observed that reduction of allocation at RE stage in respect of MMI projects showed poor monitoring and control and lack of effective pre-planning and, therefore, recommended the Ministry to strictly assess the requirements of all projects/schemes before projecting the budgetary requirements at BE stage and also minutely monitor the flow of expenditure throughout the year with a well defined systematic monitoring mechanism for effective utilization of the allocated funds. The

Committee expected that the allocation made for 2013-14 would be utilized fully by the Ministry by constant monitoring and control.

23. The Ministry, in its action taken note replied as under :

"The monitoring of the expenditure incurred under the various schemes is monitored in the Ministry at senior levels on regular basis. All efforts are being taken by the Ministry for the timely approval of EFCs to void the curtailment of expenditure in the RE stage."

24. **The Committee had noted that due to low expenditure upto September, 2012 on account of non approval of Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC), the budgetary allocation for Major and Medium Irrigation in Plan Section for 2012-13 amounting to Rs.773.19 crore, was reduced to Rs. 206.82 core at RE stage. The Committee had further noted the view of the Ministry that reduced allocation would have no adverse impact on schemes and projects. In the action taken reply furnished by the Ministry, no clarification has been provided as to how the reduction of funds will have no impact on implementation of the projects. The Committee feel that the attitude of the Ministry reflects non seriousness and casual approach and lack of realistic planning and proper implementation of the projects. The Committee, therefore, desire the Ministry to be more pragmatic, efficient and forthright in making projections for budgetary allocations and also utilization thereof.**

The Committee note that monitoring of the expenditure incurred under the various schemes is done at senior levels in the Ministry on regular basis and efforts are being made to get timely approval of EFC to avoid curtailment of expenditure at RE stage. However, there is no mention of frequency of such reviews and effectiveness thereof. The Committee, therefore, reiterate the need to establish a well defined

systematic monitoring mechanism for effective utilization of allocated funds. The Committee also desire the Ministry to furnish the details of the total amount utilized as on date under the head during the current financial year.

G. *Water Quality Monitoring*

Recommendation (Para No.2.61)

25. The Committee observed that a number of agencies were operating Water Quality Monitoring networks in the country and there was no uniform procedure for sampling, analysis, data storage and reporting. To address this problem, Water Quality Assessment Authority (WQAA) was constituted in May 2001 and Uniform Protocol on Water Quality Monitoring (UPWQM) order was notified in 2005. The UPWQM stipulated that its monitoring agencies would process the analytical data and report the data after validation to the data centre at the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) which would store the data and disseminate through website or electronic mail to various users on demand. The Committee desired the Ministry to ensure that the monitoring agencies and CPCB work in close coordination so that efforts made by them for water quality monitoring in the country produced desired results for the end users. Taking into account the fact that the UPWQM was being proposed to be revised during 2013-14, in view of the existing pollution aspects/parameters and their distribution in surface and ground water, the Committee recommended the Ministry to keep constant monitoring in the matter and ensure speedy completion of revision of UPWQM. They desired to be apprised of action taken in the matter.

26. The Ministry, in its action taken note replied as under :

"The issues of (i) revision of Uniform Protocol on Water Quality Monitoring (UPWQM) and (ii) sharing of water quality data by various agencies and submission to Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) will be placed before Water Quality Assessment Authority (WQAA)."

27. The Committee find from the reply that the position regarding issues of revision of Uniform Protocol on Water Quality Monitoring (UPWQM) Order and sharing of data on water quality by various agencies and submission to CPCB continues to be same as informed to them earlier as these are yet to be considered by Water Quality Assessment Authority (WQAA). They would, therefore, like to know the time period by which these issues will be considered by WQAA. The Committee desire the Ministry to take measures to facilitate speedy implementation of revised UPWQM and sharing of water quality data among various agencies.

H. National Water Policy

Recommendation (Para No.2.63)

28. The Committee in their first report on Demand for Grants (2009-10) had urged the Ministry to review the National Water Policy taking into consideration various suggestions given by the State Governments and other stakeholders and also eminent climatologists keeping in view the looming threat of climate change and the grave scarcity of water in future. The Committee were informed that the National Water Policy 2012 had been adopted by the National Water Council on 28.12.2012. The Committee while appreciating the efforts made by the Ministry for bringing out the National Water Policy 2012, recommended that the National

Water Policy 2012 should be presented in Parliament so that it could get a broader perspective of dissemination of policy details among lawmakers, academicians, scientists, intellectuals and other stakeholders.

29. The Ministry, in its action taken note replied as under :

"The National Water Policy (2012) and River Basin Atlas of India are being circulated amongst all Members of the Parliament by the Hon'ble Minister for Water Resources."

30. The Committee note that National Water Policy (2012) and River Basin Atlas of India are being circulated among all Members of Parliament. However, in the action taken reply, there is no information on widespread publicity of the National Water Policy (2012) among academicians, scientists, intellectuals, lawmakers at State level and other stakeholders. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the details of National Water Policy (2012) should be widely publicized in print, audio and electronic media.

I. National Bureau of Water Use Efficiency

Recommendation (Para No.2.64)

31. The Committee observed that the Ministry of Water Resources had proposed to establish National Bureau of Water Use Efficiency (NBWUE) under Section 3 (3) of Environment (Protection) Act 1986 which would have the overall responsibility of water use efficiency across various sectors, namely, irrigation, drinking water supply, power generation and industry in the whole country. The NBWUE would function as an autonomous authority under the administrative control of MoWR whose proposed activity would include preparation of detailed project reports for taking up benchmarking and/or demonstrative projects for water use

efficiency, publicity/promotion of water use efficiency measures, conjunctive use of water, incentivization of industries, farmers, local bodies, action plan for coping with flood and baseline studies for water use efficiency, etc. It was also informed that the NBWUE was envisaged to be operational in 2013-14 subject to approval of EFC. The Committee hoped that the National Bureau of Water Use Efficiency would be operationalised in 2013-14 and would bring qualitative changes by bringing high degree of efficiency in water use.

32. The Ministry, in its action taken note replied as under :

"The National Action Plan for Climate Change (NAPCC) had stipulated that the National Water Mission should develop a framework to optimize water use by increasing water use efficiency by 20 per cent through regulatory mechanisms. Efforts are being made to secure the approval of EFC of National Water Mission (NWM) and to set up, National Bureau of Water Use Efficiency (NBWUE) under Section 3(3) of Environment (Protection) Act 1986 during the financial year 2013-14 for implementation of various strategies/goals for improvement in Water Use Efficiency in the areas of irrigation, drinking water supply, power generation and industry as per best practices/standards. The NBWUE would implement strategies for increasing water use efficiency in general.

It is stated that the draft EFC memo for implementation of National Water Mission and setting up of National Bureau of Water Use Efficiency was prepared by the MoWR and circulated to various Ministries / Departments of Govt. of India for their comments. After receiving the comments from Ministry of Finance and other Ministries, the EFC proposal (Rs. 1,390 Crore) was forwarded to Planning Commission in the month of July 2012. The proposal was sent to Ministry of Finance on 17.12.2012 after incorporating replies to the comments of the Planning Commission (PAMD), dated: 14.11.2012.

As decided in the EFC meeting for (HRD Capacity Building) held on 18.01.2013 under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Expenditure, Ministry of Finance, National Water Mission component of Rs.100 crore has been deleted from the current proposal of HRD Capacity Building and incorporated in the EFC of NWM. Accordingly the proposal was revised to Rs. 1,490 crore. As advised by IFD, MoWR, the revised EFC was placed before the High Level Steering Committee Meeting (HLSC) and Advisory Board to take the approval of the committee/board before the EFC Memo is sent to the Ministry of Finance.

The High level Steering Committee Meeting held on 22.03.2013 chaired by Secretary (WR) agreed in principle to the proposal for the XII Five Year Plan amounting to

Rs. 1,490 crore. Advisory Board chaired by Hon'ble Minister (Water Resources) has also approved the proposal in its meeting held on 02.05.2013. The appraisal process of the scheme National Water Mission is now completed."

33. The Committee had been informed that the National Bureau of Water Use Efficiency (NBWUE) was envisaged to be operational in 2013-14 subject to approval of Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC). In the Action Taken reply, the Ministry has *inter-alia* stated that the revised EFC of National Water Mission has since been cleared by High Level Steering Committee and Advisory Board. The Ministry has also stated that the appraisal process of the scheme National Water Mission is now completed. However, the reply lacks any information on setting up of NBWUE during 2013-14. The Committee hope that NBWUE will be functional soon in the current year *i.e.* 2013-14 and bring higher efficiency in water use. They would like to know the progress in this regard.

J. Dam Safety

Recommendation (Para No.2.66)

34. The Committee observed that a six year project called 'Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Project' (DRIP) was launched in 2011 with the assistance from the World Bank. The Project became effective from 18 April, 2012 and would be implemented in 4 States, namely, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha and Tamil Nadu. About 223 large dams in the four participating States requiring substantial need for rehabilitation and improvements would be included in the Project. The Committee observed that the total estimated cost of DRIP was Rs.2,100.00 crore out of which Rs.1,487.23 crore was for the four participating States and

Rs.132.00 crore for Central Water Commission and a provision of Rs.480.24 crore had been kept as an unallocated resources for similar work for additional States which might join the project later stage. The Committee expected that dam safety measures would be taken up seriously by all concerned and the National Commission on Dam Safety would play an effective role in this regard. Further, the Committee noted that on the basis of the observation and recommendations of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Water Resources on The Dam Safety Bill, 2010 tabled before the Parliament on 30 August, 2010, a modified Dam Safety Bill was ready and would be placed before the Parliament shortly. The Committee desired that all pending issues/concerns raised by the States be addressed and, thereafter, the Dam Safety Bill might be introduced in the Parliament for enactment expeditiously.

35. The Ministry, in its action taken note replied as under :

"In the Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Project (DRIP) already under implementation, in addition to the existing four States, five new States/organisations are expected to join DRIP shortly as per details below and as agreed by the World Bank:

State/Entity	No. of Dams proposed under DRIP	Allocated share (Rs. crore)
DVC	1	34.13
Karnataka	27	276.75
Punjab	12	27.38
UJVNL	5	46.74
Uttar Pradesh	1	95
Total	46	480

The implementation of DRIP is being monitored by a Technical Committee under Chairmanship of Member (D&R), CWC. A National Level Steering Committee (NLSC) has also been constituted for overall guidance of the project implementation.

Action has been initiated by the MoWR for expeditious enactment of the modified Dam Safety Bill."

36. The Committee find that legislation on the Dam Safety which was examined by them and Report was submitted in 2010 is yet to be enacted. In April 2013, the Committee were informed by the Ministry that it had worked out on the recommendations of the Committee and revised the Draft Bill which was going to the Cabinet. The Action Taken Reply of the Ministry is not specific about the further progress in this regard. The Committee reiterate the need for expeditious enactment of this very important legislation.

K. Budgetary Allocation (Minor Irrigation)

Recommendation (Para No.3.25)

37. The Committee observed that Minor Irrigation (MI) schemes are those ground and surface water schemes which have a Cultivable Command Area (CCA) up to 2,000 hectares individually. The budgetary allocations for Minor Irrigation at BE stage for the year 2013-14 had been kept at Rs. 324.02 crore in Plan section and Rs.134.31 crore in non-Plan section. The Committee noted that the Plan allocation of Rs. 384.81 crore for Minor Irrigation during 2012-13 was reduced to Rs. 207.93 crore at RE stage. The reasons stated by the Ministry for this reduction was that all the planned activities under the Scheme could not be taken up and the appraisal of EFC, Ministry of Finance had also not been completed. The Committee observed that the fact that non approval of EFC had led to substantial reduction in budgetary allocation at RE stage was really deplorable as it adversely affected many sectoral schemes. The Committee, therefore, recommended that the Ministry must take concrete steps at the earliest to obviate this problem which affects allocation and utilization of funds in many sectors of water resource schemes/projects. The Committee also desired the Ministry to furnish the

detailed information indicating the physical targets fixed for creation of irrigation potential under minor irrigation for 11th Plan ending March, 2012 and also the achievements made in this regard during that period. Considering the relative importance of Minor Irrigation Projects, the Committee desired to know the particulars of the schemes and projects with external assistance being proposed under minor irrigation during XII Plan period.

38. The Ministry, in its action taken note replied as under :

"The appraisal process of the scheme Ground Water Management & Regulation is complete and the process has started seeking the approval of CCEA. Steps like advance planning, regular monitoring and enhanced delegation of administrative & financial powers etc. will be taken to avoid reduction in budgetary allocation at RE stage."

39. **The Committee note that the Ministry has initiated the process of approval of scheme of Ground Water Management and Regulation from Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA). Further, steps such as advance planning, regular monitoring enhanced delegation of administrative and financial powers will be taken by the Ministry to avoid reduction in budgetary allocation at RE stage. However, the Committee take serious view of the fact that the Ministry has failed to provide information on achievements vis-à-vis physical targets fixed for creation of irrigation potential under Minor Irrigation for XI Plan ending March, 2012. Further, Ministry has also not provided the particulars of the schemes and projects with external assistance being proposed under Minor Irrigation during XII Plan period. The Committee, therefore, reiterate and recommend the Ministry to furnish the desired information on Minor Irrigation and also**

apprise them about its achievements during XI Plan under this Head without further delay.

L. Aquifer Mapping

Recommendation (Para No.3.27)

40. The Committee observed that Aquifer Mapping is one programme among the major activities proposed during XII Plan under Ground Water Management and Regulation. The outcome of the Aquifer Mapping would include identification of areas feasible for ground water development, ground water regulation, rainwater harvesting and artificial recharge, yield potential, depth & design of wells, water logged areas and quality problem areas etc. 9.25 lakh sq. km. area had been proposed to be covered under Aquifer Mapping in XII Plan period which would involve activities like data collection, compilation, data gap analysis and preparation of aquifer maps and management plan. Aquifer mapping with latest scientific inputs was to be taken up on 1:50000 scale and the mappable area of about 23.4 lakh sq. km. in the country was likely to be completed by the end of XIII Plan. The aquifer-wise water management plan, likely to be completed by the end of XIII Plan period, will incorporate participatory approach in which the end-users like farmers, various other stakeholders will be involved in the programme. The Committee hoped that the target fixed for the Acquirer Mapping would be successfully achieved by the Ministry and its benefit would reach to all the stakeholders. The results of such survey, State-wise, must be given wide publicity for the benefit of the people.

41. The Ministry, in its action taken note replied as under :

"The target of Aquifer Mapping has been revised as 8.89 lakh sq. km. (Earlier 9.25 lakh sq. km.) in view of reduction in allocation / expenditure in 2012-13 and reduction of BE in 2013-14 mainly due to non-appraisal of the scheme by the EFC. The Aquifer Mapping will also provide the aquifer management plan to benefit the end users. The aquifer management plans are proposed to be implemented through participatory ground water management programme with the involvement of community and other stake holders. The results of aquifer mapping will be given wide publicity for the benefit of people."

42. The Committee observe that the target fixed under the programme of Aquifer Mapping had to be lowered because of non appraisal of this programme by EFC. As also observed by the Committee in preceding paragraphs, they express their displeasure over the fact that several schemes / programmes had to be revised / could not be completed for want of requisite approval of EFC. The Committee are of the view that modification / revision of schemes / programmes due to non completion of administrative procedure reflects poorly on the part of the functioning of the Ministry. The Committee, therefore, desire the Ministry to take immediate corrective action in this regard. They also expect that proposed Aquifer Mapping with latest scientific inputs and aquifer-wise water management plan, involving end users, will be completed by the end of XII Five Year Plan as envisaged. The Committee desire to be apprised of the progress in this regard.

M. Central Ground Water Board

Recommendation (Para No.3.29)

43. The Committee observed that the Central Ground Water Board (CGWB), under the Ministry of Water Resources is a multi-disciplinary, scientific organisation whose mandate is

mainly related to sustainable development and management of India's ground water resources. The Committee's examination of the budgetary proposals revealed that a budgetary allocation of Rs. 275.00 crore in the Plan section for Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) for 2013-14 had been made which was less than the BE of Rs. 318 crore of the previous year 2012-13. The Committee desired to know the reasons for reduction of budgetary allocation in Plan section for the current financial year compared to BE of previous year 2012-13 and also the details of the projects / schemes, which could be adversely affected due to the reduced allocation. The assessment of groundwater resources was carried out jointly by Central Ground Water Board and respective State Governments. The Committee recommended that after making State-wise actual assessment of availability of groundwater, the Central Ground Water Board should frame a broad parameter on scientific lines which could earmark the usable quantity of groundwater by each stakeholders. The Committee had been informed that a proposal prepared for restructuring and strengthening the CGWB was under benchmarking study and the final restructuring proposal was likely to be submitted by the end of July, 2013. The Committee expected that the restructuring process of Central Ground Water Board would be completed within the prescribed time limit which would in turn strengthen the Board to carry out its activities in a more efficient and effective manner.

