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STANDING COMMITTEE ON WATER RESOURCES

(2014-15)

SIXTEENTH LOK SABHA

MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (2014-15)

FIRST REPORT



LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

December, 2014/Pausha, 1936 (Saka)

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MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND
GANGA REJUVENATION

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS
(2014-15)

Presented to Lok Sabha on 23.12.2014

Laid on the Table of Rajya Sabha on 23.12.2014



LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

December, 2014/Pausha, 1936 (Saka)

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STANDING COMMITTEE ON WATER RESOURCES

(2014-15)

COMPOSITION

Shri Hukum Singh - Chairperson

LOK SABHA

2. Shri Radheshyam Biswas
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27. Prof. Mrinal Miri
28. Dr. K. Keshava Rao[#]
29. Shri V. Hanumantha Rao
30. Shri A.V. Swamy
31. Shri Lal Sinh Vadodia

[#] Ceased to be a Member w.e.f. 08.10.2014.

^{*} Ceased to be a Member w.e.f. 10.11.2014 on his appointment as a Union Minister of State.

^{\$} Appointed as a Member w.e.f. 22.12.2014.

SECRETARIAT

- | | | | |
|----|------------------------|---|---------------------|
| 1. | Shri A.K. Singh | - | Joint Secretary |
| 2. | Shri S. Chatterjee | - | Director |
| 3. | Smt. Rita Jaikhani | - | Additional Director |
| 4. | Shri Ginsuanlian Guite | - | Committee Officer |

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairperson, Standing Committee on Water Resources (2014-15) having been authorised by the Committee to submit the Report on their behalf, present the First Report on Demands for Grants (2014-15) of the Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation.

2. The Demands for Grants have been examined by the Committee under Rule 331E(1)(a) of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha.

3. The Committee took evidence of the representatives of the Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation on 19 September, 2014.

4. The Report was considered and adopted by the Committee at their sitting held on 19 December, 2014.

5. The Committee wish to express their thanks to the representatives of the Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation for providing them the requisite written material and for oral depositions in connection with the examination of the subject.

6. The Committee would also like to place on record their sense of deep appreciation for the assistance rendered to them by the officials of the Lok Sabha Secretariat attached to the Committee.

NEW DELHI
19 December, 2014
28 Agrahayana, 1936 (Saka)

HUKUM SINGH,
Chairperson,
Standing Committee on Water Resources

CHAPTER I

BUDGETARY ALLOCATIONS

1.1 Water as a resource is critical and one of the most elementary and necessary commodity for survival of life on earth. Water is the most precious of all natural resources available to human being. The casual attitude towards use of water and global warming has forced people to think how to conserve and use it efficiently. All over the world concerns have been raised for development, conservation and management of the limited water resources through proper planning and coordination by all the concerned towards the goal of sufficient and equitable distribution to all sections of society. India has more than 18 % of the world's population, but has only 4% of world's renewable water resources and 2.4% of world's land area.

1.2 The Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, Government of India is responsible for development, conservation and management of water as a national resource; overall national perspective of water planning and coordination in relation to diverse uses of water; general policy, technical assistance, research and development, training and matters relating to irrigation and multi-purpose projects, ground water management; conjunctive use of surface and ground water, command area development, flood management including drainage, flood-proofing, water logging, sea erosion and dam safety. The Ministry has also been allocated the subject of regulation and development of inter-State rivers, implementation of awards of Tribunals, water quality assessment, bilateral and external assistance and cooperation programmes in

the field of water resources and matters relating to rivers common to India and neighboring countries. The above functions of the Ministry are carried out through its two attached offices, seven subordinate offices, seven statutory bodies, two autonomous societies and two public sector enterprises.

Analysis of Demands for Grants (2014-15)

1.3 The detailed Demands for Grants in Demand No.106 of the Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation was laid on the Table of Lok Sabha on 21 July, 2014. A total budgetary provision of Rs. 15,375.74 crore has been made for the year 2014-15. The following table shows the allocation of Budget for the Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation:-

Table – 1 : Demands for Grants (2014-15)
(Demand No. 106)

	Revenue	Capital	Total
Charged	–	4.00	4.00
Voted	15,143.11	228.63	15,371.74
Total	15,143.11	232.63	15,375.74

1.4 The detailed Demands for Grants shows that Demand (voted) is Rs. 15,371.74 crore, which comprises Rs. 15,143.11 crore on Revenue section and Rs. 228.63 crore on Capital section. There is an increase of Rs. 13,241.01 crore on the Revenue section and an increase of Rs. 32.08 crore on the Capital section in this Financial Year in comparison to the previous year (2013-14) which were Rs. 1902.10 crore on Revenue side and Rs. 196.55

crore on Capital side. As a whole, the total Demands for Grants has shown an increase of Rs. 13,273.09 crore.

1.5 The details of allocation of funds under Plan and Non-Plan sections pertaining to the Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation for the year 2012-13 onwards are given below:-

Table-2 : Budget allocations for Plan and Non-Plan sections

Year	(Rs. in crore/gross)		
	Plan	Non-Plan	Total
2012-13 (BE)	1,512.00	555.60	2,067.60
2012-13 (RE)	662.00	574.45	1,236.45
2012-13 (Actual)	523.99	531.59	1,055.58
2013-14 (BE)	1,512.00	590.65	2,102.65
2013-14 (RE)	724.40	555.10	1,279.50
2013-14 (Actual)	531.85	526.69	1058.54
2014-15 (BE)	14,762.00	613.74	15,375.74

1.6 As against budget allocation of Rs. 2,102.65 crore in 2013-14, the budget allocation (BE) of Rs. 15,375.74 crore was made for 2014-15, which was an increase of 86.32%. Out of this, Rs. 14,762 crore was allocated for Plan Expenditure whereas Rs. 613.74 crore was earmarked for Non-Plan Expenditure. On being asked the reason for such a staggering increase in budget allocation in terms of total as well as Plan allocation for BE 2014-15, the Ministry in a written reply submitted as under:-

“Due to transfer of erstwhile “State Sector Scheme” of AIB&FMP as Centrally sponsored scheme with placing of funds (Rs.8,992.22 crore) towards this scheme in the MoWR, RD & GR and introduction of new schemes as given below has resulted in substantial increase in the total Budget allocation of this Ministry.”

Table-3 : Budget allocations for new schemes (2014-15)

(Rs. in crore/gross)

Sl. No.	Name of Schemes/Bodies	Amount allocated
1.	National River Conservation Plan	537.00*
2.	National Ganga River Basin Authority	355.00
3.	National Ganga Plan	1,500.00
4.	Ghat works for beautification of River fronts	100.00
5.	Water Project of NCT	500.00
6.	Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojna	1000.00

* includes allocation of Rs. 355.00 crore for National Ganga River Basin Authority

1.7 Although the total Budget Estimate (BE) for the year 2013-14 of the Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation was earmarked at Rs. 2,102.65 crore, it was reduced to Rs. 1,279.50 crore at Revised Estimate (RE) stage, which shows a reduction of Rs. 823.15 crore over BE 2013-14. When asked about the reasons for reduction of allocation at RE stage by Rs. 823.15 crore during 2013-14, the Ministry in a written reply submitted as under:-

"The approval in respect of many schemes was obtained after the elapse of six to nine months. Due to this reason, the expenditure in respect of these schemes was quite low by the month of September 2013, due to which the budget was curtailed at RE stage by Finance Ministry."

1.8 When asked the reasons for obtaining the approval of many schemes only after 6-9 months, the Ministry also submitted as under:-

"Implementation of any Plan scheme requires approval of Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC) and Cabinet depending upon scheme outlay. The draft EFC Memoranda for the Plan schemes were circulated for inter-Ministerial consultation and comments from Planning Commission and Ministry of Finance. After receipt of the comments, the modified EFC Memoranda were sent to Ministry of Finance for convening EFC meeting. In some cases, the EFC meetings were convened twice. After EFC approval, draft Cabinet Notes for Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) were circulated for comments and final notes were sent for consideration of CCEA. The process of seeking comments and their compliance resulted in modification of some EFC's Memoranda / Cabinet Notes, which took some time."

1.9 When enquired whether any study has been undertaken or any proposal been initiated to avoid reduction of Budget allocations at RE stage both in overall Budgetary allocation of funds and also in different heads of expenditure, the Ministry submitted as below:-

“The expenditure is monitored on monthly basis. However, no proposal / study have been initiated to avoid reduction of Budget allocation at RE stage.”

1.10 The Committee wanted to know whether these reductions led to pruning of some schemes / projects of the Ministry. To this query, the Ministry replied in the negative. On being further asked whether the Ministry identified the bottlenecks in this regard, including corrective measures taken to prevent these bottlenecks during BE 2014-15, the Ministry replied as under:-

“The approval of majority of schemes has been obtained now and the new components can now be implemented in Financial Year 2014-15. The progress of the various schemes/projects are periodically monitored in the Ministry. In addition, monthly meetings are also held for monitoring of expenditure.”

River Basin Management

1.11 The Ministry informed that a newly-named Plan scheme called “River Basin Management” (RBM) had been formulated during 2013-14 by merging two ongoing schemes, viz. River Basin Organisation (RBO) and Investigation of Water Resources Development Scheme. It is being implemented as a Central sector scheme. The Scheme also includes restructuring of the Central Water Commission (CWC) and activities of the Brahmaputra Board. The Budget allocations for River Basin Management are given below:

Table-4: Budget allocations for River Basin Management

(Rs. in crore/net)

2013-14	2014-15

Budget Estimate	Revised Estimate	Actual Expenditure	Budget Estimate
200.00	150.00	149.87	250.00

1.12 When the Committee asked the reason for keeping Budget allocation for River Basin Management during 2014-15 (BE) at Rs. 250 crore which represents an increase of Rs. 50 crore over the allocations (BE) made during 2013-14, the Ministry replied that the approval of the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) for the RBM Plan scheme was accorded only on 28 February, 2014 and the increase of Rs. 50 crore in BE 2014-15 over BE 2013-14 is specifically to take care of additional requirement of works relating to Majuli Island. According to information received from the Ministry, a total sum of Rs. 96.25 crore was incurred on Phase I and II on works pertaining to Protection of Majuli Island (Assam) till October, 2014.

1.13 The Ministry informed that in order to tackle increasingly growing concerns in water resources sector like climate change, dwindling per capita water availability, rising competing demands from Stakeholders, it is essential to restructure Central Water Commission (CWC) and adequately staff the Organisation. Strengthening of human resources of the Commission will further help attain numerous targets projected under a number of 12th Five Year Plans it is currently implementing. Accordingly, a proposal for restructuring of CWC was submitted in November, 2012.

1.14 The Committee in their 14th Report had recommended that the restructuring of Central Water Commission (CWC) be completed within the 12th Plan period as stipulated.

However, the Ministry informed the Committee during examination of 17th Report on Demands for Grants (2013-14) that the proposal for restructuring of Central Water Commission was in the process of approval and would be implemented during 12th Plan after necessary approval. The Ministry now again informed that the restructuring of CWC is still under approval stage.

1.15 Asked whether some schemes / projects have been affected due to reduction at Revised Estimate stage in 2013-14 by Rs. 50 crore, the Ministry replied that new component of the River Basin Management (RBM) Plan scheme could not be initiated during 2013-14, as the approval of the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) was accorded only on 28.02.2014.

1.16 The Committee desired to know whether the Ministry had taken measures for pre-planning exercise in order to secure timely approval of RBM Plan scheme by CCEA during 2013-14. To this query, the Ministry intimated the procedures followed by them for getting the approval of CCEA in respect of the RBM Plan schemes/projects of the Ministry.

1.17 The Committee enquired the reason behind the inordinate delay in getting approval for restructuring of Central Water Commission and how the government proposed to complete the works in this regard. To this query, the Ministry in a written reply submitted as under:-

“The proposal for restructuring of CWC was submitted as a part of EFC of River Basin Management. However, Finance Ministry returned the same with

the advice that the proposal for restructuring of CWC be submitted separately. Further, there have been major developments during 2013-14, as a result of enactment of Andhra Pradesh Reorganization Act, 2014 (Act No.6 of 2014), which led to setting up of Godavari River Management Board, Krishna River Management Board, constitution of Polavaram Project Authority etc, as a result of which the restructuring proposal is now required to be totally recast."

Accelerated Irrigation Benefits And Flood Management Programme

1.18 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. This Centrally-sponsored scheme was restructured from the financial year 2014-15 and renamed 'Accelerated Irrigation Benefits and Flood Management Programme' (AIBFMP). This includes fund releases to States/UTs in respect of the following sub-schemes (i) AIBP and National Projects (ii) Command Area Development and Water Management (iii) Flood Management Programme and (iv) Repair, Renovation and Restoration of Water Bodies. The Budget allocations for the above Centrally-sponsored schemes are indicated below:-

Table-5 : Budget allocations for Accelerated Irrigation Benefits and Flood Management Programme

(Rs. in crore)

Sl. No.	Name of Schemes	Amount allocated
---------	-----------------	------------------

1.	AIBP and National Projects	6,265.22
2.	Command Area Development and Water Management	1,077.00
3.	Flood Management Programme	900.00
4.	Repair, Renovation and Restoration of Water Bodies	750.00
	Total	8,992.22

(a) Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme

1.19 The year-wise achievements made under AIBP in terms of physical and financial aspects since the inception of the Programme are as under:-

Table-6 : Year-wise achievements of Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme

Year	Financial		Physical
	Outlay in crore	Release in crore	Achievement in thousand hectare*
96-97	9,012	8,480	74.5
97-98			182.0
98-99			259.0
99-2000			223.982
2000-01			547.238
2001-02			467.836
2002-03	2,800	3,062	411.697
2003-04	2,800	3,129	470.359
2004-05	2,800	2,869	538.270
2005-06	1,900	1,900	562.829

2006-07	2,098	2,302	953.248
2007-08	3,080	5,447.7	639.447
2008-09	6,600	7,598.22	692.782
2009-10	8,000	6,945.59	908.702
2010-11	8,757	6,837.2	668.285
2011-12	7,460	5,783.9	454.432
2012-13	7,342	6,523	
2013-14	6,162	4,033	

* As informed by Budget Section on 25.11.2014.