44. The Ministry, in its action taken note replied as under :

"Against the BE allocation of Rs. 318 crore in the financial year 2012-13, only Rs. 118.23 crore could be utilized due to non finalization of EFC memo. Budgetary allocation for the financial year 2013-14 has been kept as Rs. 275 crore. The activities to be affected due to reduced BE in 2013-14: Data Gap Analysis will be carried out in 2.0 lakh sq. km. from earlier target of 6.25 lakh sq. km. and Data Generation will be carried out in 0.54 lakh sq. km. from earlier target of 0.90 lakh sq. km. for Aquifer

Mapping Programme. The activities of Participatory Ground Water Management Programme would also get delayed. The provision for procurement of equipments has been reduced from Rs. 93 crore to Rs 86 crore.

In reference to ground water resource assessment as per the prevailing practice, dynamic ground water resources are assessed jointly by CGWB and State Ground Water Departments following the GEC-97 methodology. The assessment units are block/taluka/ mandal/firka (village)/watershed etc. Following the GEC-97 methodology, allocation of ground water for various sectors/stakeholders such as domestic, industrial and irrigation uses are made on the basis of parameters such as population, dependency on ground water and the existing draft for irrigation etc.

As regard to restructuring process of Central Ground Water Board (CGWB), the revised proposal for restructuring of CGWB is under process."

45. The Committee note that budgetary allocation for Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) could not be fully utilised due to non finalisation of EFC Memo, which resulted in shrinking of funds for Data Gap Analysis and Data Generation activities. Now Data Gap Analysis can be done only in 2.0 lakh sq. km area as against 6.25 lakh sq. km. targeted earlier and Data Generation target also has to be scaled down to 0.54 lakh sq. km as against 0.90 lakh sq. km. targeted for Aquifer Mapping Programme. Further, activities under Participatory Ground Water Management Programme will be delayed and procurement of equipments has also been reduced from Rs. 9.3 crore to Rs. 8.6 crore. They also notice that the revised proposal for restructuring of CGWB is under process. They are given to understand that final proposal for restructuring could not be submitted by July, 2013 as earlier envisaged.

46. The Committee express deep anguish over the sorry state of affairs in the Ministry regarding their repeated failure in getting approval of schemes / programmes by EFC in time. They would, therefore, strongly recommend the Ministry to revamp their

functioning and take corrective action, as also recommended earlier in preceding paragraphs. They would like to be apprised of the measures taken in this regard. They would further recommend that proposal for restructuring process of CGWB must be formulated without any further delay to enable CGWB to function more efficiently. The Committee would also like to be apprised of the reasons for such delay.

N. Flood Control

Recommendation (Para No.4.27)

47. The Committee observed that under Flood Control, a Budget allocation of Rs. 277.00 crore was made during 2012-13 which was reduced to Rs. 147.25 crore at RE stage. Citing the reason for reduction of allocation at RE stage, the Ministry had informed that the Plan allocation was reduced during 2012-13 due to non-taking up of new components of the schemes pending their approval. The Committee were dismayed to see the apathy of the Ministry in getting the Scheme approved before seeking financial allocation for 2012-13. Surprisingly, the Plan allocation in BE 2013-14 had been increased by Rs. 117.45 crore over BE 2012-13 not on the basis of concrete approval of the Scheme beforehand but only on the expectations of subsequent approval of the Scheme. The Committee would like the Ministry to exercise judicious and effective pre-budget planning so that unutilisation of funds is avoided in future. It hardly needs any emphasis that timely approval of the Scheme will help execution/completion of the projects/schemes in time. The Committee observed that flood forecasting is a very vital input for timely and effective disaster management to save precious human lives, livestock and property. The Committee, therefore, desired that all activities

under flood forecasting should be effectively undertaken by prudent utilization of the allocated funds during the year 2013-14.

48. The Ministry, in its action taken note replied as under :

"The activity of flood forecasting is performed by Central Water Commission (CWC) which has been advised to prepare an implementable work plan for financial year 2013-14."

49. **The Committee observe that Central Water Commission (CWC) has been advised to prepare an implementable work plan for Flood Control for the year 2013-14. They find that instead of pre-budget planning, the Ministry is again functioning on the basis of chalking out plans after the allocations are made, which runs the risk of getting revised / not implemented due to paucity of time and thereby getting allocations reduced at RE stage. The Committee would, therefore, again emphasise the need for judicious and effective pre-budget planning. They would also like to be apprised of the utilisation of funds under Flood Control Programme as allocated, till date.**

O. *Brahmaputra Board – Flood and Anti-Erosion Works*

Recommendation (Para No.6.38)

50. The Committee observed that annual floods had brought untold miseries and damages in the North Eastern Region (NER) which led to maximum losses to the tune of Rs. 753.03 crore in Assam (2002), Rs. 505.57 crore in Arunachal Pradesh (2004), Rs. 210.34 crore in Meghalaya (2004), Rs. 51.81 crore in Manipur (1986), Rs.19.30 crore in Mizoram (1997),

Rs.19.55 crore in Nagaland (1993) and Rs.80.05 crore in Tripura (1993). The damages caused in terms of affected area and population and loss of human lives as furnished by the Ministry were also considerable. In this regard, the Committee noted that the Brahmaputra Board was constituted in 1980 with the objective of planning and integrated implementation of measures for control of floods and bank erosion in Brahmaputra and for matters connected therewith. The efforts of Brahmaputra Board resulted in preparation of 57 Master Plans covering main stems of Brahmaputra river and Barak, tributaries of Brahmaputra and Barak rivers and Majuli Island out of which 49 Master Plans had been circulated among the concerned Water Resources Departments of States and others for implementation of recommendations of Master Plans. The Committee also noted that a total amount of Rs. 234.40 crore had been incurred up-to February 2013 on Flood Control and Anti-Erosion Works by the Brahmaputra Board. The Committee observed that there was no uniformity of coverage of period in the data furnished by the Ministry regarding flood damage in NE Region and, therefore, the Committee urged the Ministry to ensure that the updated year-wise data and information regarding annual floods havoc in different States of the North Eastern Region falling under the jurisdiction of Brahmaputra Board were compiled and submitted to the Committee. The Committee also desired that the balance works pertaining to 4 Drainage Development Schemes (DDS) - Barbhag, Amjur, Jengrai and Jakaichuk should be completed within a specified timeframe. The Committee desired the Ministry to vigorously pursue with the Brahmaputra Board for taking up two new erosion control schemes namely, protection of Mankachar, Kalair-Alga and Maslabari area for controlling erosion of river Brahmaputra both of which were located on international border with Bangladesh. Also noting that the North

Eastern Region of the country being in downstream of Brahmaputra river, faces a lot of problem, the Committee, therefore, strongly felt that there was an urgent need for scientific assessment of the erosion problem and for devising suitable mechanism to address the same. The Committee further urged the Ministry to pursue with the States and Brahmaputra Board for taking up construction of storage reservoirs on Brahmaputra river and its tributaries so that amelioration from annual flood and erosion damage may be achieved in the North East Region. The Committee desired to be apprised of further action taken on the above points at the earliest.

51. The Ministry, in its action taken note replied as under :

"Updated year wise data and information on annual flood havoc in different states of North Eastern Region falling under the jurisdiction of Brahmaputra Board:-

Nine States -Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura of North Eastern Region - Sikkim and northern part of West Bengal are falling under the jurisdiction of Brahmaputra Board. Presently, Brahmaputra Board does not have year wise data and information on flood havoc in respect of above States readily available as desired by the Committee.

Undertaking balance works belonging to 4(four) Drainage Development Schemes (DDS):-

Borbhag Drainage Development Scheme, Amjur Drainage Development Scheme, Jengrai Drainage Development Scheme and Jakaichuk Drainage Development Scheme are currently underway in Brahmaputra Board. The status in brief in respect of above schemes are furnished hereunder –

Barbhag Drainage Development Scheme

Central Water Commission through letter dated 13.03.2000 recommended the scheme for Rs.7.23 crore for acceptance by Planning Commission. The 'Administrative Approval and Expenditure Sanction' of competent authority to the scheme for an amount of Rs.7.23 crore was conveyed through letter dated 15.01.04 by Ministry of Water Resources for execution during X Five Year Plan. However the provision under

this scheme was brought down to Rs.5.0 crore for X Five Year Plan through letter dated 01.02.2006 on the assumption that the Barbhag DDS scheme will spill over to XI plan. During execution, the estimate was revised to Rs.11.70 crore in February, 2010 on account of change in sluice design. Again, on account of cost overrun and time overrun the estimate had to be revised to Rs. 14.80 crore in June, 2012.

The work basically comprises of (a) Raising and strengthening of existing embankment (b) Re-sectioning and re-grading of Suthajan Channel and (c) Construction of sluice regulator. A total expenditure of Rs.5.06 crore is incurred upto July, 2013. First two components of the scheme are completed. The remaining work is construction of sluice and the progress of work is 7.5 per cent up to 31st July, 2013.

Amjur Drainage Development Scheme

Techno-economic clearance of the scheme for an amount of Rs.14.15 crore was received in January, 2006. The execution of Amjur DDS was taken up in the year 2006-07. Out of the two components (i.e. sluice regulator and embankment), the work for 'Raising and Strengthening' of existing embankment was taken up first. A total of 3,675 m of Raising and strengthening of embankment has been completed out of 5,075 m. Process of land acquisition for construction of new embankment of 720 m., the sluice regulator and the remaining part of 'Raising and strengthening' of 1400 m. of embankment is going on. The CWC design wing has submitted part of the design drawings through letter dated 25th July 2013 and revised DPR is under preparation based on the drawings and specifications received from Central Water Commission.

A total expenditure of Rs. 12.34 crore has been incurred till July, 2013, against the sanctioned cost of Rs. 14.15 crore and 33.6 per cent physical progress has been achieved till July, 2013. Further progress of work is held up on account of delay in finalization of land acquisition by State Govt. and delay in revision of the estimate for the scheme by Brahmaputra Board.

Jengrai Drainage Development Scheme

Techno-economic clearance of Jengrai DDS was received in the year 1998. The two components of the scheme are (i) Raising and strengthening of embankment for a length of 2600 m. and (ii) Construction of sluice between 18th and 19th km opening of PGJH dyke. The physical progress of work under Jengrai DDS is 27 per cent at the total expenditure of Rs.1.04 crore against the sanctioned amount of Rs.1.49 crore. This work pertains to raising and strengthening of embankment for a length of 2600 m.

Based on detailed design of the sluice, a revised estimate amounting to Rs. 5.23 crore was submitted to CWC in March, 2010. Some observations on the revised estimate

raised by CWC have subsequently been complied and the modified DPR was submitted to CWC in March, 2013. Further observations were received from CWC through letter dated 26.4.2013. The replies to those observations have also been submitted to regional Office of Guwahati on 07.08.2013. The work is expected to be completed within the year of sanction of revised cost.

Jakaichuk Drainage Development Scheme

Central Water Commission recommended the scheme for an amount of 296 lakh through letter dated 21.07.1998. Ministry of Water Resources accorded approval for an amount Rs.10 lakh in X Five Year Plan for undertaking execution of this scheme by Brahmaputra Board through letter dated 02.02.2006. Again, MoWR conveyed Administrative Approval for an amount of Rs. 296 lakh for execution during the XI Five Year Plan through letter dated 31.12.2008.

The main components of the scheme are – (a) R/S of existing embankment on left bank of Mitang river for a length 1975 km and (b) Construction of sluice at Kharkharijan. A total expenditure of Rs.141 lakh is incurred upto July, 2013. The first component is completed. But due to objection of local people regarding non-existence of overflow section, the sluice work had to be suspended in March, 2010. The Design and Drawings of additional overflow section have completed in Brahmaputra Board. The balance work is planned to be taken up in the next working season.

Protection of Mankachar-Kalair-Alga and Masalabari from erosion of Brahmaputra river in Hatsingimari Sub-division of Dhubri district, Assam:-

The Scheme, at the estimated cost of Rs.23.79 crore has been appraised and recommended to Ministry of Water Resources for central funding by Central Water Commission through letter No: 9/9/BB-Dhubri/2012-FMP/6-7 dated 3rd January 2013. The Government of Assam has completed all necessary formalities as stated below for implementation of the scheme by Brahmaputra Board –

No objection certificate for undertaking the Anti-erosion scheme by Brahmaputra Board

Provisions of land required for development of the project free of cost by State Government to Brahmaputra Board and

Undertaking post project maintenance of the scheme from the date decided by Brahmaputra Board

The 'Administrative Approval and Expenditure Sanction' for implementation of the scheme during XI Five Year Plan was accorded by Government of India. On account of non-completion of techno-economic appraisal of the scheme and non-availability of

confirmation by the State Government for providing land needed for execution of the scheme free of cost to Brahmaputra Board, the scheme could not be taken up for execution during the XI Five Year Plan.

It is learnt that an amount of Rs.12.63 crore exists in the XII Five Year Plan proposal of Brahmaputra Board, under consideration in the Ministry of Water Resources, for implementation of scheme on Mankachar-Kalair-Alga in Hatsingimari Sub-division of Dhubri district, Assam. As stated above an amount of Rs.23.79 crore will be needed for undertaking execution of the scheme by Brahmaputra Board. Brahmaputra Board submitted a Revised EFC Memorandum for XII Five Year Plan through this office letter No: BB/9228/Vol-II/13/21 dated 22nd April, 2013 with adequate provision of Rs.23.79 crore for implementation of the scheme. A proposal of Brahmaputra Board for according sanction for execution of the scheme by Brahmaputra Board at the cost of Rs.23.79 is under processing in Ministry of Water Resources.

- ***Protection of Masalabari International Border Area of Dhubri District from Erosion of River Brahmaputra:-***

The Government of Assam furnished 'No Objection' for implementation of the scheme by Brahmaputra Board. Completion of remaining two formalities – (a) providing land needed for development of the scheme to Brahmaputra Board free of cost by the State Government and (b) Undertaking post-scheme maintenance of the scheme is under processing in the Government of Assam. Necessary provision for implementation of the scheme during the XII Five Year Plan has been proposed by Brahmaputra Board in the EFC Memorandum of Brahmaputra Board for XII Five Year Plan. The revised proposal at estimated cost of Rs.4.64 crore for implementation of "Protection of Masalabari International Border Area of Dhubri District from Erosion of River Brahmaputra" has been submitted to Central Water Commission for techno-economic appraisal. Here it may be relevant to state that this scheme forms part of the approved EFC Memorandum of Brahmaputra Board for the XI Five Year Plan. On account of non-completion of necessary formalities by the Government of Assam, the scheme could not be taken up for implementation. Brahmaputra has planned to take up implementation of the scheme during the next working season.

52. The Committee observe that nine States viz. Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura of North-Eastern region, Sikkim and northern parts of West Bengal are covered under the jurisdiction of Brahmaputra Board. They are surprised to note that year-wise data on extent of flood and damages in the

areas under the jurisdiction of Brahmaputra Board is not being compiled. Further, they observe that the replies furnished by the Ministry provide details of the progress of completing balance works pertaining to four Drainage Development schemes. The Committee also note that two new erosion control schemes viz. protection of Manakchar, Kalair Alga and Maslabari Area which are located on international border with Bangladesh has not been taken up for implementation due to non completion of formalities by the State Government of Assam. They further observe that no reply has been furnished with regard to construction of storage reservoirs on Brahmaputra and its tributaries as recommended by them.

53. The Committee are of the view that though flood management schemes are implemented by State Governments and therefore extent of flood damage is assessed by respective State Governments, the Brahmaputra Board should collect and maintain a centralised database on flood havoc which will help it in planning and taking integrated implementation of flood management measures. The Committee would, therefore, again recommend the Ministry to compile the relevant statistics pertaining to flood in these States to enable formulation of better policies and programmes for flood management. They also urge the Ministry to furnish the data after its compilation at the earliest. Regarding balance work pertaining to four drainage development schemes, the Committee find that no specific period has been prescribed to achieve completion of balance works, as recommended by them. They therefore, again desire that all work in respect of four drainage development schemes should be completed in a time bound manner to minimise time and cost overruns. Further, with regard to erosion control

schemes located on India Bangladesh Border, the Committee would urge the Ministry to pursue the State Government of Assam to complete the formalities such as techno-economic appraisal, acquisition of land etc., so that the schemes could be taken up for implementation without further delay. They would again emphasise the construction of storage reservoirs on the river Brahmaputra and its tributaries to help minimise flood havoc and erosion. They also recommend the Ministry to impress upon the State Governments and Brahmaputra Board to start the process of reservoir construction urgently and furnish them the details in this regard at the earliest.

P. Ground Water Assessment and Development in North East Region

Recommendation (Para No.6.42)

54. The Committee observed that the Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) is conducting scientific and technical studies for ground water assessment, development and management in the North-East (NE) region. The Committee noted that a Budget allocation of Rs.30.00 crore was made for Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) in 2012-13 for North Eastern Region. However, the actual expenditure of Budget allocation upto December, 2012 was shown to be only Rs.6.49 crore. The Budget allocation for the year 2013-14 had been kept at Rs.40.00 crore. The fact that only Rs.6.49 crore out of a total Budget allocation of Rs.30.00 crore had been incurred by December, 2012 by CGWB revealed that the progress in implementation of the Schemes on ground water assessment and development in the North Eastern Region had been far from satisfactory. Noting that aquifer mapping and management programme had been taken up for implementation during XII Plan and that some progress had been made on

rain water harvesting as two States viz. Nagaland and Tripura taking steps for mandatory rain water harvesting in their States, the Committee desired the Ministry and Central Ground Water Board to intensify measures for ground water assessment, development and management in the North Eastern States so that tangible results could be achieved on the ground water front in the near future. They desired to be apprised of further progress made in this regard.

55. The Ministry, in its action taken note replied as under :

"On ground water assessment & development aspects, the activities in the North East have been planned as per the available manpower, available drilling rigs and related infrastructures. As per EFC during XII Plan, Aquifer mapping has been proposed for 15,827 sq. km. out of 8.89 lakh sq. km. in North Eastern Region including Sikkim due to limited priority areas."

56. **The Committee note that the Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) is entrusted with scientific and technical studies for ground water assessment, development and management in the North East region. On being informed by the Ministry that upto December 2012, CGWB could spend only Rs. 6.49 crore against the budgetary provision of Rs. 30 crore for undertaking these activities in the North East, the Committee had desired the Ministry and CGWB to intensify measures in this regard so that tangible results could be achieved. The Committee observe that as per EFC, during XII Plan, Aquifer Mapping has been proposed for 15,827 sq. km. area out of 8.89 lakh sq. km. area in North Eastern Region including Sikkim due to limited priority areas.**

57. **The Committee feel that the Ministry/CGWB has not taken seriously their view about the need to intensify measures for ground water assessment, development and management in the North Eastern States and reiterate that efforts in this regard should**

be toned up. The Committee would also desire the Ministry to furnish, year-wise, details of utilization of funds for assessment, development and management of ground water in the North East Region of the country till date.

Q. *Proposed Dams on Brahmaputra River by China*

Recommendation (Para No.6.44)

58. The Committee note that the Government informed the Parliament on 4 March, 2013 that three more hydropower projects on the mainstream of the Brahmaputra river in the Tibet Autonomous Region had been approved for implementation by the Chinese authority. Dispelling the concern of the Committee about the likely adverse impact due to the proposed dams on the flow volume of water of Brahmaputra river, the Ministry has stated that since these projects are considered to be Run of the River (RoR) hydroelectric projects, any significant change on the quantity of flow of water of Brahmaputra river is not expected. The Committee have also been informed that India has conveyed its views and concerns to the Chinese authorities including at the highest levels of the Government of the People's Republic of China urging China to ensure that the interest of downstream States is not harmed by any activities in upstream areas. The Government also further informed that it is keeping a constant watch on all developments in the region bearing on India's interest and taking necessary measures to protect them while at the same time admitting that the flow volume of Brahmaputra river using satellite imageries is not presently being monitored. Mindful of the paramount need for ensuring the flow volume of the Brahmaputra river for the economic sustainability of entire

North East region, the Committee hope that Government would spare no efforts for achieving the same. The Committee therefore urge the Government to intensify its vigil on the proposed activity of China on the Brahmaputra river. The Committee would like to be apprised of further development in the matter.

59. The Ministry, in its action taken note replied as under :

"Government of India is utilizing all the latest technologies available to monitor the flow volume of Brahmaputra river regularly. Besides, the Government of India keeps a constant watch on all developments in China having bearing on India's interest and takes necessary measures to protect them."

60. The Committee notice that all the latest available technologies are being used to monitor the flow volume of Brahmaputra river. However, the Ministry, has not specifically mentioned the various techniques being adopted for monitoring the same. The Committee are of the view that modern scientific techniques such as remote sensing should be widely used to keep a constant vigil on the activities being taken up on the upstream of Brahmaputra river, to avert any negative impact on the interests of downstream States. They would like to be apprised of the measures being taken in this regard.

R. Optimum Utilisation of Brahmaputra Water

Recommendation (Para No.6.45)

61. The Committee observed that substantial water of Brahmaputra river flowed in the Bay of Bengal as it could not be stored due to lack of reservoirs. The Committee noted that the approved Master Plan of Brahmaputra Main Stem had identified storage reservoirs on all major tributaries with multiple benefits. These Projects, on implementation, would utilise the water of

Brahmaputra to a large extent and accordingly contribute significantly in economic prosperity of the region in particular. The Committee recommended the Ministry to prepare a detailed execution plan for construction of storage reservoirs on the all major tributaries of Brahmaputra river as had been identified by the Brahmaputra Board and to ensure its completion in a fixed time frame so that optimal usage of Brahmaputra River water could bring prosperity in the North Eastern Region. The Committee also desired the Ministry to explore the possibility of utilization of Brahmaputra water in other areas of the country through 'River Linking Projects'.

62. The Ministry, in its action taken note replied as under :

"An important common recommendation of main stem and sub-basin Master Plans of Brahmaputra and Barak river system, formulated by Brahmaputra Board is development of a storage projects in the upper reaches. Brahmaputra Board has been making requests to riparian States of Brahmaputra and Barak river system for undertaking implementation of recommendations of Master Plans on priority basis. Brahmaputra Board is conducting workshop on implementation of recommendations of Master Plans in all the North Eastern States.

Utilization of surplus water of Brahmaputra river in other water deficient region through interlinking is being examined by National Water Development Authority."

63. The Committee note that Brahmaputra Board has formulated Master Plans for Brahmaputra main stem and sub-basin and Barak river system. In these plans, there is a common recommendation for development of storage projects in the upper reaches of these rivers. The Board has been making constant efforts with riparian States to implement the recommendations of Master Plans on priority. Further National Water Development Authority (NWDA) is examining the issue of interlinking to make available surplus water of Brahmaputra for water deficient region. However, from the replies it is

not clear that whether the Ministry has prepared any detailed execution plan to construct/develop reservoirs in a time bound manner as recommended by the Committee. They would, therefore, reiterate that keeping in view the multiple benefits of storage reservoirs, the work of their construction must be carried out on priority basis in a time bound manner and a detailed execution plan must be accordingly prepared. The Committee would like to know the progress in this regard at the earliest.

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

Recommendation (Para No.1.41)

The Committee observe that water is a scarce natural resource and the Ministry of Water Resources is responsible for overall management of water in the country. The total Budget Estimates (BE) of the Ministry for the year 2013-14 is Rs.2102.65 crore comprising Plan allocation of Rs.1512 crore and Non-Plan allocation of Rs.590.65 crore. The Committee's examination of the budgetary proposals of the Ministry reveals that there is a marginal increase of only 1.7 per cent in the allocation for current financial year over the BE of previous year 2012-13 while there was an increase of 65.49 per cent in the BE of year 2012-13 over the BE of 2011-12. This marginal increase too is to meet the expenses towards increase in salary and enhanced DA of the employees and not for any additional expenditure in Plan section. Surprisingly, the plan allocation of Rs.1512 crore for 2013-14 is exactly at the level of BE of the previous year 2012-13 which indicates that the Ministry has not planned for enhanced capital outlay during the current financial year. The reason advanced by the Ministry for static allocation in Plan section is that such allocation is done by the Planning Commission after taking into consideration the availability of resources. The Committee apprehend that static allocation in Plan section may affect the important projects in infrastructure development, capacity building and sectoral projects of water resources and, therefore, urge the Ministry to take up the matter with Planning Commission for enhancement of allocation at mid-term appraisal stage. Further, from the analysis of actual expenditure incurred in the Plan section by

the Ministry during the past years, the Committee observe that the actual expenditure has been consistently much less than the BE projected in the budgetary proposals in the Demand for Grants. Continuous trend of unspent balances in the Plan section during the past years clearly demonstrate unrealistic budgetary projections by the Ministry in each subsequent year ignoring the vital inputs of actual requirement of funds under different heads of the Plan section. The Committee also feel that huge unspent balances in the Plan section is a clear indication that the Ministry had not been able to mobilize their resources and mechanism to complete the works in different projects/schemes in time for which budgetary allocations were demanded in the Demand for Grants and thus the desired results in the areas of capacity building, infrastructure development, execution of projects and implementation of schemes in time remained a distant dream. The Committee express their displeasure over this trend and recommend that every effort should be made for realistic projection of budgetary proposals under different heads in the Plan section taking into account not only the past trend of expenditure but also all other factors affecting the actual disbursement of funds under different heads which would not only avoid unutilisation of substantial funds but also help completion of projects in time. The Committee hope that the budgetary allocations under Plan section of the grant will be fully utilized by the Ministry at least during the year 2013-14 with vigorous monitoring and even disbursement of funds throughout the year.

Reply of the Government

The Ministry of Water Resources (MoWR) is preparing a scheme wise work plan to facilitate the monitoring of budgetary expenditure as well as adhere to time schedules stipulated for expenditure.

Recommendation (Para No.1.42)

The Committee observe that the total budget allocation for 2012-13 was Rs.2067.60 crore which was substantially reduced by Rs. 831.15 crore to the level of Rs.1236.45 crore at RE stage. According to the Ministry, the reason for this reduction at RE stage was due to non-approval of EFC (Expenditure Finance Committee) in respect of the new plan schemes and new components in the ongoing scheme. The Committee are not convinced with the explanation given by the Ministry for substantial reduction of Budget Estimates (BE) at RE stage as it reflects that the Ministry was either too unrealistic while making budgetary projections or too idle to make all out efforts to persuade the authorities for obtaining all requisite approvals in time for completion of the projects for which budgetary allocations were initially made and thus it is a serious reflection on the functioning of the Ministry. The Committee feel that the Ministry, in either case, has to revamp its budget making processes and fine-tune its style of functioning so that the budgetary projections are made on realistic and sound considerations and the funds allocated are fully utilized during the year. The Committee desire the Ministry to initiate necessary steps in this regard and also to ensure that at least now the matter should be processed with all seriousness to obtain EFC approval well in time in

respect of all projects where such approvals are necessary. The Committee would like to be apprised of the steps taken by the Ministry in this regard.

Reply of the Government

MoWR is pursuing with the Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance in respect of approval of EFCs. This is also being monitored periodically in the MoWR.

Comments of the Committee

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

Recommendation (Para No.1.43)

Committee's examination further reveals that the Ministry of Finance has issued instructions to be complied with by all Ministries / Departments for avoiding March rush in expenditure. The Committee observe that half yearly review of physical and financial progress regarding review of expenditure performance is being carried out by the Planning Commission and that regular meetings with Senior Officers of the Ministry and concerned organizations are being held by the Secretary (WR) in the matter. The Committee desire that the frequency of such meetings should be increased so that the better outcome is achieved in this regard and also even flow of expenditure is maintained throughout the year. The Committee, while emphasizing that the expenditure should be incurred strictly in conformity with the instructions of the Ministry of Finance, would urge the Ministry to streamline its procedure to achieve the desired results in this regard.

Reply of the Government

All the PAO's have reminded the DDO's/CDDO's under their control for not preferring the bills collectively in the end of the financial year to maintain the expenditure ceiling in compliance of the guidelines of Ministry of Finance. A close watch on budget vs expenditure is being kept with the help of COMPACT programmer in the PAO's. Reconciliation with the DDO's/CDDO's has been done regularly. Meetings with the concerned DDO's of the Department are also conducted time to time to avoid rush of Expenditure in the month of March.

Recommendation (Para No.1.44)

The Committee's examination of the Outcome Budget 2013-14 of the Ministry reveals that this document contains, among other things, the performance of the Ministry in different areas / projects / schemes during the previous year 2012-13. As the name suggests, this document is basically meant to indicate the overall performance including results achieved vis-a-vis the physical and financial targets set in various areas of the Department during the previous year. The Committee are, therefore, of the opinion that being a document indicating the performance of the previous year, it would be appropriate to correctly title it by indicating the previous year in its title instead of the current year, e.g., Outcome Budget 2012-13 with reference to the budgetary proposals of the year 2013-14. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Ministry, should take necessary step, if necessary, in consultation with the Ministry of Finance to title this document appropriately in future to avoid any misunderstanding.

Reply of the Government

The Ministry of Finance has been requested to take necessary action in this regard.

Recommendation (Para No.1.45)

The Committee further observe that the “Outcome Budget” document of the Ministry contains only sketchy picture and does not contain the full details of the projects. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Outcome Budget, in future, should be prepared as a comprehensive annual document indicating clearly all the works executed, physical, as well as, financial targets fixed, results achieved, funds allocated and expenses incurred on each Project/Scheme of the Ministry during the year.

Reply of the Government

Necessary action will be taken at the time of preparation of Outcome Budget 2014-15 and subsequent Outcome Budget.

Recommendation (Para No.1.46)

The Committee observe that a newly named scheme called ‘River Basin Management (RBM)’ has been formulated by merging two new ongoing schemes, namely, River Basin Organisation (RBO) and Investigation of Water Resources Development Scheme. The Committee’s examination of the budgetary proposals reveals that budgetary provision for Rs.200.00 crore has been made for the River Basin Management Scheme for the year 2013-14. The budget estimate for 2012-13 had also been kept at Rs.200.00 crore which was,

however, subsequently reduced to Rs.134.08 crore at RE stage and the actual expenditure till December, 2012 was only Rs.109.22 crore. The reasons behind reduction of Budget allocation at RE stage by Rs.65.92 crore, as stated by the Ministry, was the pendency of approval of Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC), Ministry of Finance in respect of the plan scheme with new components in the ongoing schemes. The Committee are pained to note that the reduction of allocation at RE stage in 2012-13 under this head has occurred due to pendency of approval of EFC. The Committee feel that it reflects the slackness on the part of the Ministry with regard to execution of important water projects of the country which could not be undertaken only because some formalities were not completed in time. The Committee are of the considered view that the Ministry should have pursued the matter more vigorously with the concerned authorities for seeking requisite approvals in time which could have resulted in timely start / completion of the projects as well as full utilisation of the funds. The Committee desire that sincere efforts be made by the Ministry for getting requisite approvals from the concerned authorities in time in the year 2013-14 and also furnish the full details in this regard to the Committee.

Reply of the Government

EFC memo for RBM Plan Scheme amounting to Rs. 1389.19 crore was prepared and circulated in Jun, 2012 to concerned Ministries for their views/comments. EFC meeting to consider the aforesaid proposal was held on 9th April, 2013 and M/o Finance sent its observation, vide its UO No. 10(2)/PF-II/2012/M/o Finance/Deptt. of Expenditure dated 9th April, 2013, and requested MoWR to revise the EFC proposal. Therefore, the EFC proposal has

been revised by MoWR in light of the observations conveyed by M/o Finance, vide their letter dated 9th April, 2013. The revised proposal of EFC on River Basin Management, a Plan Scheme of MoWR, having a financial outlay of Rs 1026.08 crore consisting of two components i.e. Brahmaputra Board and IWRD Scheme has been processed for consideration by EFC.