1.20 There has been short falls in actual achievements in terms of fund releases as against outlays from 2009-10 onwards. When asked what follow-up action has been taken by the Government to remedy the short falls, the Ministry replied as under:-

“Shortfalls generally happen due to requisite state matching budget provision. CCEA approval for continuation of AIBP was accorded in September, 2013. This also caused shortfall during the 2012-14. However, follow-up actions are taken from time to time with State Governments.”

1.21 The Committee enquired whether the Ministry has carried out any physical and financial monitoring of projects included under AIBP since 1996-97. To this query, the Ministry submitted as under:-

“Based on monitoring of CWC, various bottlenecks in implementation of these projects are identified and State Government is requested from time to time to resolve these bottlenecks and based on past experience, certain policy modifications have also been brought out in AIBP. The bottlenecks reported till today are summarized as follows:

- Land acquisition issues.
- Rehabilitation and resettlement issues
- Timely release of grants by State Governments to implementing agencies.
- Lack of coordination between other departments such as National Highways Authority of India and Railways.
- Contractual problems, etc.”

1.22 On being asked to furnish what new measures have been taken by the Government for achieving full utilization of allocated funds and achievement of physical targets fixed, the Ministry submitted as under:-

“Based on the above issues (as referred to in para 1.21 above), certain policy issues have also been addressed from time to time. Some of the policy issues brought out during 12th Plan are as follows:

- (a) Advance stage of construction has been defined.
 - (b) Land required for construction in current year should be in physical possession of the State.
 - (c) Central grant will be released on release of share by the State.
 - (d) CAD&WM will be implemented pari passu with AIBP projects to simultaneously utilize the irrigation potential created.
 - (e) Concurrent evaluation shall be carried out by State Government through third party.”
- (b) Command Area Development and Water Management

1.23 The Command Area Development (CAD) programme was started as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme in 1974-75 with the objective to bridge the gap between irrigation potential created and utilized through micro level infrastructure development for efficient water management and enhancement of agricultural production and productivity so as to improve socio-economic conditions of the farmers. The Programme was restructured and renamed as Command Area Development and Water Management (CAD&WM) with effect from 01.04.2004. Under the 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.

1.24 The Ministry informed that under Command Area Development and Water Management (CAD&WM) programme, 219 projects have been completed since its inception till March, 2013 and other 150 other projects are ongoing at present. State-wise details of the projects under CAD&WM are given below:-

Table-7: State-wise details of projects under CAD&WM Programme

Sl. No.	Name of State	No. of projects completed	No. of ongoing projects	CCA covered under CADWM since inception to March, 2013 (in thousand ha.)
1.	Andhra Pradesh/Telangana	12	2	778.30
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1	3	21.68

3.	Assam	4	4	62.42
4.	Bihar	2	6	1,475.68
5.	Chhattisgarh	5	4	271.55
6.	Goa	2	1	13.39
7.	Gujarat	37	1	1,150.44
8.	Haryana	15	3	953.68
9.	Himachal Pradesh	12	7	22.85
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	16	18	201.01
11.	Jharkhand	0	2	0.00
12.	Karnataka	13	11	1,656.63
13.	Kerala	14	4	184.73
14.	Madhya Pradesh	8	9	1,202.25
15.	Maharashtra	17	10	1,347.74
16.	Manipur	4	5	88.55
17.	Meghalaya	3	2	2.55
18.	Mizoram	1	2	0.91
19.	Nagaland	3	1	4.27
20.	Orissa	8	13	601.51
21.	Punjab	4	3	644.59
22.	Rajasthan	3	5	1,577.71
23.	Sikkim	0	2	0.18
24.	Tamil Nadu	20	8	1,186.89
25.	Tripura	1	1	0.41
26.	Uttar Pradesh	14	15	7,103.78
27.	Uttarakhand	0	4	11.92
28.	West Bengal	0	4	228.96
	TOTAL	219	150	20,794.58

1.25 The details of budget allocation, actual utilization, physical target and achievement are as under:

Year	Budget Allocation in Rs. crores	Central Assistance released in Rs. crore	Physical target in Th. Ha.	Physical achievements in Th. Ha.
2009-10	400	413.70	350	384.525

2010-11	584	453.40	350	412.854
2011-12	584	485.73	350	459.027
2012-13	811	365.18	350	361.04
2013-14	1766	179.98	500	303.46*
2014-15	1255	0	500	17.81*

*progress reports of some States are awaited.

1.26 When asked to give reasons for under-achievements in terms of Central assistance lagging behind Budget allocations from 2010-11 in respect of CAD&WM, the Ministry in a written reply submitted as under:-

“Command Area Development Programme being a State Sector Scheme, release of Central assistance is subject to proposals received from the State Governments. The Central assistance release was as per the proposals received from the State Governments.”

1.27 The Committee also wanted to know what mechanism has been put in place for effective monitoring for evaluation of 150 ongoing CAD&WM projects. To this query, the Ministry replied as under:-

“The monitoring of the CAD&WM projects is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments. However, Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation and Central Water Commission also monitor through quarterly progress reports, field visits, meetings, etc. An online web-based monitoring system is also in place for monitoring of CAD&WM projects. The progress of the projects

under CAD&WM Programme is also reviewed in the review meetings held every year between the officers of the State Governments and the Ministry.”

1.28 The Ministry further informed that the task of monitoring has not been entrusted to private agencies. However, the State Governments have to execute concurrent evaluation of CAD&WM projects through an individual agency. The concurrent evaluation is generally done by the State Governments through IITs, North Eastern Regional Institute of Water and Land Management (NERIWALM) and other technical institutes.

1.29 The representative of the Ministry also informed the Committee during evidence held on 19.09.2014 that under CAD&WM, while the irrigation project is physically completed, yet the farmer could not derive optimum benefits, due to absence of field-level development at the tail end. When asked to give specific action plans/schemes initiated to address this issue, the Ministry in a written reply stated that the supply of water to every field is managed through water users associations (WUAs) and that the problem of the tail end farmers can be addressed through implementation of micro irrigation.

1.30 It was pointed out that there is water logging in some fields due to agriculture, for which micro irrigation is being promoted by the Government. When asked about the specific programmes/schemes being implemented by the Government in respect of micro irrigation in India, the Ministry informed as under:-

“During 11th Plan, installation of micro irrigation system was kept as an alternative for construction of field channels. However, no proposal was received during the Plan

for micro irrigation. During 12th Plan, micro irrigation has also been included as a component for its implementation as at least 10% is to be covered by micro irrigation for all new projects.”

(c) Flood Management Programme

1.31 During 11th Plan, the Government launched the Flood Management Programme (FMP), which aims at providing Central assistance to various State Governments for works relating to river management, flood control, anti-erosion, drainage development, flood proofing including flood-prone areas development programme, restoration of damaged flood and anti-sea erosion works. In view of demands by States and also the recommendations of the 12th Plan Working Group on Flood Management and Region Specific Issues, the Government has approved continuation of FMP during 12th Plan with an outlay of Rs.10,000.00 crore (Rs. 3,900 crore for spill over works from 11th Plan and Rs. 6,100 crore for new works to be undertaken in 12th Plan). A total of 97 new projects have been approved for funding under FMP during the same Plan period. Budget allocation of Rs.1,000.00 crore has been made for FMP for the year 2014-15.