Recommendation (Para No.1.47)

The Committee observe that the Ministry of Water Resources had set up a Committee under the Chairmanship of Justice T.S. Doabia to study the activities required for optimal development of a river basin and changes required in the existing River Boards Act, 1956 for achievement of the same and the report was submitted in this regard on 06.11.2012. As informed, the consultation with the State Governments on the said Report is being initiated. The Committee would like to be apprised of the details of the Doabia Committee Report and also urge the Ministry to speedily complete the process of consultation with the State Governments on the subject with a view to implementing the recommendations given in the Report at the earliest so that the issues and problems related to water basin management and development could be addressed in a result-oriented manner in a fixed time frame.

Reply of the Government

- The broad recommendations in the report submitted by Justice Doabia Committee to Ministry of Water Resources for Amendment of the River Board Act, 1956 are as follows:
- The committee proposes establishment of River Basin Authority for regulation and development of water of an inter-state river basin or any specified part thereof and further

makes it clear that different Authorities shall be established for different inter-state river basin. It also proposes provision for space for creation of a separate River Basin Authority for a sub- basin within an inter-State river basin.

- The report also proposes a two-tier structure for a River Basin Authority. Every River Basin Authority shall have to consist of an upper layer being a Governing Council and a lower layer being the Executive Board charged with the technical and implementation powers for the Council decisions to succeed. The Governing Council has extensive membership and representation including Chief Ministers of the co-basin States, The Minister in charge of Water Resources, One Member of Parliament, One Member of the State Legislature, Two representatives of District Panchayat, the Chief Secretary to the State Government, One representative from the Water User Associations, One representative from the Urban Local Bodies / Municipalities and least five experts including eminent citizens. Likewise the Executive Board has also been given an extensive membership base under the Bill.
- A legal foundation for a River Basin Master Plan for inter–State river basins can help achieve the protection, improvement and sustainable use of the water environment across the basin. Such a river basin master plan can be the singular guidance tool and basis for the River Basin Authorities to perform their powers and functions under the Act.
- The formulation and implementation of the river basin master plan can potentially make all water use and land uses in the inter-State basin compatible with the principles of integrated river basin management.

- It also provides that a River Basin Authority shall ensure that a River Basin Master Plan is produced for the inter-state river basin under its jurisdiction. It further makes clear that the River Basin Master Plan shall be coordinated with the plans for national economic and social development, the general plans for land use and general urban plans and plans for environmental protection, and at the same time the needs of various regions and industries shall be taken into consideration.

Comments of the Committee

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

Recommendation (Para No.1.48)

The Committee observe that restructuring of Central Water Commission has been proposed to expand its activities in the field and reorient the setup at Headquarters to address the emerging challenges in the water sector such as, need to address the likely impact of climate change, need for holistic planning and development of water resources considering river basin as a unit; and effective co-ordination among planners at one hand and stakeholders at the other. The Committee, in their 14th Report on Demands for Grants (2012-13), had recommended for the restructuring of Central Water Commission (CWC) to be accomplished within XII Plan period as stipulated. The Committee have been informed that the proposal for restructuring of CWC is under process of approval and would be implemented during XII Plan. The Committee hope that the changes proposed in the restructured CWC will address the issues in a more comprehensive and integrated manner and the new set up will effectively deal with the activities related to water resources development & management, data collection,

preparation of integrated basin plans, techno-economic appraisal of water resources projects, looking after water management and flood management aspects, dam safety monitoring and inter-State issues, etc. The Committee hope that all the processes and formalities involved in the restructuring of CWC will be completed by the Ministry at the earliest and a new revamped set up of CWC will come into existence very soon which would become a catalyst for effective and efficient management of river basin and water resources.

Reply of the Government

The proposal of Restructuring of CWC was kept as one of the components in the River Basin Management in the Plan Scheme of Ministry. EFC meeting to consider the aforesaid proposal was held on 9th April, 2013 and M/o Finance sent its observation, vide its UO No. 10(2)/PF-II/2012/M/o Finance/Department of Expenditure dated 9th April, 2013 wherein it has been decided that the same should be deleted from the EFC proposal and same may be dealt separately. The proposal of restructuring of CWC is currently under consideration in DoPT and Ministry of Finance.

Comments of the Committee

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

Recommendation (Para No.1.49)

The Committee observe that irrigation is one of the six components for development of rural infrastructure under Bharat Nirman. The irrigation component of Bharat Nirman aimed at creation of irrigation potential of 10 million hectare (Mha.) during four years i.e. from 2005-06 to 2008-09. The target for achieving this objectives was proposed to be met through completion

of ongoing Major and Medium Irrigation projects, Extension, Renovation and Modernization (ERM) of Major and Medium Irrigation projects, surface water minor Irrigation projects and ground water minor Irrigation projects. Emphasis was also laid on repair, renovation and restoration of water bodies. The Committee's examination of year-wise achievements vis-à-vis the targets fixed reveals that actual irrigation potential created consistently lagged behind the targets set in each year during 2005-06 to 2008-09. The actual achievement under Bharat Nirman was only 1.69 Mha. against the target of 1.90 Mha. during 2005-06. The figures in respect of the years 2006-07, 2007-08, 2008-09 are 1.96 Mha. against 2.40 Mha., 1.73 Mha. against 2.85 Mha., and 1.93 Mha. against 2.85 Mha. respectively. The total irrigation potential created from 2005-06 to 2008-09 was 7.31 Mha. against the target of 10.00 Mha. leaving a shortfall of 2.69 Mha. during the period. Taking a serious view of the consistently less achievement than the target fixed in each year from the year 2005-06 to 2008-09, the Committee recommend the Ministry to evaluate the scheme to find out the reasons for such shortfall so that these findings could be used by the Ministry for formulation of better policies and effective execution of other projects in future. The Committee also desire to know the total expenditure incurred on Bharat Nirman from its inception and the response received from the States about project-wise gap between the actual irrigation potential created and the target set for each year.

Reply of the Government

Projects under Bharat Nirman are executed by the State Governments. Ministry is providing Central Assistance under Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP),

Command Area Development & Water Management (CAD&WM) and Repair, Renovation & Rehabilitation (RRR) of Irrigation projects to the State Governments. In addition, the State Governments are utilizing their own resources as well for the execution of water resources projects aimed at achievement of Irrigation Potential. The central Assistance released by the Ministry to the State Governments under Bharat Nirman in respect of the above said schemes since inception are as under;

Year	AIBP	CAD&WM	Rs in crore
			RRR
From 2005-06 to 2012-13	53646.5167	2707.8386	852.289

Also the individual states Governments are pursued to furnish the specific reason, if any, for the non-achievement of creation of irrigation potential and also they are being insisted to stick on to the set targets.

Comments of the Committee

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

Recommendation (Para No.1.50)

The Committee observe that the Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) was launched in 1996-97 to provide 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 creating additional irrigation potential in the country. A Budgetary allocation of Rs.14,242.00 crore was made by the Ministry of Finance for AIBP for 2012-13. The Committee has been informed that budgetary allocation for AIBP for the year 2013-14 has been kept at Rs.16,580 crore. The Committee observe that outlay for AIBP during XI Plan was

fixed at Rs.39,850 crore out of which the actual Plan expenditure was Rs.32,610.61 crore and the XII Plan outlay for AIBP has been fixed at Rs.47,050 crore. The Committee note that as per the guidelines, a comprehensive physical and financial monitoring of Major and Medium projects is to be carried out by CWC/MoWR and Ministry of Statistic and Programme Implementation. The Committee were informed that CWC had already carried out physical and financial monitoring of Major and Medium Projects as per AIBP guidelines since 1996-97 but there may be some shortfall towards the number of visits depending upon the availability of funds. The Committee reiterate the necessity of comprehensive physical and financial monitoring of the projects under AIBP and urge the Ministry to use latest techniques including remote sensing to monitor the progress of work. The Committee desire that the Ministry should keep a strict vigil on fund utilization by the States on AIBP projects and rigorously insist on timely submission of Utilisation Certificates (UCs) on funds released for AIBP Projects as prescribed in the relevant guidelines in order to ensure that funds allocated for the Scheme are optimally utilised by the States narrowing the gap between the targets set and result achieved and also between the actual expenditure vis-à-vis Plan outlay during XII Plan.

Reply of the Government

The outlay finalised by this Ministry for 2013-14 is Rs.10,000 crore for AIBP including National Projects. It is mentioned that outlay of Rs.16,580 crore for 2013-14 also includes allocation of 840 crore for RRR of Water Bodies, Rs 2,800 crore for CAD and Rs.1,900 crore for Flood Management Programme (FMP) and Rs.1040 crore for Ground Water Scheme.

The observations of the Committee for comprehensive physical and financial progress and monitoring of the projects under AIBP using latest techniques like remote sensing is noted for compliance. However, Ministry has already taken up monitoring of 103 projects in two phases through NRSC. Ministry is strictly insisting on timely submission of Utilisation Certificates of funds released for AIBP projects as per relevant guidelines and next installment is released based on submitted Utilisation Certificates only. As far as planned allocation is concerned, State Governments are being sensitized continuously for timely submission of projects and thereupon timely release of funds to State Governments. The scrutiny and release procedure is also being simplified. The AIBP scheme is under restructuring in the XII Plan so as to streamline the procedures involved in release of central assistance to the States.

Recommendation (Para No.1.52)

The Committee observe that the Planning Commission allocated Rs.6235 crore for RRR which was much less than Rs.30,000 crore proposed by the Ministry. The reason for such substantially reduced allocation is stated to be the resource crunch and the overall cut in the Budget by the Union Government. The Ministry has, however, informed the Committee that considering the performance of States under the scheme of RRR, the Planning Commission will be approached for higher allocation under RRR during mid-term appraisal of the Scheme to be carried out by Planning Commission. The Committee observe that Repair, Renovation and Restoration (RRR) of Water Bodies is a critically important area and substantial reduction in the Budgetary allocation will adversely affect the different activities under this scheme. The

Committee, therefore, desire the Ministry to persuade the Planning Commission with a well-conceived proposal for enhancement of allocation under RRR.

Reply of the Government

The scheme depends on the performance of the states. This Ministry will approach the Planning Commission for the appraisal based on the performance of the States regarding RRR of Water Bodies Schemes for enhanced allocation for the scheme. Also, the States will be requested to take up the work of water bodies on fast track basis.

Comments of the Committee

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

Recommendation (Para No.1.53)

The Committee's examination has revealed that outstanding Utilisation Certificate in respect of institutions and autonomous bodies as on 31.12.2012 were 305 with the amount involved Rs.26181.22 lakh. The Committee were apprised that monitoring of pending Utilisation Certificates was being done by the Ministry by organising periodical review meetings with SMDs/institutions and other grantees. The Committee had recommended in their 8th Report on Demand for Grants (2011-12) to the Ministry to consider the feasibility of imposing some penalties on the authorities showing lackadissical approach towards fund management and utilisation and also to keep strict vigil on the implementation of scheme and timely submission of UCs by way of inspection, periodic reviews, etc. The Committee take serious view of the pendency of large number of Utilisation Certificates and reiterate their recommendation for obtaining UCs from the concerned organisations/departments with

constant monitoring and also exploring the desirability of imposing penalties on defaulters. The Committee would like to be apprised of the action taken in this regard.

Reply of the Government

All the grantee institutions/Autonomous bodies have been informed about the strict adherence to the provisions of GFR for emphasizing the production of UCs for further release of Grant in Aid. PAOs are also watching the receipt of UCs at the time of release of Grant in Aid and no grants are being released without getting the UCs for the grant released in previous year.

As regards the UCs of state Government the concerned Wings are keeping in touch with the state governments for reconciliation and providing of UCs. Frequent meetings with concerned Wings are also organized for expediting the UCs from the state governments. Release of Central assistance to the State Governments is made based on the submission of UCs.

Comments of the Committee

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

Recommendation (Para No.2.57)

The Committee observe that Irrigation projects with a Cultivable Command Area (CCA) between 2000 hectares and 10000 hectares are classified as Medium Irrigation projects and those irrigation projects with CCA of more than 10000 hectares are classified as Major Irrigation projects. The planning, formulation and execution of all Major and Medium Irrigation (MMI) are carried out by the concerned State Governments and the required funds are

allocated out of their State Plan. The Ministry of Water Resources provides technical know-how to the State Governments through its subsidiary organizations and statutory bodies like Central Water Commission (CWC), Central Soil and Materials Research Station (CSMRS), Central Water and Power Research Station (CWPRS), National Water Development Agency (NWDA) etc. The Committee's examination of the budgetary proposals reveals that the budgetary allocation in Plan section for 2012-13 was Rs.773.19 crore and which was reduced to Rs.206.82 crore at RE stage. The budget allocation (Plan) for 2013-14 has been kept at Rs.643.53 crore. The Committee are unhappy to note that the reason for reduction at BE 2012-13 has been stated to be the curtailment of amount by the Ministry of Finance due to low expenditure upto September, 2012 on account of non approval of EFC. The Committee are pained to observe that it was sheer failure of the Ministry to get approval of EFC in time in such important areas which ultimately resulted in curtailment of funds. Surprisingly, the Ministry has denied any adverse impact on schemes and projects of the Ministry due to reduced allocation at RE stage. The Committee need to be explained as to how all the activities for which budgetary projections of Rs.773.19 crore were made at BE stage could be completed by the Ministry with the reduced allocation of Rs.206.82 crore. The Committee further observe that reduction of allocation at RE stage in respect of MMI projects shows poor monitoring and control and lack of effective pre-planning and, therefore, recommend the Ministry to strictly assess the requirements of all projects/schemes before projecting the budgetary requirements at BE stage and also minutely monitor the flow of expenditure throughout the year with a well defined systematic monitoring mechanism for effective utilization of the allocated funds. The

Committee expect that the allocation made for 2013-14 will be utilized fully by the Ministry by constant monitoring and control.

Reply of the Government

The monitoring of the expenditure incurred under the various schemes is monitored in the Ministry at senior levels on regular basis. All efforts are being taken by the Ministry for the timely approval of EFCs to void the curtailment of expenditure in the RE stage.

Comments of the Committee

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

Recommendation (Para No.2.58)

The Committee observe that under Command Area Development and Water Management (CAD&WM) programme, financial assistance is being provided to the State Governments on 50:50 basis for construction activities and 75:25 basis for carrying out training programmes for field functionaries/farmers, monitoring, evaluation, adaptive trials and demonstrations. The Committee note that initially 60 Major and Medium Irrigation projects were taken up under the then CAD programme covering CCA of about 15.00 million hectares and as of now 211 projects have been completed and 150 projects are ongoing. An area of 20.149 million hectares have been covered since inception of the Scheme till March, 2012. The physical target set during the XI Plan has been achieved but the performance during the 2012-13 is likely to be adversely affected due to lack of Cabinet approval of continuation of the Scheme. The Committee appreciate the performance and the results achieved in CAD&WM

programme and urge the Ministry to take up the matter expeditiously for getting Cabinet approval to avoid any adverse impact on the programme. With regard to the effective monitoring and evaluation, the Committee would recommend the Ministry to use latest technologies such as mobile tracking, GIS techniques, online web based monitoring, etc. to achieve the desired result.

Reply of the Government

An area of 0.30 Million hectares (Mha) (tentative) has been covered under CADWM programme during the year 2012-13, against an average of about 0.4 Mha. per annum. Cabinet approval of continuation of the scheme is underway.

Web based monitoring system has already been introduced for monitoring of CAD&WM programme. Mobile tracking and GIS technique are also proposed to be explored.

Recommendation (Para No.2.59)

The Committee note that the Government approved the Scheme of Development of Water Resources Information System (DWRIS) in June, 2008 for implementation during the XI Plan with a total outlay of Rs.234.50 crore. The objective of the Scheme is to develop a water resources information system and make it fully operational at the earliest. The Committee observe that a MoU for development of digital database and web enabled water resources information system had been signed between CWC and ISRO in 2008-09. The website www.india-wris.nrsc.gov.in was launched on 07.12.2010 and the second version was launched on 22.03.2012. The Committee have been informed that full version with complete database of the project is likely to be launched by October, 2013. The Committee while appreciating the

efforts made for creating such a comprehensive databank, recommend that the availability of vital information in the databank should be popularized through electronic and print media to make the public aware of existence of such database so that the inputs available in the database could be gainfully utilised by all concerned. The Committee also recommend for realistic budgetary planning for this project so that neither the activities are held up due to lack of funds nor additional funds are unnecessarily locked in the project. The Committee also desire that monitoring of glacial lakes / water bodies started on the basis of the report submitted by NRSC on the “Inventory of Glacial Lakes/Water Bodies in the Himalayan Region of Indian River Basins” should be effectively continued and analysed for its beneficial use in the programmes/objectives to be undertaken in future.

Reply of the Government

For the purposes of popularizing the availability of vital information in the databank it has already been planned under the scheme to organize the State wise workshops to create awareness among the stake holders as well as the public at large for full utilization of the available database. No additional funds are required at any stage for these activities.

The Report on “Inventory of Glacial Lakes/Water Bodies in the Himalayan Region of Indian River Basins” has already been submitted by NRSC covering Indus, Ganga and Brahmaputra basins. Monitoring of Glacial Lakes/Water Bodies has started thereafter on monthly basis during Monsoon period. Monthly reports on “Monitoring of Glacial Lakes/water bodies in the Himalayan Region of Indian River Basins” for the months June- October, 2011 and June- October 2012 have been completed.

The proposal for continuing 'Monitoring of Glacial Lakes/water bodies in the Himalayan Region of Indian River Basins' has been included in EFC Memo of DWRIS for XII Plan. Appraisal process is now completed.

Recommendation (Para No.2.60)

The Committee note that collection of hydrological data of various river basins in the country is a pre-requisite for an accurate assessment of water resources, planning of their optimum utilization for their comprehensive development of the basins/forecasting flood events and for settling inter-State water disputes. They also note that due to inadequacy of Hydrological Observations (HO) sites/stations, there is need to strengthen the network of HO sites as per World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) guidelines. As informed to the Committee, the Ministry is planning to strengthen the network of HO sites by expansion from the existing 933 sites to 2850, setting up 917 new sites and upgrading 386 existing sites during XII Plan. The Committee, taking into account the fact that collection of hydrological data is vital for accurate assessment of water resources and its planning, urge the Ministry to complete the process of strengthening the network of Hydrological Observation sites within the scheduled timeframe.

Reply of the Government

At present CWC is operating a network of 954 hydrological observation stations (including 76 exclusive meteorological observation stations) in different river basins of the country to collect (i) Water Level (gauge), (ii) Discharge, (iii) Water Quality and (iv) Silt besides (v) Selected Meteorological parameters including snow observations at 27 key stations. The

data being so collected are put in various uses viz. planning and development of water resources projects, climate change studies, water availability studies, flood/inflow forecasting solving of International & Inter-State issues, Morphological studies, Inland waterway development, Reservoir siltation studies, Research related activities, etc.

The Working Group on “Water Data Base Development and Management” constituted by Planning Commission for 12th Plan has assessed that present Hydrological observation network is insufficient and recommended for strengthening the Hydrological Observation Network for achieving above various goals.

Accordingly, the proposal for additional sites as well as up gradation of existing sites has been included in the proposals of DWRIS of EFC for consideration of the EFC. Appraisal process is now completed.

Recommendation (Para No.2.61)

The Committee observed that presently a number of agencies are operating Water Quality Monitoring networks in the country and there is no uniform procedure for sampling, analysis, data storage and reporting. To address this problem, Water Quality Assessment Authority (WQAA) was constituted in May 2001 and Uniform Protocol on Water Quality Monitoring (UPWQM) order was notified in 2005. The UPWQM stipulates that its monitoring agencies shall process the analytical data and report the data after validation to the data centre at the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) which shall store the data and disseminate through website or electronic mail to various users on demand. The Committee desire the Ministry to ensure that the monitoring agencies and CPCB work in close coordination so that

efforts made by them for water quality monitoring in the country produces desired results for the end users. Taking into account the fact that the UPWQM is being proposed to be revised during 2013-14, in view of the present pollution aspects/parameters and their distribution in surface and ground water, the Committee recommend the Ministry to keep constant monitoring in the matter and ensure speedy completion of revision of UPWQM. They would like to be apprised of action taken in the matter.

Reply of the Government

The issues of (i) revision of Uniform Protocol on Water Quality Monitoring (UPWQM) and (ii) sharing of water quality data by various agencies and submission to Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) will be placed before Water Quality Assessment Authority (WQAA).

Comments of the Committee

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

Recommendation (Para No. 2.63)

The Committee in their first report on Demand for Grants (2009-10) had urged the Ministry to review the National Water Policy taking into consideration various suggestions given by the State Governments and other stakeholders and also eminent climatologists keeping in view the looming threat of climate change and the grave scarcity of water in future. The Committee were informed that the National Water Policy 2012 had been adopted by the National Water Council on 28.12.2012. The Committee while appreciating the efforts made by the ministry for bringing out the National Water Policy 2012, would recommend that the

National Water Policy 2012 should be presented in Parliament so that it could get a broader perspective of dissemination of policy details among lawmakers, academicians, scientists, intellectuals and other stakeholders.

Reply of the Government

The National Water Policy (2012) and River Basin Atlas of India are being circulated amongst all members of the Parliament by the Hon'ble Minister for Water Resources.

Comments of the Committee

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

Recommendation (Para No.2.64)

The Committee observe that the Ministry of Water Resources has proposed to establish National Bureau of Water Use Efficiency (NBWUE) under Section 3 (3) of Environment (Protection) Act 1986 which will have the overall responsibility of water use efficiency across various sectors, namely, irrigation, drinking water supply, power generation and industry in the whole country. The NBWUE will function as an autonomous authority under the administrative control of MoWR whose proposed activity would include preparation of detailed project reports for taking up benchmarking and/or demonstrative projects for water use efficiency, publicity/promotion of water use efficiency measures, conjunctive use of water, incentivization of industries, farmers, local bodies, action plan for coping with flood and baseline studies for water use efficiency, etc. It is also informed that the NBWUE is envisaged to be operational in 2013-14 subject to approval of EFC. The Committee hope that the National Bureau of Water

Use Efficiency will be operationalised in 2013-14 and will bring qualitative changes by bringing high degree of efficiency in water use.

Reply of the Government

The National Action Plan for Climate Change (NAPCC) had stipulated that the National Water Mission should develop a framework to optimize water use by increasing water use efficiency by 20 per cent through regulatory mechanisms. Efforts are being made to secure the approval of EFC of National Water Mission (NWM) and to set up NBWUE under Section 3(3) of Environment (Protection) Act 1986 during the financial year 2013-14 for implementation of various strategies/goals for improvement in Water Use Efficiency in the areas of irrigation, drinking water supply, power generation and industry as per best practices/standards. The NBWUE would implement strategies for increasing water use efficiency in general.

It is stated that the Draft EFC memo for implementation of National Water Mission and setting up of National Bureau of Water Use Efficiency (NBWUE) was prepared by the MoWR and circulated to various Ministries / Departments of Govt. of India for their comments. After receiving the comments from Ministry of Finance and other Ministries the EFC proposal (Rs. 1390 crore) was forwarded to Planning Commission in the month of July 2012. The proposal was sent to MOF on 17.12.2012 after incorporating replies to the comments of the Planning Commission (PAMD), dated: 14.11.2012.

As decided in the EFC meeting for (HRD Capacity Building) held on 18.01.2013 under the Chairmanship of Secretary Expenditure MoF, National Water Mission component of Rs.100 crore has been deleted from the current proposal of HRD Capacity Building and incorporated in the EFC of NWM. Accordingly the proposal was revised to Rs.1490 crore. As advised by IFD,

MoWR the revised EFC was placed before the High level Steering Committee Meeting (HLSC) and Advisory Board to take the approval of the committee/board before the EFC Memo is sent to the Ministry of Finance.

The High level Steering Committee Meeting held on 22.03.2013 chaired by Secretary (WR) agreed in principle to the proposal for the XII five year plan amounting to Rs.1490 crore. Advisory Board chaired by Hon'ble Minister (Water Resources) has also approved the proposal in its meeting held on 02.05.2013. The appraisal process of the scheme National Water Mission is now completed.

Comments of the Committee

(Please see Para No. 33 of Chapter-I of the Report)

Recommendation (Para No.2.65)

The Committee note that as per the National Register of Large Dams maintained by Central Water Commission, presently there are 5125 large dams in India and out of these 4728 are completed and 397 dams are under construction. About 10.11 per cent of these dams are said to be more than 50 years old and 2.66 per cent are more than 100 years old. Surprisingly, the Ministry has no specific scheme to ensure renovation of large dams over 50/100 years old, as all dams carry a certain risk to its failure due to unpredictable nature of floods, seismicity and gradual deterioration due to normal wear and tear and weathering overtime. The Committee were apprised that while the responsibility for maintenance of dams lies with dam owners, a high level Committee namely, National Committee on Dam Safety has been constituted by the Government of India, which advises the State Governments and Dam

Owners on various aspects of dam maintenance and safety. The Committee desire that apart from the power to issue advisory to State Governments and Dam Owners on various aspects of dam maintenance and safety, the National Committee on Dam Safety be entrusted with adequate authority and supervisory power including regular monitoring of large dams which are over 50 year old or have been assessed to be carrying the risk of failure. The Committee are further surprised that no study has been conducted to quantify the risk of dams in India. The Committee are of the firm opinion that a proper assessment about the safety standards of dams in the country is a pre-requisite before undertaking any activities on dam improvement, maintenance and safety. The Committee, therefore, urge the Ministry to undertake this task at the earliest to ensure that the dams in the country are protected from possible dam break or failure.

Reply of the Government

Govt. of India through National Committee on Dam Safety (NCDS) has taken a number of steps to improve the safety status of dams in the country including those which are 50/100 years old. Govt. of India is also in the process of enacting legislation on dam safety to provide for proper surveillance, inspection, operation and maintenance of all large dams to ensure their safe functioning, and thereby protect persons and property against risks associated with dam failures. The said legislation intends to empower the NCDS with authority to monitor all dam safety related activities in the country and frame appropriate regulations in this regard. The proposed Dam Safety Bill also mandates carrying out risk assessment studies for each Large Dam by the concerned dam owner. The Bill also provides for periodical comprehensive dam

safety evaluation, institutional strengthening and preparation of emergency action plan for each large dam in the country.

Recommendation (Para No.2.66)

The Committee further observe that a six year project called 'Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Project' (DRIP) was launched in 2011 with the assistance from the World Bank. The Project became effective from 18 April, 2012 and would be implemented in 4 States, namely, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha and Tamil Nadu. About 223 large dams in the four participating States requiring substantial need for rehabilitation and improvements would be included in the Project. The Committee observe that the total estimated cost of DRIP is Rs.2,100.00 crore out of which Rs.1,487.23 crore is for the four participating States and Rs.132.00 crore for Central Water Commission and a provision of Rs.480.24 crore has been kept as an unallocated resources for similar work for additional States which may join the project later stage. The Committee expect that dam safety measures will be taken up seriously by all concerned and the National Commission on Dam Safety will play an effective role in this regard. Further, the Committee note that on the basis of the observation and recommendations of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Water Resources on The Dam Safety Bill, 2010 tabled before the Parliament on 30 August, 2010, a modified Dam Safety Bill is ready and will be placed before the Parliament shortly. The Committee desire that all pending issues/concerns raised by the States be addressed and, thereafter, the Dam Safety Bill may be introduced in the Parliament for enactment expeditiously.

Reply of the Government

In the Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Project (DRIP) already under implementation, in addition to the existing four states, five new states/organisations are expected to join DRIP shortly as per details below and as agreed by the World Bank:

State/Entity	No. of Dams Proposed under DRIP	Allocated Share (Rs. crore)
DVC	1	34.13
Karnataka	27	276.75
Punjab	12	27.38
UJVNL	5	46.74
Uttar Pradesh	1	95
Total	46	480

The implementation of DRIP is being monitored by a Technical Committee under Chairmanship of Member (D&R), CWC. A National Level Steering Committee (NLSC) has also been constituted for overall guidance of the project implementation.

Action has been initiated by the MoWR for expeditious enactment of the modified Dam Safety Bill.

Comments of the Committee

(Please see Para No. 36 of Chapter-I of the Report)

Recommendation (Para No.3.26)

The Committee note that the Scheme of Ground Water Management and Regulation (GWM&R) was launched with the merger of some X Plan schemes at a cost of Rs.460.00 crore for implementation by the Central Ground Water Board during XI Plan. The Committee's examination reveals that a budgetary allocation of Rs.318.00 crore was made for 2012-13 which was reduced to Rs.180.00 crore at Revised estimate stage. The Committee are

surprised to find that the reason for such reduction in this Head also is the non-completion of EFC appraisal. While expressing their displeasure for failure of the Ministry in getting the EFC appraisal completed in time, the Committee recommend that all necessary steps must be initiated by the Ministry immediately to get such appraisals completed in time to avoid recurrence of such events in future. The Committee further observe that the budgetary allocation for BE 2013-14 has been kept at Rs.275.00 crore with the expectation that early approval of EFC proposal would be made by Ministry of Finance. The Committee hope that the Ministry will make its endeavour to get the EFC appraisal completed early so that all activities are undertaken in time and funds are also utilized optimally during the year.

Reply of the Government

EFC appraisal is now completed and Ministry of Water Resources has sought the approval of CCEA for the scheme Ground Water Management and Regulation.

Recommendation (Para No.3.27)

The Committee observe that Aquifer Mapping is one programme among the major activities proposed during XII Plan under Ground Water Management and Regulation. The outcome of the Aquifer Mapping would include identification of areas feasible for ground water development, ground water regulation, rainwater harvesting and artificial recharge, yield potential, depth & design of wells, water logged areas and quality problem areas etc. 9.25 lakh sq. km. area has been proposed to be covered under Aquifer Mapping in XII Plan period which will involve activities like data collection, compilation, data gap analysis and preparation of aquifer maps and management plan. Aquifer mapping with latest scientific inputs is to be taken

up on 1:50000 scale and the mappable area of about 23.4 lakh sq. km. in the country is likely to be completed by the end of XIII Plan. The aquifer-wise water management plan, likely to be completed by the end of XIII Plan period, will incorporate participatory approach in which the end-users like farmers, various other stakeholders will be involved in the programme. The Committee hope that the target fixed for the Acquirer Mapping will be successfully achieved by the Ministry and its benefit will reach to all the stakeholders. The results of such survey, State-wise, must be given wide publicity for the benefit of the people.

Reply of the Government

The target of Aquifer Mapping has been revised as 8.89 lakh sq. km. (Earlier 9.25 lakh sq. km.) in view of reduction in allocation / expenditure in 2012-13 and reduction of BE in 2013-14 mainly due to non-appraisal of the scheme by the EFC. The Aquifer mapping will also provide the aquifer management plan to benefit the end users. The aquifer management plans are proposed to be implemented through participatory ground water management programme with the involvement of community and other stake holders. The results of aquifer mapping will be given wide publicity for the benefit of people.

Comments of the Committee

(Please see Para No. 42 of Chapter-I of the Report)

Recommendation (Para No.3.28)

The Committee observe that the Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) has been constituted under Section 3(3) of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 to regulate and control development and management of ground water resources in the country. The CGWA is

regulating ground water withdrawal through notification of over-exploited/critical areas. It has notified 82 over-exploited/critical areas in the country. Further, for the enforcement of the regulatory directions issued under Section 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, concerned Deputy Commissioners/District Collectors have been authorized to take necessary action in case of violation of directives of CGWA in the notified areas. As informed to Committee, the authority had received 60 complaints of violation of its directive in notified areas during the last 5 years while 851 violations had been noticed by the enforcement teams constituted by Deputy Commissioner of Gurgaon, Haryana and in these cases, action like sealing of tube wells, seizure of drilling equipments had been done by the authorized officers. The Committee recommend that in view of the trend of alarming depletion of ground water level in the country, the CGWA should take vigorous steps for enforcement of regulatory directions issued in the matter.