1.32 The State-wise details of 97 new projects approved for funding under FMP during 12th Plan, including funds allocated for each of them are as under:

Table-8 : State-wise details of FMP projects approved for 12th Plan

(Rs. in crore)

Sl. No.	Name of State	Total

		Nos.	Total cost	Central share
1	Assam	41	1,386.97	1,027.89
2	Bihar	4	447.63	302.50
3	Himachal Pradesh	4	1,139.62	797.73
4	Jammu & Kashmir	14	163.18	114.24
5	Nagaland	3	37.38	26.17
1.33	6	1	62.32	46.74
	7	17	261.40	182.87
The	8	3	291.70	208.63
State	9	9	183.45	142.47
-wise	10	1	438.94	329.21
	Total	97	4,412.59	3,178.45

details of spill-over works from 11th Plan for which an outlay of Rs. 3,900 crore has been made during 12th Plan are given in the following table:-

Table – 9: State-wise details of Spillover works under Flood Management Programme during 11th Plan

Sl. No.	State	Central Share spilled over to 12 th Plan
1	2	3
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	123.44
2.	Assam	287.22
3.	Bihar	578.80
4.	Chhattisgarh	7.78
5.	Goa	7.07
6.	Gujarat	12.84
7.	Haryana	83.40
8.	Himachal Pradesh	37.48
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	279.22
10.	Jharkhand	12.40
11.	Karnataka	51.73
12.	Kerala	514.61
13.	Manipur	33.37
14.	Mizoram	4.82
15.	Nagaland	15.46
16.	Odisha	47.84
17.	Puducherry	Shifted to another Plan Scheme
18.	Punjab	74.62
19.	Sikkim	66.17
20.	Tamil Nadu	416.84
21.	Tripura	3.00
22.	Uttar Pradesh	217.83
23.	Uttarakhand	58.21
24.	West Bengal	967.58
	Total	3901.73

1.34 The Ministry also stated that during 11th and 12th Plan periods, a total of 517 works / projects were included under FMP, out of which 252 works have been completed by the end of March, 2012 and the remaining works are in progress.

1.35 It is stated that in some parts of the country (e.g. in Odisha), due to blocked channels at river mouth, there are problems in river water flowing into the sea specially during tide.

This caused sufferings to the people. When the Committee asked the Ministry for comment

in this matter and the steps taken / being proposed to be taken to address the problem, the Ministry submitted as under:-

“The Ministry is aware of such problems and in order to find solution to the problem, a Committee headed by Dr. B.K. Mittal, Chairman CWC had in 2006 studied the problem of siltation of rivers, and it did not recommend dredging of rivers in general as a solution to improve channel capacity due to problems associated with repeated costly maintenance and disposal of excavated earth. The Committee, however, suggested that in specific reaches like at mouth of rivers, if dredging is considered as an absolute necessity, it can be done if found techno-economically feasible and supported by proper model studies. As such measures fall within the purview of States, they are required to formulate necessary projects keeping in view the recommendations of above Committee. The Ministry has been advising concerned States including Odisha whenever any technical advice is sought by them.”

1.36 The Ministry in a written reply, further informed the Committee that under Flood Management Programme, several works are being taken up to achieve quantifiable physical outputs which include (i) River Management works in critical areas (ii) Anti-erosion works, drainage development works (iii) Anti-sea erosion works in critical areas in the country (iv) Catchment area treatment works and related DPRs.

1.37 The Ministry informed that the physical and financial progress of the works is monitored by CWC, GFCC/Brahmaputra Board in their respective jurisdictions and timely completion of work is emphasized during interaction with the State Government offices.

Works on Ganga Clean-up and Rejuvenation

1.38 The Demands for Grants (2014-15) of the Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation make a new major head titled 'Ecology and Environment'. Under this, allocations have been made for Plan expenditures in respect of National River Conservation Plan (NRCP), National Ganga River Basin Authority (NGRBA) and National Ganga Plan (NGP). The Ministry informed that the 'National River Conservation Plan' is a new scheme included in the budget of their Ministry during the financial year 2014-15. For greater efficiency in programme delivery, the programme has been shifted to the Ministry of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation from Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change.

1.39 The Budget allocations under Ganga clean-up and rejuvenation scheme are given below:-

(Rs. in crore/gross)

Sl. No.	Name of Scheme / Bodies	Amount allocated
1.	National River Conservation Plan	537.00*
2.	National Ganga River Basin Authority	355.00
3.	National Ganga Plan (Namami Gange)	1,500.00

4.	Ghat works for beautification of River fronts	100.00
5.	Water Project of NCT	500.00

* includes allocation of Rs. 355 crore for National Ganga River Basin Authority

1.40 The Ministry informed that the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) is the apex body with 5 State Project Management Groups (SPMGs) in the 5 Ganga basin States constituted as autonomous societies. The National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) has been allocated two schemes viz. (i) National Ganga River Basin Authority (NGRBA) (ii) National Ganga Plan ('Namami Gange'). The NGRBA project is implemented through SPMGs. The objective of the NGRBA scheme is to ensure effective abatement of pollution and conservation of river Ganga by adopting river basin approach for comprehensive planning and management. Accordingly, in the year 2010-11 the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change appointed a consortium of seven Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) to prepare a long-term Ganga River Basin Management Plan. The first version of this Plan is likely to be available later this year.

1.41 When asked to provide information about any programme worked out for implementation of the above stated schemes, the Ministry in a written reply submitted as under:-

"Integrated Ganga Conservation Mission namely, 'Namami Gange', programme has been worked out as per the provisions made in the Union Budget 2014-15 for Rs. 2,037 crore. The breakup of this amount is Rs. 1,500 crore for Namami Gange, Rs. 355 crore for ongoing NGRBA activities and Rs. 182 crore towards National River

Conservation Plan which includes approximately Rs. 100 crore for Ganga tributaries. In addition, Rs. 100 crore have been allocated for improvement of Ghats in 7 specified locations. The budget provision for Rs. 82 crore exclusively pertaining to Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEF&CC).

The action plan for 'Namami Gange' drawn on the recommendations of the Group of Secretaries (GoS) has been discussed and approved by the Apex Committee of NGRBA in its 4th meeting chaired by the Vice-Chairperson of NGRBA and the Hon'ble Minister, Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation (WR, RD & GR) held on 27th October, 2014.

1.42 As per the recommendations of the Group of Secretaries (GoS) pertaining to the action plan for 'Namami Gange', several short-term, medium-term and long-term plans have been envisaged to be taken up by the Government and allied implementing agencies. Among short-term measures are included (i) continuation of National Mission for Clean Ganga (a registered society headed by Secretary, Environment and Forests earlier and now by Secretary, Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation with a Joint Secretary as Mission Director, which would pursue with the respective States for effective operationalization of State Programme Management Groups (SPMGs) already set up (ii) making Minister of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation as Vice-Chairman of the National Ganga River Basin Authority (NGRBA), the apex committee under the Ministry and having quarterly meetings for this body at least once in a year with at least