Reply of the Government

- i) As on date, total 162 areas have been notified by Central Ground Water Authority in the country. The list is given below:

S. No.	STATE/UT	NO. OF BLOCKS/MANDALS
1.	Andhra Pradesh	7
2.	Diu	1
3.	Gujarat	4
4.	Haryana	17
5.	Karnataka	22
6.	Madhya Pradesh	7
7.	NCT, Delhi	3
8.	Punducherry UT	1
9.	Punjab	45
10.	Rajasthan	35

11.	Tamil Nadu	18
12.	Uttar Pradesh	1
13.	West Bengal	1
	Total	162

- ii) For enforcement of regulatory directions, Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) in exercise of powers under section 4 of Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 has appointed Officer-in-Charge of revenue district (District Collectors/ Deputy Commissioners/ District Magistrates) as Authorized Officers to take up various regulatory measures in Notified Areas. CGWA has further issued directions to the Authorized Officer(s) under Section 5 of Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 to ensure that no person/organization/industry will take any scheme/project in the notified area without prior specific approval of the CGWA. In non-notified areas, CGWA has directed all State Pollution Control Boards to setup monitoring mechanism to verify actual requirement and withdrawal of ground water including implementation of artificial recharge measures for the Industries to whom No Objection Certificate (NOC) for ground water withdrawal has been accorded. In addition, random inspections by the Central Ground Water Board are carried out to check that the industries/projects using ground water are complying with the conditions laid down in the NOC granted to such industries by CGWA. NOC is renewed after checking of compliance of conditions in NOC issued.

Recommendation (Para No.3.29)

The Committee observe that the Central Ground Water Board (CGWB), under the Ministry of Water Resources is a multi-disciplinary, scientific organisation whose mandate is mainly related to sustainable development and management of India's ground water resources. The Committee's examination of the budgetary proposals reveals that a budgetary allocation of Rs.275.00 crore in the Plan section for Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) for 2013-14

has been made which is less than the BE of Rs.318 crore of the previous year 2012-13. The Committee would like to know the reasons for reduction of budgetary allocation in Plan section for the current financial year compared to BE of previous year 2012-13 and also the details of the projects / schemes, which could be adversely affected due to the reduced allocation. The assessment of groundwater resources is carried out jointly by Central Ground Water Board and respective State governments. The Committee recommend that after making State-wise actual assessment of availability of groundwater, the Central Ground Water Board should frame a broad parameter on scientific lines which could earmark the usable quantity of groundwater by each stakeholders. The Committee have been informed that a proposal prepared for restructuring and strengthening the CGWB is under benchmarking study and the final restructuring proposal is likely to be submitted by the end of July, 2013. The Committee expect that the restructuring process of Central Ground Water Board will be completed within the prescribed time limit which will in turn strengthen the Board to carry out its activities in a more efficient and effective manner.

Reply of the Government

Against the BE allocation of Rs. 318 crore in the financial year 2012-13 only Rs. 118.23 crore could be utilized due to non finalization of EFC Memo. Budgetary allocation for the financial year 2013-14 has been kept as Rs.275 crore. The activities to be affected due to reduced BE in 2013-14: Data Gap Analysis will be carried out in 2.0 lakh sq. km. from earlier target of 6.25 lakh sq. km. and Data Generation will be carried out in 0.54 lakh sq. km. from earlier target of 0.90 lakh sq. km for Aquifer mapping Programme. The activities of Participatory

ground Water management programme would also get delayed. The provision for procurement of equipments has been reduced from Rs. 93 crore to Rs 86 crore.

In reference to ground water resource assessment as per the prevailing practice, dynamic ground water resources are assessed jointly by CGWB and State Ground Water Departments following the GEC-97 methodology. The assessment units are block/taluka/mandal/firka (village)/watershed etc. Following the GEC-97 methodology, allocation of ground water for various sectors/stakeholders such as domestic, industrial and irrigation uses are made on the basis of parameters such as population, dependency on ground water and the existing draft for irrigation etc.

As regard to restructuring process of Central Ground Water Board (CGWB), the revised proposal for restructuring of CGWB is under process.

Comments of the Committee

(Please see Para Nos. 45 & 46 of Chapter-I of the Report)

Recommendation (Para No.4.29)

The Committee observe that the floods occur in some parts of the country from the rivers flowing from Nepal and the rivers flowing from Bhutan also have substantial impact on the region. As informed by the Ministry, the Government of India is funding the maintenance of flood protections works of Kosi and Gandak projects on Nepal side which are undertaken every year by Bihar and UP and it has been decided to set up a Pancheshwar Development Authority to sort out the outstanding bilateral issues related to Pancheshwar Multi-purpose Project and undertake its construction. The field investigations for Sapta Kosi High Dam are in progress.

With regard to Bhutan, the Committee have been apprised that a Joint Group of Experts between the two countries is looking after flood management aspect related to the waters coming from Bhutan in the downstream areas. The Committee observe that the mechanism to contain the probability of floods from the rivers flowing from Nepal and Bhutan need to be strengthened by taking all necessary measures in this regard. The Committee would like to know the further steps taken by the Ministry in the matter.

Reply of the Government

Besides, the continuous endeavor being made by MoWR about construction of large storages in Nepal through bilateral platform, the hydro-meteorological data of 57 stations located in Nepal is received in India; which is utilized in flood forecasting on Indian side. Similarly, the hydrological data of 35 stations located in Bhutan is received in India and it is used in flood forecasting. The Government of India is also providing central assistance to the Ganga and Brahmaputra-Basin states under Flood Management Programme which has enhanced the capability of these states in management of floods. In addition to above, the MoWR has been continuously pursuing implementation of Flood Plain Zoning Bill in these states and also invited suggestions of all states for effective implementation of Flood Plain Zoning Bill.

Recommendation (Para No.4.30)

The Committee observe that the Government of India launched a Flood Management Programme (FMP) under State Sector of Central Plan during XI Plan for providing Central Assistance (CA) to the State Governments for taking up works related to river management,

flood control, anti-erosion, drainage development, flood proofing works, restoration of damaged flood management works and anti-sea erosion.

Reply of the Government

The Ministry of Water Resources has proposed continuation of Flood Management Programme during XII Plan with an outlay of Rs. 10,000 crore and with same funding pattern as in XI Plan. MoWR is processing the above scheme for approval of Cabinet. Rs.1900 crore has been earmarked for Flood Management Programme during 2013-14 by the Ministry of Finance.

Recommendation (Para No.4.31)

The Committee observe that during XI Plan, a total of 420 works were approved out of which 252 works had been completed till March, 2012 and central assistance of Rs.3,566 crore (including Rs..89.79 crore for spilled over works of X Plan) was released. The completed works resulted in restoration of 17.004 lakh hectare of the old and 2.589 lakh hectare of the new flood affected area. Further, central assistance of Rs.138.21 crore had been released during 2012-13 till 20.03.2013 for on-going works only. The Committee desire that all activities under flood management programmes should be taken with right earnest and adequate budgetary provisions should be made in this regard.

Reply of the Government

The Ministry of Water Resources has proposed continuation of Flood Management Programme during XII Plan with an outlay of Rs. 10,000 crore and with same funding pattern

as in XI Plan. MoWR is processing the above scheme for approval of Cabinet. Rs.1900 crore has been earmarked for Flood Management Programme during 2013-14 by the Ministry of Finance.

Recommendation (Para No.4.32)

The Committee observe that for implementation of the Flood Plain Zoning approach in the country, a model draft bill for flood plain zoning legislation was circulated by the Union Government in 1975 to all the States. However, only the States of Manipur and Rajasthan have enacted the legislation but the demarcation of flood zones/enforcement is yet to be done. The Committee are pleased to note that the Government of India have included a provision in the Flood Management Programme for according priority to the projects of those States which have implement Flood Plain Zoning Act. The Committee appreciate the initiative taken by the Government for according priority to the projects of those States who implemented the Flood Plain Zoning Bill. The Committee, however, desire the Government to vigorously pursue the matter with all other States to fall in line and enact the necessary legislation at the earliest.

Reply of the Government

The MoWR has requested all the States/ UTs for implementation of Flood Plain Zoning Bill and also, in case, the States feel to have some provisions revised, the states have been requested to send their views in order to ensure that concerns of States are duly addressed and flood Plain Zoning is done by states at the earliest.

Recommendation (Para No.4.33)

The Committee observe that a Scheme titled 'Project for Reconstruction, Remodelling and Improvement of Embankments in Sunderban and adjoining areas in the districts of North and South Parganas damaged by severe cyclone AILA' formulated by Irrigation and Waterways Directorate (I&WD) Government of West Bengal, was cleared at an estimated cost of Rs.5,032.00 crore by the Ganga Flood Control Commission on 21.01.2010 and approved by the Advisory Committee of the Ministry. First Phase of the Scheme with an estimated cost of Rs.1,339.50 crore has been included for providing Central Assistance under the State Sector Scheme 'Flood Management Programme'. This phase involves acquisition of 5,996 acres of land. As informed by the Ministry, the land acquisition under phase-I has been completed and the works have been awarded and commenced in November, 2012. The Government of India has already released the Central assistance of Rs. 525.75 crore to the Government of West Bengal for above project out of which an expenditure of Rs. 370 crore has been reportedly incurred. The Committee appreciate the efforts made for the reconstruction, remodeling and improvement of embankment of Sunderbans and adjoining areas and desire the Government to continuously monitor the various activities being undertaken under this Project for its timely completion with effective results.

Reply of the Government

The Ganga Flood Control Commission is regularly monitoring the activities undertaken by Govt. of West Bengal under the project for reconstruction, Remodeling and improvement of

Embankments in Sundarban and adjoining areas in the districts of North and South Parganas damaged by severe cyclone AILA.

Recommendation (Para No.5.7)

The Committee note that Farakka Barrage Project (FBP) was commissioned in 1975 for preservation and maintenance of the Kolkata Port and increasing the navigation depth of the Bhagirathi-Hoogly waterway. The main objective of the Project is operation and maintenance of Farakka Barrage and associated structures including taking up anti-erosion measures for safety of barrage. A total Budgetary allocation of Rs.75.00 crore was made in 2012-13 which was increased to Rs.100.00 crore at RE stage. The Budgetary allocation for 2013-14 has been kept at Rs.150.00 crore which represents an increase of 50 per cent for the current financial year as compared to BE of 2012-13. Explaining the reason for increasing the Plan allocation by 50 per cent for 2013-14, the Ministry stated that the requirement of funds in 2012-13 was Rs.125.00 crore against which only Rs.75.00 crore was allocated in BE which was not at all sufficient for making payment of works executed with the approval of Ministry of Finance. Hence, liability of more than Rs.40.00 crore created during 2012-13 also needs to be cleared during 2013-14. Further, the gates of Farakka Barrage being more than 40 years old, their replacement is essential for the safety of the barrage. The work of repair of gates has been undertaken and the same is in progress. The Committee also note that the evaluation of anti-erosion works was carried out by Farakka Barrage Project during X Plan through D.J. Research & Consultancy Pvt. Ltd. (DJRC), Bhubaneswar which concluded that (a) Anti-Erosion works of Farakka Barrage Project have been largely successful in reducing erosion (b)

Socio-economic impact of anti-erosion works has been positive (c) Technology used is appropriate and cost effective; and (d) Better planning/scheduling and adequate number of site supervisors personnel needs to be taken up to upkeep for future interventions. The Farakka Barrage Project is an exclusively Central Govt. Project. As informed to the Committee, the project is instrumental in meeting out the international obligation of sharing of water in Ganga and also Ministry of Shipping and Transport installation is dependent on water in the feeder canal in addition to various power projects, drinking water schemes etc. The Committee desire that the Ministry should take necessary steps to ensure full utilization of the increased budget allocation of Rs.150.00 crore made for the Farakka Barrage Project during 2013-14. The Committee appreciate the concern of the Ministry that due to old age, the gates of Farakka Barrage need urgent replacement for which works are in progress and that the Project is instrumental in meeting out the international obligation of sharing of water in Ganga and also that the Ministry of Shipping and Transport installation is dependent on water in the feeder canal in addition to various power projects, drinking water schemes etc. The Committee, therefore, would like the Ministry to carry out necessary works pertaining to maintenance, repair and replacement of the gates and other structures of the Farakka Barrage so as to increase the usefulness and longevity of the Farakka Barrage. They would also expect speedy completion of evaluation of works carried out by the Farakka Barrage Project during XI Plan which is stated to be under progress.

Reply of the Government

MoWR has planned to carryout necessary works pertaining to maintenance, repair & replacement of the gates and other structures of Farakka Barrage so as to increase the usefulness and longevity of the Farakka Barrage and works are progressing as per Plan. This will also ensure full utilization of the increased budget allocation of Rs. 150 crore during 2013-14.

The performance evaluation of works carried out by FBP during XI Plan is under progress and efforts are being made for its speedy completion in coordinated manner in MoWR.

Recommendation (Para No.6.39)

6.39 The Committee observe that DPRs for 5 Multipurpose projects in the North-Eastern Region, viz. Siang Single Stage, Subansiri Single Stage in Arunachal Pradesh, Tipaimukh in Manipur and Mizoram, Pagladiya in Assam and Bairabi in Mizoram have been completed and these projects have been handed over to various organisations/agencies/State Governments for execution. The Committee desire for close monitoring of these projects to ensure its completion within the stipulated period of time. The Committee would also like to be apprised of the status of the projects after ascertaining the same from the State Governments / executing agencies.

Reply of the Government

Brahmaputra Board has been regularly requesting the agencies entrusted with the implementation of above multipurpose projects except Pagladiya Dam Project in Assam, for

submission of status on execution of the project. Status on development of above projects, as provided by the Developers is tabulated below :-

Sl. No.	Project	River	Implementing Agency	Status
1	Subansiri Lower	Subansiri	NHPC Limited	Activities under the project are suspended since 16 th December 2011 on account of objection of Krishak Mukti Sangram Samiti (KMSS) and 26 other groups. The agitation is also supported by all Assam Students Union (AASU).
2	Subansiri Middle			The project was handed over to M/s Jindal Power Limited on 04.02.2011.
3	Subansiri Upper			MoP's decision for handing over of Subansiri Upper to respective IPP is awaited.
4	Siang Middle (Siyom)	Siang		The project has been handed over to M/s Reliance Energy Limited (REL) on 24.04.2008.
5	Siang Lower			The project has been handed over to M/s Jai Prakash Associates Ltd. (JAL) on 31.03.2009.
6	Siang Upper			Government of Arunachal Pradesh allotted the project to M/s NTPC in February 2009 for preparation of PFR.
7	Dibang Multipurpose Project	Dibang		Process is on to obtain environment clearance and to conduct public hearing.
8	Tipaimukh Multipurpose Project	Barak		The project has not only International implication with Bangladesh, it also

				requires Forest/ Environment clearance.
9	Pagladiya Dam Project	Pagladiya	Brahmaputra Board	Constitution of project is held up due to land acquisition problem and Zirat Survey.
10	Bhairbi Hydel Project	Dhales wari	Govt. of Mizoram	The Government of Mizoram has allotted the Bhairbi dam Project for execution to M/S Sikaria Power limited Kolkata on 10.08.2012, it has been intimated by Government of Mizoram that the Bhairbi Project will be completed within 7 years.

Recommendation (Para No.6.40)

The Committee observe that the Pagladiya Dam Project (Assam) across Pagladiya River at Thalkuchi in Baska District, Assam was cleared by the Central Government for implementation by Brahmaputra Board. The project was taken up by the Board in January 2001 at an estimated cost of Rs.542.90 crore. The Committee were apprised that due to various factors, the work of the dam has been held up and the project was dropped from the XII Plan. The Committee also note that the Brahmaputra Board has been making efforts at exploring alternative site but without success. The Committee urge that the Ministry to continue consultation with the Government of Assam, Brahmaputra Board and Bodoland Territorial Council to remove the bottlenecks and find out workable solution so that the project could see the light of the day in the foreseeable future.

Reply of the Government

Progress in Pagladiya Dam Project, Assam is constrained for want of acquisition and transfer of balance lands of 6554 ha. by Govt. of Assam to Brahmaputra Board. There have

been concerted efforts by Govt. of Assam and Brahmaputra Board for acquisition and transfer of additional lands needed for development of Pagladiya Dam Project to Brahmaputra Board.

The Chief Secretary, Government of Assam took a meeting with Senior Officials of Brahmaputra Board, Principal Secretary, Bodoland Territorial Council and Secretary, Water Resources Department, Government of Assam on 23.10.2009 to discuss the issue of acquisition and transfer of balance lands for development of Pagladiya Dam Project, to Brahmaputra Board. As per decision taken in the above meeting, an alternate site was proposed near Indo-Bhutan Border near Chowki. Reservoir submergence area with the dam site at the proposed location extends well inside Bhutan Territory, affecting the local population of Bhutan. It was felt that due to adverse impacts in Bhutan, Brahmaputra Board was advised to explore possibility for shifting of dam axis in the upstream with a view to minimize loss of fertile agricultural lands and immovable properties falling in the reservoir area, confining the submergence within Indian Territory. Outcomes of such studies undertaken by Brahmaputra Board are asunder:-

1. Bhabar Zone comes under the reservoir area. Bhabar Zone is geologically unsuitable and susceptible to water leakage. Reservoir water loss due to leakage is considered high.
2. Population density upto 10 km upstream of Thalkuchi is relatively less. With shifting of dam axis upstream, even to the extent to 10 km, reduction in number of project affected persons and their immovable properties is not tangible.
3. Shifting dam axis beyond 10 km in upstream to Thalkuchi penetrates international border with Bhutan.