one to be chaired by the Prime Minister (iii) to make NGRBA more representative by including more Ministries including the Ministry of Rural Development, Drinking Water & Sanitation, Shipping and Tourism, (iv) to constitute an apex Coordination Committee under the chairmanship of the Secretary, Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation with the Secretaries of the Ministries involved in Ganga rejuvenation, as Members and Mission Director, NMCG as convenor, (v) making a quick assessment of all existing Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs) infrastructure created by NMCG to check their current status and need for upgradation (if any) to make them fully functional be considered for funding, (vi) to introduce mitigation measures along various open drains carrying untreated sewage to Ganga in various cities for which NMCG may take suitable action along with Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) of the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, and demonstrative/pilot projects could be considered for usage of new cost effective, energy-efficient alternative/innovative technology for cleaning of drains at a few places, (v) to spread awareness about the impact of pollution on river Ganga, a workshop for polluting industries by CPCB, (vi) quick compiling and dissemination of suggestions and thoughts emanating from National Dialogue on Ganga ('Ganga Manthan') organized on 7 July, 2014 by NMCG, to spread public awareness, (vii) to take initiative for renovation of Ghats on river Ganga in the main cities, (viii) need for Ministry of Power to finalize and incorporate provision for 'environmental flows' to be maintained downstream of hydro-electric projects, while giving approval for future projects, and also in ongoing projects (to the extent feasible), (ix) to determine the term 'minimum environmental flow' on priority

by a Committee headed by Additional Secretary, the Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation pending recommendations of the Consortium of IITs, and (x) to make a study by NEERI on assessment of special properties of the 'Gangajal', which results are expected to have relevance for long-term planning for Ganga rejuvenation. The recommendations identified for medium-term action plan include (i) to meet out of Ganga Rejuvenation Fund a portion of the share required to be put in by the concerned State Governments/ULBs to incentivize States to opt for taking up the urban areas located on Ganga main stem, (ii) to require that DPR for urban habitations for sewerage, municipal waste, industrial effluents, ought to mandatorily provide for at least 10 years of Operation & Maintenance (O&M) costs, and operation and maintenance of STP should be carried out by contractor who is awarded the STP work, (iii) to review some ongoing works on Ganga main stem urban habitations already identified by the Ministry of Urban Development in respect of time and cost overruns, etc. (iv) to provide by the Ministry of Urban Development by 2020 a target of providing sanitation facilities like toilets for all which should be dovetailed in Ganga rejuvenation (v) to take up as a pilot project the curbing of pollution at Kanpur, industrial pollution from leather tanneries/slaughter houses (Jajmau drain) and city pollution from sewerage (Sismau drain) and others.

1.43 The Ministry further informed that time-lines have been set for projects and activities under 'Namami Gange' as per the action plan drawn based on the recommendations of the Group of Secretaries (GoS). In respect of short-term plan, it is for a period upto 3 years from now, and for medium-term plan, it is for a period upto 5 years from now.

1.44 Accordingly to the Ministry, projects and activities with respect to long-term action plan (a period of 10 years and more) will however, be assessed from the final report of the Ganga River Basin Management Plan of the Consortium of 7 Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs).

Works under Ganga Action Plan

1.45 The Ministry informed that a lot of efforts were put in under Ganga Action Plan-I and Ganga Action Plan-II by the Ministry. Giving an overview of the performance (physical and financial) of works undertaken for Ganga clean up and rejuvenation in the last decade under the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, the Ministry informed that during the last decade (2001-10), Ganga Action Plan-II (GAP-II) was mainly active and National Ganga River Basin Authority (NGRBA) programme just initiated. As on 31st March, 2013, under GAP-II, 314 projects were sanctioned with an estimated cost of Rs. 591.05 crore. Out of this, 264 projects are completed and the rest are in progress. Out of the estimated cost of Rs. 591.05 crore, Rs. 522.11 crore has been given to States out of which a total expenditure of Rs. 505.31 crore has been incurred by the States. Projects like Interception and Diversion, Low cost sanitation, Sewage Treatment Plant (STPs), Pumping Station, Solid Waste Management, River Front Development, afforestation, Crematorium etc., were taken up. Also, sanction given for construction of 308.41 mld of STPs out of which construction of 229.31 mld STPs has been completed and construction of the rest 79.10 mld STPs is under progress.

1.46 The Ministry also furnished the salient features of the National Ganga River Basin Management Plan as under:-

(a) Nirmal Dhara- ensuring sustainable municipal sewage management:

1.47 The Ministry informed during evidence that urban areas face more sewage problem than rural areas since the bulk of pollution emanated from urban areas and specified pockets such as Kanpur. Accordingly, the Ministry of Urban Development (MoUD) has prepared an action plan, which would be followed by a Detailed Project Report (DPR). The DPR is to be a composite treatment plan, involving treatment of municipal wastes (solid and liquid) and industrial wastes for which the concerned Ministry has assessed a provisional fund requirement of about Rs. 51,000 crore.

1.48 Further giving broad details of the action plan prepared by the Ministry of Urban Development, the Ministry also stated as under:-

“The MoUD jointly with NMCG has identified a total of 118 Towns on the both banks of river Ganga main stem to undertake sewerage infrastructure projects to achieve 100% coverage of such towns with sewerage facilities. An estimated cost of such project indicates fund requirement of about Rs. 51,000 Crores, which would be ascertained clearly when the DPRs would be prepared for undertaking such projects by the concerned state governments.”

1.49 When asked whether time-lines have been set as to when the DPR of Ministry of Urban Development will be implemented for rejuvenation of river Ganga and its tributaries, the Ministry also informed as under:-

“The time-line for preparation of DPRs for the 118 identified towns are proposed to be 3 years under the short-term action plan of ‘Namami Gange’ programme. However, actual execution of works may be taken up for some of these cities/towns under the scheme for development of 500 smart cities by MoUD. The fund available under ‘Namami Gange’ would also be utilized depending upon criticality of the project with respect to pollution abatement of river Ganga.

The long-term action plan to be developed based on the report of the Consortium of 7 IITs for a period of 10 years or more time would be useful for adopting a Ganga basin approach for the tributaries of river Ganga including river Yamuna, under which all the towns and cities in the basin area would be covered with liquid and solid waste management facilities by MoUD.”

1.50 The Ministry was asked about any detailed scheme worked out for the utilization of funds of Rs. 51,000 crore. To this, the Ministry gave the following reply:-

“MoUD is finalizing its new urban mission and is in process of working out detailed action plan.”

Experiences during the implementation of earlier Ganga Action Plans are factored in while developing the new Plan.

(b) Nirmal Dhara- managing sewage from Rural Areas:

1.51 The MoDW&S are contemplating a scheme for making the Ganga Bank Gram Panchayats numbering 1649 free from open defecation.

1.52 In this connection, the Ministry informed that there are about 1,668 Gram Panchayats in rural areas located on the main stream of river Ganga. Water from the local household sewage also goes into the water bodies. An action plan has been prepared and are under submission to the Government for approval. It is expected that the Gram Panchayats would be able to cover all the sewage coming from rural areas in 1-2 years period.

1.53 When asked to give the instructional mechanism evolved to secure coordinated efforts with the Gram Panchayats in the efforts to tackle household waste disposal into the river Ganga and its tributaries, the Ministry further informed as under:-

"The existing mechanism in place with the Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation (MoDW&S) would be utilized for implementing the programme. Regular coordination between MoDW&S and the Ministry would be ensured for implementation of the programme. An estimated cost of Rs. 1,800 crore has been indicated in the action plan, as intimated by the MoDW&S."