4. Shifting dam axis upstream from Thalkuchi drastically reduces envisaged benefits from the project.

The above exercise proved futile. No suitable substitute in the upstream for the present dam axis could be identified.

Regular requests were made by Brahmaputra Board to Water Resources Department, Government of Assam for conducting Zirat Survey, acquiring and transferring remaining land needed for commission of Pagladiya Dam Project.

With no immediate solution in sight, Brahmaputra Board in its meeting held on 2nd June 2011 decided to close all field formatives, set up under Pagladiya Dam Project and to relocate all regular employees under the Project.

In the 55th meeting of Brahmaputra Board held at Itanagar on 16th June 2012, Brahmaputra Board was advised to arrange a meeting with Water Resources Department, Government of Assam urgently and decide the issue by the 31st July 2012. Government of Assam took up the issue vigorously with Bodoland Territorial Council, Kokrajhar.

Finally, Brahmaputra Board has received a letter dated 22nd November, 2012 from Secretary, Bodoland Territorial Council, Kokrajhar that Bodoland Territorial Council has favored for initiating mitigating measures for control of flood on three upstream tributaries- Pagladiya, Motonga and Kalanadi in precedence for construction of Dam at Thalkuchi. Further, Bodoland Territorial Council has also observed that construction of Pagladiya Dam Project in Bodoland Territorial Council will not benefit to Bodoland Territorial Council but to Nalbari District.

Water Resources Department, Government of Assam, on receipt of above communication from Bodoland Territorial Council requested Brahmaputra Board to undertake

studies from mitigation measures for control of flood on three stream- Pagladiya, Motonga and Kalanadi and formulate a proposal.

The issue was also discussed in the 56th meeting of Brahmaputra Board held on 22nd March 2013 at Agartala. In view of development discussed above, participants in the meeting were in agreement with the proposal of Brahmaputra Board for return of 956 ha of lands to Government of Assam and withdrawal of personnel engaged for protection of 956 ha of lands from unauthorized encroachment. The representative of Water Resources Department, Government of Assam has intimated that a meeting with Bodoland Territorial Council would be organized to sort out the issues shortly.

Recommendation (Para No.6.41)

The Committee observed that the Ministry of Water Resources, on acceptance of the request of the Government of Assam had assigned protection of Majuli Island from flood and erosion to the Brahmaputra Board. The Board initiated measures for protection since January 2004 and target date of the completion of Phase-II and Phase-III works is March, 2014. The Committee are happy to know that due to the regular implementation of anti-erosion/bank protection measures, the total area of Majuli island has increased to 522.73 sq.km in February, 2013 compared to 502 sq.km in 2004. The total expenditure incurred till March, 2013 works out to Rs.129.41 crore. The Committee would recommend the Ministry to continue to keep a vigil on the protection works being carried out in Majuli Island and ensure that the target set for completion of Phase-II and III works is achieved in March, 2014. The Committee would like to be informed of the progress made in this regard.

Reply of the Government

All works, envisaged under Phase-II and Phase-III of scheme titled 'Protection of Majuli Island from flood and erosion', are in progress and are expected to be completed within one year. The Physical Progress and expenditure incurred up to June, 2013 was 62.16 per cent and Rs.76.27 crore respectively. The Standing Committee of Experts on protection of Majuli Island from flood and erosion constituted by MoWR under Chairmanship of Member (River Management), Central Water Commission, New Delhi is monitoring the execution of works of Majuli Island.

Recommendation (Para No.6.43)

The Committee note that the Ministry proposes to constitute a basin level authority named North Eastern Water Resources Authority (NEWRA) for overall development of Water Resources in the North Eastern Region. The Authority will be a developmental and promotional body for comprehensive water resources development which will accelerate the economic development of North Eastern Region. The Committee also note that the Authority will be an autonomous entity and coordinate the activities of various Central, State and other concerned organisations operating in Water Resources and related sectors. As regards the delay in constitution of NEWRA, the Committee have been informed that the delay is due to the fact that consensus has not been arrived amongst the States of North Eastern Region due to reservations of the State of Arunachal Pradesh for which the Ministry has taken up some measures. The Committee observe that NEWRA once becomes operational, will created a great prospect for economic transformation of the entire North Eastern Region especially in

Water Resources related spheres viz. effective flood control, electricity generation, better irrigation facility, and infrastructure development. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Ministry should persuade Arunachal Pradesh for arriving at early consensus in the matter to speed up the process of constitution of NEWRA including formulation of guidelines for this Authority.

Reply of the Government

Ministry of Water Resources is constantly persuading Arunachal Pradesh for arriving at a consensus, to speed up the process of constitution of NEWRA including formulation of guidelines for this Authority.

Recommendation (Para No.6.44)

The Committee note that the Government informed the Parliament on 4 March, 2013 that three more hydropower projects on the mainstream of the Brahmaputra river in the Tibet Autonomous Region had been approved for implementation by the Chinese authority. Dispelling the concern of the Committee about the likely adverse impact due to the proposed dams on the flow volume of water of Brahmaputra river, the Ministry has stated that since these projects are considered to be Run of the River (RoR) hydroelectric projects, any significant change on the quantity of flow of water of Brahmaputra river is not expected. The Committee have also been informed that India has conveyed its views and concerns to the Chinese authorities including at the highest levels of the Government of the People's Republic of China urging China to ensure that the interest of downstream States is not harmed by any activities in upstream areas. The Government also further informed that it is keeping a constant watch on

all developments in the region bearing on India's interest and taking necessary measures to protect them while at the same time admitting that the flow volume of Brahmaputra river using satellite imageries is not presently being monitored. Mindful of the paramount need for ensuring the flow volume of the Brahmaputra river for the economic sustainability of entire North East region, the Committee hope that Government would spare no efforts for achieving the same. The Committee therefore urge the Government to intensify its vigil on the proposed activity of China on the Brahmaputra river. The Committee would like to be apprised of further development in the matter.

Reply of the Government

Government of India is utilizing all the latest technologies available to monitor the flow volume of Brahmaputra River regularly. Besides that, Government of India keeps a constant watch on all developments in China having bearing on India's interest and takes necessary measures to protect them.

Comments of the Committee

(Please see Para No. 60 of Chapter-I of the Report)

Recommendation (Para No.6.45)

The Committee observe that substantial water of Brahmaputra river flows in the Bay of Bengal as it could not be stored due to lack of reservoirs. The Committee note that the approved Master Plan of Brahmaputra Main Stem has identified storage reservoirs on all major tributaries with multiple benefits. These Projects, on implementation, will utilise the water of Brahmaputra to a large extent and accordingly contribute significantly in economic prosperity of

the region in particular. The Committee recommend the Ministry to prepare a detailed execution plan for construction of storage reservoirs on the all major tributaries of Brahmaputra river as have been identified by the Brahmaputra Board and ensure its completion in a fixed time frame so that optimal usage of Brahmaputra River water could bring prosperity in the North Eastern Region. The Committee also desire the Ministry to explore the possibility of utilization of Brahmaputra water in other areas of the country through 'River Linking Projects'.

Reply of the Government

An important common recommendation of main stem and Sub-basin Master Plans of Brahmaputra and Barak river system, formulated by Brahmaputra Board is development of a storage projects in the upper reaches. Brahmaputra Board has been making requests to riparian states of Brahmaputra and Barak river system for undertaking implementation of recommendations of Master Plans on priority basis. Brahmaputra Board is conducting workshop on implementation of recommendations of Master Plans in all the North Eastern States.

Utilization of surplus water of Brahmaputra river in other water deficient region through interlinking is being examined by National Water Development Authority.

Comments of the Committee

(Please see Para No. 63 of Chapter-I of the Report)

CHAPTER III

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

Recommendation (Para No.2.62)

The Committee observed that the Union Cabinet on 06 April, 2011 approved the National Water Mission (NWM) document. The main objective of the National Water Mission is conservation of water minimizing wastage and encouraging its more equitable distribution both across and within States through integrated water resources development and management. The Committee was surprised to note that BE of Rs.200.00 crore allocated for National Water Mission in 2012-13 was reduced to the bare minimum of Rs.0.25 crore at RE stage for the sole reason that the EFC for National Water Mission was not approved. The Committee express their serious concern over such state of affairs and trust that at least from now onwards the ministry will be vigilant in obtaining the necessary approvals in time. The Committee observe that the allocation for BE 2013-14 has been kept at Rs.110.00 crore. The Committee trust that the budgetary allocations for 2013-14 will be fully utilized by the Ministry by getting all requisite approvals in time which would facilitate achieving the goals of National Water Mission successfully.

Reply of the Government

In this regard it is stated that the Ministry of Water Resources (MoWR) has set up the National Water Mission (NWM). For the XII plan, an EFC Memo on NWM has been prepared. On the advice of Ministry of Finance, the memorandum was revised, the revised EFC was

placed before the High Level Steering Committee (HLSC) at its meeting held on 22.03.2013 under the Chairmanship of Secretary, MoWR having representatives of various Central/State Governments. The HLSC had agreed to the EFC proposal for XII Plan. Subsequently the EFC proposal was placed before the Advisory Board in its meeting held on 02.05.2013 under the chairmanship of Minister (WR) which endorsed the proposal. Now the appraisal process for the scheme National Water Mission is completed.

Recommendation (Para No.4.28)

According to National Water Policy 2002, out of 40 million hectare of the flood prone area in the country, on an average floods affect an area around 7.5 million hectare per year. The Committee observe that during the year 2011, floods affected an area of 1.895 million hectare, a population of 15.973 million, caused damage to crops worth Rs.1,393.847 crore, damaged houses worth Rs.410.475 crore and damaged the public utilities worth Rs.6,053.570 crore besides causing loss of 1761 human lives and 35,982 cattle. The Committee also note that the heavy losses due to floods have been reported in the basins of Brahmaputra, Ganga, Mahanadi and Krishna rivers. A Committee under the chairman of Ganga Flood Control Commission (GFCC) in 2006 had identified 39 districts in five States as flood prone but basin-wise identification was not made by this Committee. The Ministry had in July 2012 constituted an Expert Committee headed by Chairman, CWC for scientific assessment of flood prone area in the country and the work is stated to be in progress. The Committee further note that the National Water Policy 2002 had envisaged that there should a Master Plan for flood control and management of each flood prone basin. Accordingly, Brahmaputra Board has prepared 57

Master Plans for NE States and GFCC has prepared 23 Master Plans for Ganga basin States but surprisingly similar Master Plans have not been prepared in respect of Mahanadi and Krishna basins which are also flood prone basins of the country. The Committee desire the Ministry to undertake works for preparing Master Plans in the remaining basins also at the earliest and inform them about the progress made in this regard. Taking cognizance of the fact that floods cause havoc leading to loss of precious human lives and properties, the Committee feel that it is imperative that multipronged strategy including flood forecasting and flood management programme is devised to protect the life and property in vulnerable areas. The Committee would like to know the steps taken by the Ministry in this regard.

Reply of the Government

The activity of preparing master Plans in remaining basins other than Ganga Basin and NE-Region is proposed to be undertaken on re-structuring of CWC. However, CWC is being asked to Plan the work in phased manner.

In order to have a multipronged strategy including flood forecasting and flood management programme, the MoWR has taken following steps:

- (i) Flood Management Programme in XII Plan has been proposed to complete ongoing /spill over works of XI plan, taking up new works in critical areas and also to undertake projects for catchment area treatment to reduce run-off water and silt-load.
- (ii) CWC has already installed Automatic Data Acquisition System (DAS) at 440 stations besides setting up of three Earth Receiving Stations (ERS) at Jaipur, Burla and New Delhi; and

establishment of 21 modeling centres for computerised data analysis and flood forecast formulation using State –of-the-art mathematical models. During XII Plan, CWC has planned to complete modernizing its remaining network and set up Automatic DAS at 240 new reservoirs.

(iii) MoWR has in XII Plan, proposed to get river/bathymetric survey done and Digital Elevation Maps prepared for 2,00,000 sq/Km. of flood affected area in UP, Bihar and West Bengal. This activity would enable CWC to undertake the task of inundation forecasting in consultation and close co-ordination with these states.

CHAPTER IV

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

Recommendation (Para No.3.25)

The Committee observe that Minor Irrigation (MI) schemes are those ground and surface water schemes which have a Cultivable Command Area (CCA) up to 2000 hectares individually. The budgetary allocations for Minor Irrigation at BE stage for the year 2013-14 have been kept at Rs.324.02 crore in Plan section and Rs.134.31 crore in non-Plan section. The Committee note that the Plan allocation of Rs.384.81 crore for Minor Irrigation during 2012-13 was reduced to Rs.207.93 crore at RE stage. The reasons stated by the Ministry for this reduction was that all the planned activities under the Scheme could not be taken up and the appraisal of EFC, Ministry of Finance had also not been completed. The Committee observe that the fact that non approval of EFC has led to substantial reduction in budgetary allocation at RE stage is really deplorable as it adversely affects many sectoral schemes. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Ministry must take concrete steps at the earliest to obviate this problem which affects allocation and utilization of funds in many sectors of water resource schemes/projects. The Committee also desire the Ministry to furnish the detailed information indicating the physical targets fixed for creation of irrigation potential under minor irrigation for 11th Plan ending March, 2012 and also the achievements made in this regard during that period. Considering the relative importance of Minor Irrigation Projects, the Committee desire to know the particulars of the schemes and projects with external assistance being proposed under minor irrigation during 12th Plan period.

Reply of the Government

The appraisal process of the scheme Ground Water Management & Regulation is complete and the process has started seeking the approval of CCEA. Steps like advance planning, regular monitoring and enhanced delegation of administrative & financial powers etc. will be taken to avoid reduction in budgetary allocation at RE stage.

Comments of the Committee

(Please see Para No. 39 of Chapter-I of the Report)

Recommendation (Para No.4.27)

The Committee observe that under Flood Control, a Budget allocation of Rs.277.00 crore was made during 2012-13 which was reduced to Rs.147.25 crore at RE stage. Citing the reason for reduction of allocation at RE stage, the Ministry has informed that the Plan allocation was reduced during 2012-13 due to non-taking up of new components of the schemes pending their approval. The Committee are dismayed to see the apathy of the Ministry in getting the Scheme approved before seeking financial allocation for 2012-13. Surprisingly, the Plan allocation in BE 2013-14 has been increased by Rs.117.45 crore over BE 2012-13 not on the basis of concrete approval of the Scheme beforehand but only on the expectations of subsequent approval of the Scheme. The Committee would like the Ministry to exercise judicious and effective pre-budget planning so that unutilisation of funds is avoided in future. It hardly needs any emphasis that timely approval of the Scheme will help execution/completion of the projects/Scheme in time. The Committee observe that Flood Forecasting is a very vital input for timely and effective disaster management to save precious human lives, livestock

and property. The Committee, therefore, desire that all activities under flood forecasting should be effectively undertaken by prudent utilization of the allocated funds during the year 2013-14.

Reply of the Government

The activity of flood forecasting is performed by Central Water Commission (CWC) which has been advised to prepare an implementable work plan for Financial Year 2013-14.