1.54 When asked whether any monitoring is being carried out by the Ministry to achieve target of coverage of sewage disposal from rural areas by the Gram Panchayats within 1-2 years, the Ministry informed as under:-

"The Ministry would ensure regular coordination with the MoDW&S for achieving the target to cover the identified PRIs within the time period of 'Namami Gange' programme. Necessary monitoring of programme implementation would be carried out by the MoDW&S as per their own monitoring mechanism in place."

(c) Nirmal Dhara- managing industrial discharge:

1.55 Zero Liquid Discharge by polluting industries to be monitored and enforced by Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) is envisaged under this scheme. Besides, real time water quality monitoring is also included.

1.56 The Ministry informed that a general project titled "Pollution Inventorization, Assessment and Surveillance" (PIAS) has been sanctioned for Rs. 34.77 crore under NGRBA in March, 2011 for implementation for 5 years by a NGRBA Cell set up in CPCB. Further, CPCB has listed a total of 764 Grossly Polluting Industries (GPIs) to be covered under the project. So far, 727 GPIs have been inspected and actions have been taken against 178 non-complying industries under Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 by CPCB. Closure notices have been issued by CPCB to 48 GPIs.

1.57 Regarding water quality monitoring, the representative of the Ministry informed that the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) of the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change has given direction to 17 polluting industries to set up electronic sensors (or real-time/online effluent quality monitoring system) by 31st March, 2015 at their own

costs for monitoring the kind of pollution present in water which shall be continuously monitored by the State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs) through a 24X7 display mechanism to be installed suitably by the SPCBs at strategic locations and also be accessible by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) on real-time basis. Direction has been issued by the CPCB on 05.02.2014 under Section 18(1)(b) of the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 to 11 Ganga basin States (Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Haryana, Delhi, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh) regarding continuous monitoring of industrial effluent quality before final disposal into river Ganga and its tributaries (Ganga river basin) by the industries. Actions to the non-complying industries shall be subject to the provisions made under Section 18(1)(b) of the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974. A number of follow up meetings and consultative workshop were organized by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) with the States Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs) and representatives of Grossly Polluting Industries (GPIs) during September and October, 2014 also.

(d) Aviral Dhara:

1.58 The following components are envisaged under this scheme:-

- Guidelines for River Regulatory Zones by the Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change
- Rational agricultural practices, efficient irrigation methods
- Restoration and conservation of water bodies

- (e) Ensuring ecological rejuvenation by conservation of aquatic life and bio-diversity
- (f) Promotion of Tourism
- (g) Knowledge Management on Ganga through Ganga Knowledge Centre

1.59 To control the spread of pollution and to contain it in manageable limits, certain interventions would be necessary in short-term. Group of Secretaries under guidance of Hon'ble Ministers has identified the following activities:

- (i) Scheme for rehabilitation and up-gradation of existing STPs along Ganga
- (ii) Ensuring 100% sewerage infrastructure in identified towns alongside Ganga
- (iii) In situ sewage treatment in open drains
- (iv) Support for preparation of DPRs
- (v) River Front Management for Ghat's developments in selected cities and towns
- (vi) Industrial pollution abatement at Kanpur on priority
- (vii) Action Plan for Char Dham Yatra –Public amenities, waste disposal and sanitation
- (viii) Capacity building of urban local bodies
- (ix) Afforestation – Conservation of Flora
- (x) Conservation of Aquatic life – special attention on Dolphin, Turtles and Ghariyals etc.
- (xi) Disposal of flowers and other puja material
- (xii) GIS data and Spatial Analysis for Ganga basin

- (xiii) Study of communities depending on Ganga for their traditional livelihood
- (xiv) National Ganga Monitoring Centre
- (xv) Guidelines for sand mining in Ganga
- (xvi) Assessment of Special Properties of Ganga Water
- (xvii) Communication and Public Outreach Activities etc.

1.60 According to the Ministry, the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) has already taken up several projects under the NGRBA Scheme. Launched in February, 2009, a total number of 76 schemes were sanctioned under NGRBA scheme, covering 48 towns and one river in 5 States. Out of this, 16 schemes have been physically completed while Rs. 4,974.79 crore has been sanctioned till August, 2014, Rs. 1,270.12 crore released and Rs. 910.57 crore of funds utilized. They have also informed that Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) capacity aggregating 659.23 mld. has been sanctioned, out of which 110.50 mld. STP capacity has been created. All the ongoing sanctioned projects under NGRBA are expected to be completed on or before December, 2019.

1.61 When asked how the monitoring and evaluation works of various activities is to be undertaken, the Ministry replied as under:-

“The project proposes to monitor the plants and network at site under the supervision of State Project Management offices in the 5 States on the River Basin. NMCG office in Delhi shall also take up periodical review of the project progress.”

(h) Sewage Treatment Plants

1.62 Among measures taken so far, the NEERI (National Environmental Engineering Research Institute) based in Nagpur, has been roped in, and it has already started certain studies for beginning the work. Further, Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs) have been created, including 14 under Ganga Action Plan. The Ministry of Urban Development (MoUD) is taking up the restoration and rejuvenation of these STPs.

1.63 The Ministry also informed that the States have been requested in a meeting held on 3rd September, 2014 chaired by the Hon'ble Minister, WR, RD & GR to take up conditional assessment of STPs and submit DPRs for rehabilitation and up-gradation of all such STPs for effective abatement of pollution. The matter was also discussed with the States in different meetings held in October, 2014. However, no proposals / DPRs for restoration of STPs have been received so far from the States. The Ministry of Urban Development has been requested in a meeting taken by the Hon'ble Minister of Urban Development on 13th November, 2014 to assist the States by providing necessary support by the experts, if any required for carrying out the conditional assessment of STPs and in preparation of DPRs / proposals for restoration/rehabilitation of STPs.

1.64 When asked whether the STPs, which have been set up, are based on advanced study pattern which requires that the slurry from these Plants could be treated by an organic manure creating plant attached to it, so that the same is sold and funds are generated for its regular upkeep, the Ministry informed as under:-

“Compendium of Sewage Treatment Technologies’ published in 2009 was circulated to the State governments for selection of an appropriate sewage treatment technology depending upon the desired treated effluent quality, land requirement, availability of electricity, fund availability etc. However, new technologies have emerged over the period of time, and it was felt necessary to relook into the matter. Accordingly, a committee has been set up with the involvement of NEERI, CPCB and Prof. Vinod Tare of IIT, Kanpur. The latest meeting of the committee was held on 14th November, 2014.”

1.65 The Ministry further informed that the existing STPs are being operated by the State level agencies through outsourcing and also by engaging their own available manpower. There are a number of STPs being fully run by engaging private agencies. There is very little involvement of the local bodies, other than a few city authorities, in day-to-day operation and maintenance (O&M) including bearing O&M cost of STPs. The State level authorities responsible for O&M of the STPs are Jal Sansthan of Peysa Jal Vibhag in Uttarakhand, Jal Kal Vibhag of Urban Development Department and U.P. Jal Nigam in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar Rajya Jal Parishad in Bihar, and Kolkata Metropolitan Development Authority (KMDA), Kolkata Metropolitan Water and Sanitation Authority (KMW&SA) and Kolkata Municipal Corporation (KMC) in West Bengal.

1.66 When asked the steps initiated to streamline the work related to monitoring and running of STPs, the Ministry informed as under:-

“To ensure availability of fund for O&M after commissioning of STPs, all sewerage projects under NGRBA are being provided with 5 years O&M cost for the initial 5 years after commissioning the project. The State and local governments are also committing at least for further 10 years O & M by signing project-wise Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) prior to approval of DPRs. Also, financial and technical assistance for capacity building of local bodies of the project towns has been included under the programme to encourage local bodies to develop their ownership for sustainable O&M of STPs in long-run.”

1.67 The Ministry stated that the Ministry of Urban Development (MoUD) has been requested to assist the States in carrying out conditional assessment of STPs and in preparation of DPRs by the States for restoration / rehabilitation of identified STPs. The MoUD has conducted consultative workshops with 4 basin States of Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Jharkhand. The MoUD has also constituted a Standing Committee involving all the 5 basin States to carry out sewerage projects in the identified towns on the banks of river Ganga. Restoration of existing STPs would be carried out with short-term action plan period of 3 years' time i.e. by FY 2016-17.

(j) Cremation Practices on river banks

1.68 The Ministry stated that the rejuvenation of river Ganga depend on the conservation of the existing aquatic life. The Government has, in this connection, declared the Gangetic Dolphin as the National Aquatic Animal. Preservation of dolphin and other fishes including

Gharyal assume importance since they consume dead bodies immersed in river Ganga. When asked to what extent are the existing cremation practices responsible for pollution in Ganga river, the Ministry further informed as follows:-

"The cremation practices are widely variant from Uttarakhand to West Bengal and therefore, no single practice might not be considered responsible for pollution of river Ganga. However, disposal of unburnt or half burnt dead bodies in the river are responsible for pollution in river Ganga across its length. Scientific system of developing crematorium has been prescribed in the Guidelines for preparation of DPRs under NGRBA / NRCP. A number of crematoriums have been developed, mostly in West Bengal, under GAP and NGRBA programme, and widely accepted by the community."

1.69 The Ministry also informed that they are considering developing improvised wood-based crematorium requiring smaller quantity of wood, keeping the social sensitivity in mind, which could be accepted by larger number of people. The issue was discussed in length in 'Ganga Manthan', the national dialogue held on 7th July, 2014 and number of suggestions has been received about improvement on the burial / cremation practices.

Budget Allocations

1.70 As per information provided to the Committee, the total Budget Estimates (BE) of the Ministry for the year 2014-2015 is Rs. 15,375.74 crore which comprise of Plan allocation of Rs. 14,762 crore and Non-Plan allocation of Rs. 613.74 crore. The total Budget allocations for 2014-15 showed an overall increase by 86.32% as compared to total Budget allocations of Rs. 2,102.65 crore made in 2013-14 which, the Ministry maintained, is due to transfer of erstwhile "State Sector Scheme" of AIB&FMP as "Centrally sponsored scheme" with placing of funds (Rs. 8,992.22 crore) towards this scheme in the Ministry and introduction of new schemes. Further, the Committee's analysis of actual expenditure incurred in the both Plan and Non-Plan sections by the Ministry during 2013-14 indicated that the actual expenditures have consistently lagged behind Budget projections at both BE and RE stages, revealing thereby that the Government has clearly failed to put in place a mechanism for utilization and effective implementation of the various projects/schemes in time. It also indicates the Budget projections as made for 2013-14 have been wholly unrealistic and removed from the ground reality.

The Committee while expressing their disappointment over this trend, strongly recommend that efforts should be made to put in place an effective mechanism by proper Budgetary pre-planning exercise to ensure optimum utilization of Budget allocations (both Plan and Non-Plan) so that the Budget projections come nearer to actual expenditures. They also recommend the Ministry to undertake Budgetary

exercises after framing proper, achievable targets for both Plan and Non-Plan schemes to ensure a more realistic and achievable Budget projections in future.

1.71 Noting further that there has been a quantum jump in total Budget allocations by as much as 86.32 % in this financial year (i.e. 2014-15) as compared to 2013-14, the Committee urge the Ministry to make a workable action plan for achieving better fund utilization of the increased allocations made, in view of the fact that only about four months are left for the Government to concretize utilization of allocated funds for 2014-15. The Committee would like to be apprised of action taken by the Ministry in this regard.

1.72 The Committee also observe that the total Budget Estimate for 2013-14 of the MoWR, RD and GR earmarked at Rs. 2,102.65 crore was reduced to Rs. 1,279.50 crore at Revised Estimate (RE) stage, which shows a reduction of Rs. 823.15 crore over BE 2013-14. The reasons put forth by the Ministry for this reduction was that there was delay in obtaining approval of many schemes by as late as six to nine months, resulting in quite low expenditure in respect of these schemes by the month of September 2013, which had led the Ministry of Finance to curtail the Budget at Revised Estimate stage during 2013-14. Taking a serious note of this inordinate delay in getting requisite approvals of projects/schemes, the Committee recommend the Ministry to undertake pre-Budget exercise by getting necessary approval of concerned authorities (i.e. Planning Commission, Expenditure Finance Committee,

Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, etc.) in respect of projects/schemes proposed to be included in Budget allocations before submission of formal Budget proposal in each financial year, so that much time is not wasted in bureaucratic delays and procedural bottlenecks.

1.73 While noting the reply of the Ministry that the expenditure is monitored on monthly basis, the Committee are however disappointed to know that no proposal / study has been initiated to avoid reduction of Budget allocation at RE stage, which speaks volume about the lackadaisical manner in which the Ministry is tackling the persistent issue of reduction of Budget allocations year after year. The Committee, therefore, urge upon the Ministry to come out with a fresh initiative in this regard so that Budget projections are made on realistic and pragmatic basis. Noting further from the reply of the Ministry that the approval of majority of schemes has been obtained now and the new components can now be implemented in financial year 2014-15, the Committee desire the Ministry to make all-out effort during the remaining part of this Financial Year by holding frequent meetings with the implementing agencies and vigorously monitoring the progress of the various schemes/projects for ensuring optimal fund utilization during 2014-15. The Committee desire to be apprised of the action taken in this regard.

River Basin Management

1.74 The Committee note that the Plan scheme called "River Basin Management" (RBM) was formulated during 2013-14 by merging two ongoing schemes, viz. River

Basin Organisation (RBO) and Investigation of Water Resources Development Scheme. The Committee's examination revealed that a sum of Rs. 250 crore (BE) has been made for River Basin Management during the financial year 2014-15, which represents an increase of Rs. 50 crore over the Budget allocations under the same head during 2013-14. Interestingly however, the Committee observe that although Rs. 200 crore had been allocated during 2013-14, this allocations had to be reduced to Rs. 150 crore at Revised Estimate. The Committee are pained to note that the new component of the River Basin Management (RBM) Plan scheme could not be initiated during 2013-14, as the approval of the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) was accorded only on 28.02.2014. They, therefore, recommend the Ministry to devise a mechanism to shorten the lengthy bureaucratic procedure being followed for getting timely approval of RBM Plan scheme by CCEA in the future and apprise the Committee accordingly.