Comments of the Committee

(Please see Para No. 49 of Chapter-I of the Report)

Recommendation (Para No.6.38)

The Committee observe that annual floods have brought untold miseries and damages in the North Eastern Region (NER) which led to maximum losses to the tune of Rs.753.03 crore in Assam (2002), Rs.505.57 crore in Arunachal Pradesh (2004), Rs.210.34 crore in Meghalaya (2004), Rs. 51.81 crore in Manipur (1986), Rs.19.30 crore in Mizoram (1997), Rs.19.55 crore in Nagaland (1993) and Rs.80.05 crore in Tripura (1993). The damages caused in terms of affected area and population and loss of human lives as furnished by the Ministry are also considerable. In this regard, the Committee note that the Brahmaputra Board was constituted in 1980 with the objective of planning and integrated implementation of measures for control of floods and bank erosion in Brahmaputra and for matters connected therewith. The efforts of Brahmaputra Board resulted in preparation of 57 Master Plans covering main stem of Brahmaputra river and Barak, tributaries of Brahmaputra and Barak rivers and Majuli Island out of which 49 Master Plans have been circulated among the concerned Water Resources

Departments of States and others for implementation of recommendations of Master Plans. The Committee also note that a total amount of Rs. 234.40 crore has been incurred up-to February 2013 on Flood Control and Anti-Erosion Works by the Brahmaputra Board. The Committee observe that there is no uniformity of coverage of period in the data furnished by the Ministry regarding flood damage in NE Region and, therefore, the Committee urge the Ministry to ensure that the updated year-wise data and information regarding annual floods havoc in different States of the North Eastern Region falling under the jurisdiction of Brahmaputra Board are compiled and submitted to the Committee. The Committee also desire that the balance works pertaining to 4 Drainage Development Schemes (DDS) - Barbhag, Amjur, Jengrai and Jakaichuk should be completed within a specified timeframe. The Committee would like the Ministry to vigorously pursue with the Brahmaputra Board for taking up two new erosion control schemes namely, protection of Mankachar, Kalair-Alga and Maslabari area for controlling erosion of river Brahmaputra both of which are located on international border with Bangladesh. Also noting that the North Eastern Region of the country being in downstream of Brahmaputra river, faces a lot of problem, the Committee, therefore, strongly feel that there is an urgent need for scientific assessment of the erosion problem and for devising suitable mechanism to address the same. The Committee further urge the Ministry to pursue with the States and Brahmaputra Board for taking up construction of storage reservoirs on Brahmaputra river and its tributaries so that amelioration from annual flood and erosion damage may be achieved in the North East Region. The Committee would like to be apprised of further action taken on the above points at the earliest.

Reply of the Government

- ***Updated year wise data and information on annual flood havoc in different states of North Eastern Region falling under the jurisdiction of Brahmaputra Board:***

Nine states -Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura of North Eastern Region - Sikkim and northern part of West Bengal are falling under the jurisdiction of Brahmaputra Board. Presently, Brahmaputra Board does not have year wise data and information on flood havoc in respect of above states readily available as desired by the Committee.

- ***Undertaking balance works belonging to 4(four) Drainage Development Schemes:***

Borbhag Drainage Development Scheme, Amjur Drainage Development Scheme, Jengrai Drainage Development Scheme and Jakaichuk Drainage Development Scheme are currently underway in Brahmaputra Board. The Status in brief in respect of above schemes are furnished hereunder –

Barbhag Drainage Development Scheme

Central Water Commission through letter dated 13.03.2000 recommended the scheme for Rs.7.23 crore for acceptance by planning commission. The 'Administrative Approval and Expenditure Sanction' of competent authority to the scheme for an amount of Rs.7.23 crore was conveyed through letter dated 15.01.04 by Ministry of Water Resources for execution during X Five Year Plan. However the provision under this scheme was brought down to Rs.5.0 crore for X Five Year Plan through letter dated 01.02.2006 on the assumption that the Barbhag DDS scheme will spill over to XI plan. During execution, the estimate was revised to Rs.11.70

crore in February 2010 on account of change in sluice design. Again, on account of cost overrun and time overrun the estimate had to be revised to Rs. 14.80 crore in June 2012.

The work basically comprises of (a) Raising and strengthening of existing embankment (b) Re-sectioning and re-grading of Suthajan Channel and (c) Construction of sluice regulator. A total expenditure of Rs.5.06 crore is incurred upto July 2013. First two components of the scheme are completed. The remaining work is construction of sluice and the progress of work is 7.5 per cent up to 31st July, 2013.

Amjur Drainage Development Scheme

Techno-economic clearance of the scheme for an amount of Rs.14.15 crore was received in January, 2006. The execution of Amjur DDS was taken up in the year 2006-07. Out of the two components (i.e. sluice regulator and embankment), the work for 'Raising and Strengthening' of existing embankment was taken up first. A total of 3675 m of Raising and strengthening of embankment has been completed out of 5075m. Process of land acquisition for construction of new embankment of 720m, the sluice regulator and the remaining part of 'Raising and strengthening' of 1400m of embankment is going on. The CWC design wing has submitted part of the design drawings through letter dated 25th July 2013 and revised DPR is under preparation based on the drawings and specifications received from Central Water Commission.

A total expenditure of Rs.12.34 crore has been incurred till July 2013, against the sanctioned cost of Rs.14.15 crore and 33.6 per cent physical progress has been achieved till

July 2013. Further progress of work is held up on account of delay in finalization of land acquisition by State Govt. and delay in revision of the estimate for the scheme by Brahmaputra Board.

Jengrai Drainage Development Scheme

Techno-economic clearance of Jengrai DDS was received in the year 1998. The two components of the scheme are (i) Raising and strengthening of embankment for a length of 2600m and (ii) Construction of sluice between 18th and 19th km opening of PGJH dyke. The physical progress of work under Jengrai DDS is 27 per cent at the total expenditure of Rs.1.04 crore against the sanctioned amount of Rs.1.49 crore. This work pertains to Raising and strengthening of embankment for a length of 2600m.

Based on detailed design of the sluice, a revised estimate amounting to Rs.5.23 crore was submitted to CWC in March 2010. Some observations on the revised estimate raised by CWC have subsequently been complied and the modified DPR was submitted to CWC in March, 2013. Further observations were received from CWC through letter dated 26.4.2013. The replies to those observations have also been submitted to regional Office of Guwahati on 07.08.2013. The work is expected to be completed within the year of sanction of revised cost .

Jakaichuk Drainage Development Scheme

Central Water Commission recommended the scheme for an amount of Rs. 296 lakh through letter dated 21.07.1998. Ministry of Water Resources accorded approval for an amount Rs.10 lakh in X Five Year Plan for undertaking execution of this scheme by Brahmaputra Board

through letter dated 02.02.2006. Again, MoWR conveyed Administrative Approval for an amount of Rs.296 lakh for execution during the XI Five Year through letter dated 31.12.2008.

The main components of the scheme are – (a) R/S of existing embankment on left bank of Mitang river for a length 1975 km and (b) Construction of sluice at Kharkharijan. A total expenditure of Rs.141 lakh is incurred upto July 2013. The first component is completed. But due to objection of local people regarding non-existence of overflow section, the sluice work had to be suspended in March, 2010. The Design and Drawings of additional overflow section have completed in Brahmaputra Board. The balance work is planned to be taken up in the next working season.

Protection of MankacharKalair-Alga and Masalabarifrom erosion of Brahmaputra river in Hatsingimari Sub-division of Dhubri district, Assam:

The Scheme, at the estimated cost of Rs.23.79 crore has been appraised and recommended to Ministry of Water Resources for central funding by Central Water Commission through letter No: 9/9/BB-Dhubri/2012-FMP/6-7 dated 3rd January 2013. The Government of Assam has completed all necessary formalities as stated below for implementation of the scheme by Brahmaputra Board –

- No objection certificate for undertaking the Anti-erosion scheme by Brahmaputra Board
- Provisions of land required for development of the project free of cost by State Government to Brahmaputra Board and
- Undertaking post project maintenance of the scheme from the date decided by Brahmaputra Board

The 'Administrative Approval and Expenditure Sanction' for implementation of the scheme during XI Five Year Plan was accorded by Government of India. On account of non-completion of techno-economic appraisal of the scheme and non-availability of confirmation by the State Government for providing land needed for execution of the scheme free of cost to Brahmaputra Board, the scheme could not be taken up for execution during the XI Five Year Plan.

It is learnt that an amount of Rs.12.63 crore exists in the XII Five Year Plan Proposal of Brahmaputra Board, under consideration in the Ministry of Water Resources, for implementation of scheme on Mankachar Kalair-Alga in Hatsingimari Sub-division of Dhubri district, Assam. As stated above an amount of Rs.23.79 crore will be needed for undertaking execution of the scheme by Brahmaputra Board. Brahmaputra Board submitted a Revised EFC Memorandum for XII Five Year Plan through this office letter No: BB/9228/Vol-II/13/21 dated 22nd April, 2013 with adequate provision of Rs.23.79 crore for implementation of the scheme. A proposal of Brahmaputra Board for according sanction for execution of the scheme by Brahmaputra Board at the cost of Rs.23.79 is under processing in Ministry of Water Resources.

- ***Protection of Masalabari International Border Area of Dhubri District from Erosion of River Brahmaputra:***

The Government of Assam furnished 'No Objection' for implementation of the scheme by Brahmaputra Board. Completion of remaining two formalities – (a) providing land needed for development of the scheme to Brahmaputra Board free of cost by the State Government and (b) Undertaking post-scheme maintenance of the scheme is under processing in the Government of Assam. Necessary provision for implementation of the scheme during the XII

Five Year Plan has been proposed by Brahmaputra Board in the EFC Memorandum of Brahmaputra Board for XII Five Year Plan. The revised proposal at estimated cost of Rs.4.64 crore for implementation of “Protection of Masalabari International Border Area of Dhubri District from Erosion of River Brahmaputra” has been submitted to Central Water Commission for techno-economic appraisal. Here it may be relevant to state that this scheme forms part of the approved EFC Memorandum of Brahmaputra Board for the XI Five Year Plan. On account of non-completion of necessary formalities by the Government of Assam, the scheme could not be taken up for implementation. Brahmaputra has planned to take up implementation of the scheme during the next working season.

Comments of the Committee

(Please see Para Nos. 52 & 53 of Chapter-I of the Report)

Recommendation (Para No.6.42)

The Committee observe that the Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) is conducting scientific and technical studies for ground water assessment, development and management in the North-East (NE) region. The Committee note that a Budget allocation of Rs.30.00 crore was made for Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) in 2012-13 for North Eastern Region. However, the actual expenditure of Budget allocation upto December, 2012 was shown to be only Rs.6.49 crore. The Budget allocation for the year 2013-14 has been kept at Rs.40.00 crore. The fact that only Rs.6.49 crore out of a total Budget allocation of Rs.30.00 crore has been incurred by December, 2012 by CGWB reveals that the progress in implementation of the Schemes on ground water assessment and development in the North Eastern Region has

been far from satisfactory. Noting that aquifer mapping and management programme has been taken up for implementation during XII Plan and that some progress has been made on rain water harvesting as two States viz. Nagaland and Tripura taking steps for mandatory rain water harvesting in their States, the Committee desire the Ministry and Central Ground Water Board to intensify measures for ground water assessment, development and management in the North Eastern States so that tangible results could be achieved on the ground water front in the near future. They would like to be apprised of further progress made in this regard.

Reply of the Government

On ground water assessment & development aspects the activities in the North East have been planned as per the available manpower, available drilling rigs and related infrastructures. As per EFC during 12th plan Aquifer mapping has been proposed for 15827 Sq.km out of 8.89 lakh Sq.km in North Eastern Regions including Sikkim due to limited priority areas.

Comments of the Committee

(Please see Para Nos. 56 & 57 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.1.51)

The Committee note that the shortcomings in the implementation of AIBP are generally addressed during monitoring visits by the CWC field offices, and various bottlenecks which affect the implementation of AIBP are brought to the notice of implementing agencies and others concerned. State Governments are supposed to submit Action Taken Report resolving bottlenecks reported by CWC. As regards new measures devised to clear the bottlenecks, the Committee have been informed that a condition has been added in the MoU to be signed by the State Government to ensure that operation and maintenance of the project shall be made for ten years after completion of the project under AIBP and adequate funds shall be provided on this count. This condition has been incorporated in the MoU during 2011-12 and its impact is being assessed on the operation and maintenance of the projects under AIBP. The Committee appreciate the initiative taken in this regard and would like to be apprised of the outcome of the new measures devised by the Ministry.

Reply of the Government

State-wise funds allocated for O&M of AIBP funded projects will be collected for 5 years and the outcome along with appraisal initiatives will be intimated to the Committee.

NEW DELHI;
16 December, 2013
25 Agrahayana, 1935 (Saka)

DIP GOGOI
Chairman,
Standing Committee on Water Resources

APPENDIX - I

[Vide Para 3 of the Introduction]

**MINUTES OF THE FOURTH SITTING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON WATER
RESOURCES (2013-2014) HELD ON TUESDAY, 10 DECEMBER 2013**

The Committee sat from 1500 hours to 1550 hours in Committee Room 'B', Ground Floor, Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

PRESENT

Shri Dip Gogoi – Chairman

MEMBERS

LOK SABHA

11. Dr. Mahendrasinh P. Chauhan
12. Shri Badri Ram Jakhar
13. Shri Abhijit Mukherjee
14. Shri Kabindra Purkayastha
15. Shri Arjun Ray
16. Shri S.P.Y. Reddy
17. Shri D.K. Suresh
18. Dr. P. Venugopal
19. Shri Sajjan Verma

RAJYA SABHA

11. Dr. Ashok S. Ganguly
12. Shri Palvai Govardhan Reddy
13. Smt. Wansuk Syiem

SECRETARIAT

- | | | | |
|----|---------------------|---|---------------------|
| 1. | Shri Devender Singh | - | Joint Secretary |
| 2. | Shri Pawan Kumar | - | Director |
| 3. | Smt. Rita Jaikhani | - | Additional Director |

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

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2. Thereafter, the Committee took up for consideration the draft Reports on (i) Action Taken by the Government on the observations/recommendations contained in the Sixteenth Report (15th Lok Sabha) on 'Repair, Renovation and Restoration of Water Bodies' which was presented to both the Houses of Parliament on 27.11.2012 and (ii) Action Taken by the Government on the observations/recommendations contained in the Seventeenth Report (15th Lok Sabha) on 'Demands for Grants (2013-14)' of the Ministry of Water Resources which was presented to both the Houses of Parliament on 29.04.2013. After deliberations, the Committee adopted the above two draft Reports subject to amendment suggested by Members of the Committee in respect of Recommendation contained in Para 35 of the Draft Report on Action Taken by the Government on the Recommendations/Observations contained in the Sixteenth Report on 'Repair, Renovation and Restoration of Water Bodies'. The suggested amendments (as shown in the italics and also underlined) have been carried out in Para No. 35 of the Draft Report, and which is reproduced below :

"The Committee note that the impact assessment of the completed water bodies under the scheme of RRR is proposed to be carried out by/through independent agencies. However, the reply is silent about the status of independent agencies, their particulars, etc., which Government propose to engage for this purpose. It is also silent about any time frame by which they will be assigned this work. The Committee are of the firm opinion that, it is also of utmost importance to rope in the services of States agencies in works of impact assessment of the completed water bodies under the scheme of RRR, and they, therefore, urge the Government to take necessary steps in this regard. The

Committee would also further like to be apprised about the status, particulars of independent agencies, their functions, period by which they will be appointed, and submit report(s) etc. at the earliest.

3. xxx xxx xxx

4. The Committee then authorized the Chairman to finalise the said two Reports in the light of verbal and consequential changes and also to present the same to both the Houses of Parliament.

The Committee then adjourned

xxx 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 SEVENTEENTH REPORT (FIFTEENTH LOK SABHA) OF THE COMMITTEE

(i)	Total number of Recommendations/Observations	44
(ii)	Recommendations/Observations which have been accepted by the Government	
	Para Nos. 1.41, 1.42, 1.43, 1.44, 1.45, 1.46, 1.47, 1.48, 1.49, 1.50, 1.52, 1.53, 2.57, 2.58, 2.59, 2.60, 2.61, 2.63, 2.64, 2.65, 2.66, 3.26, 3.27, 3.28, 3.29, 4.29, 4.30, 4.31, 4.32, 4.33, 5.7, 6.39, 6.40, 6.41, 6.43, 6.44 and 6.45	
	<i>Total</i>	37
	<i>Percentage</i>	84.09%
(iii)	Recommendations/Observations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of the Government's replies	
	Para Nos. 2.62 and 4.28	
	<i>Total</i>	02
	<i>Percentage</i>	4.55 %
(iv)	Recommendations/Observations in respect of which replies of the Government have not been accepted by the Committee	
	Para Nos. 3.25, 4.27, 6.38 and 6.42	
	<i>Total</i>	04
	<i>Percentage</i>	9.09 %
(v)	Recommendation/Observation in respect of which final reply of the Government is still awaited	
	Para No. 1.51	
	<i>Total</i>	01
	<i>Percentage</i>	2.27%