1.75 The Committee note that the Ministry made an increased Budget allocations of Rs. 50 crore in BE 2014-15 over BE 2013-14 in respect of River Basin Management scheme specifically to take care of additional requirement of works relating to Majuli Island. According to information received from the Ministry, a total sum of Rs. 96.25 crore was incurred on Phase I and II works pertaining to Protection of Majuli Island (Assam) till October, 2014. In view of the fact that hardly four months are left in the current Financial Year for implementing the additional flood protection works in Majuli Island, the Committee suggest the Ministry to make all out efforts to utilize the

remaining months (which are also mainly rain-free and dry season) judiciously for ensuring full utilization of allocated funds and for execution of stipulated works and apprise the Committee of tangible results achieved in this regard.

1.76 The Committee are displeased to observe that despite their recommendations in 14th (2012-13) & 17th (2013-14) Reports regarding restructuring of CWC, the work is still under approval stage. The Committee are at a loss to understand as to why their recommendations are not taken up seriously by the Ministry and reiterate their earlier recommendation contained in 17th Report on Demands for Grants (2013-14) for completion of all the processes and formalities involved in the restructuring exercise by the Ministry in a time bound manner so that a new, revamped CWC will see the light of the day, which will serve as catalyst for effective and efficient management of river basin and water resources. The Committee also feel that the proposals pending with CWC particularly Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Lift Irrigation - Pranhitachavala project in the State of Telangana may be expedited and also urge upon the Government to impress upon the State Governments to speed up submission of pending proposals with them, particularly

Athikadavv Avanishi Project in the State of Tamil Nadu. The Committee should be informed of follow-up action taken by the Ministry in this regard.

Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP)

1.77 The Committee note that AIBP, a Centrally-sponsored scheme, has been restructured from the financial year 2014-15 and renamed 'Accelerated Irrigation Benefits and Flood Management Programme' (AIBFMP). The programme includes fund releases to States/UTs in respect of the (i) AIBP and National Projects (ii) Command Area Development and Water Management (iii) Flood Management Programme and (iv) Repair, Renovation and Restoration of Water Bodies. A total Budget allocations of Rs. 6,265.22 crore was made during 2014-15 by the Ministry towards AIBP and National Projects. The Committee's examination of the performance of AIBP revealed consistent short falls in actual achievements in terms of fund releases as against outlays from 2009-10 onwards. As against financial outlay of Rs. 7,342 crore made in 2012-13, the actual release was only Rs. 6,523 crore. The corresponding figure for the financial year 2013-14 were Rs. 6,162 crore and Rs. 4,033 crore respectively. When asked about the shortfalls, the Ministry replied that the shortfalls generally happen due to requisite state matching budget provision and also due to the fact that CCEA approval for continuation of AIBP was accorded only in September, 2013, for which follow-up actions are taken from time to time with State Governments.

1.78 Not happy with the state of affairs, the Committee urge upon the Ministry to vigorously pursue with the State Governments and implementing agencies to submit schemes/projects for AIBP to improve additional irrigation potential in the States and for initiating steps for concurrent evaluation of AIBP projects/schemes through third party and also to strictly ensure that no release of funds is made without fulfillment

of above modified criteria. The Committee would like the Ministry to inform further action taken in the matter. The Committee also note that the Ministry has carried out physical and financial monitoring of projects included under AIBP since 1996-97 through CWC, and that various bottlenecks in implementation of these projects are identified which include factors like land acquisition issues, Rehabilitation and Resettlement (R&R) issues, timely release of grants by State Governments to implementing agencies, lack of coordination between other departments such as National Highways Authority of India and Railways, contractual problems, etc. Further, the State Governments are requested from time to time to resolve these bottlenecks and based on past experience, certain policy modifications have also been brought out in AIBP during 12th Plan. The Committee expect that the Ministry would continue to strictly exercise comprehensive physical and financial monitoring of the projects included under AIBP by use of modern techniques including remote sensing satellites and also address in a time bound manner, the deficiencies found in the implementation by modifying AIBP wherever necessary. The Committee also recommend the Government to ensure that adequate funds are allocated for National Projects. The Committee should be informed of action taken.

Command Area Development & Water Management

1.79 The Committee note that the Command Area Development and Water Management (CAD&WM) programme was started as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme in 1974-75 with the objective to bridge the gap between irrigation potential created

and utilized through micro level infrastructure development for efficient water management and enhancement of agricultural production and productivity so as to improve socio-economic conditions of the farmers. Under this programme, 219 irrigation projects have been completed since its inception till March, 2013 and 150 other projects are presently under implementation. The Committee further note that there have been persistent under-achievements in performance of Central assistance vis-à-vis Budget allocations since 2010-11 which according to the Ministry depends on the degree of proposals received from the State Governments. The Committee are dismayed to see the passive attitude of the Government in not pursuing the matter with the State Governments and inducing them to submit proposals for CAD&WM programme on time. The Committee, therefore, recommend the Government to initiate immediate action in this regard to induce the State Governments to expedite submission of proposal for CAD&WM programme during this Financial Year (2014-15).

1.80 The Committee are given to understand that during 12th Plan, installation of micro irrigation has been kept as an alternative for construction of field channels which will also address the problem of tail end farmers as also waterlogging in the fields caused by agriculture. However, the Committee are distressed to note that no proposal was received during the Plan for micro irrigation. The Committee would like the Ministry to popularize micro irrigation through awareness raising programmes

workshops and by involving Gram Panchayats, local bodies etc., and apprise the Committee of the results achieved in this regard.

Works on Ganga Clean-up and Rejuvenation

1.81 The Committee note that the Demands for Grants (2014-15) of the MoWR, RD and GR contain a new major head titled 'Ecology and Environment'. Under this head, allocations have been made for Plan expenditures in respect of National River Conservation Plan (NRCP), National Ganga River Basin Authority (NGRBA) and National Ganga Plan (NGP). The Ministry informed that the 'National River Conservation Plan' is a new scheme included in the budget of their Ministry during the financial year 2014-15. For greater efficiency in programme delivery, the programme has been shifted to the MoWR, RD and GR from Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change. The Committee further note that an Integrated Ganga Conservation Mission namely, 'Namami Gange', programme has been worked out as per the provisions made in the Union Budget 2014-15 for Rs. 2,037 crore. The breakup of this amount is Rs. 1,500 crore for Namami Gange, Rs. 355 crore for ongoing NGRBA activities and Rs. 182 crore towards National River Conservation Plan which includes approximately Rs. 100 crore for Ganga tributaries. In addition, Rs. 100 crore have been allocated for improvement of Ghats in 7 specified locations. The budget provision for Rs. 82 crore exclusively pertains to Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEF&CC).

1.82 The Committee also note that the action plan for 'Namami Gange' drawn on the recommendations of the Group of Secretaries (GoS) has been discussed and approved by the Apex Committee of NGRBA in its 4th meeting chaired by the Vice-Chairperson of NGRBA and the Hon'ble Minister, Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation held on 27th October, 2014. The recommendations of the Group of Secretaries (GoS) indicated several short-term, medium-term and long-term action plans to be implemented by the Government in conjunction with State Governments, Urban Local Bodies and associated Ministries such as Ministries of Rural Development, Drinking Water & Sanitation, Shipping and Tourism. The Committee recommend the Ministry to initiate urgent action in conjunction with all stakeholders for ensuring that the short-term action plans related to Namami Gange be implemented effectively and vigorously within the stipulated 3 years period so that the rest of the works/activities planned for medium and long terms gain early momentum thereby setting the pace for achieving the goal of rejuvenation of Ganga by 2019. The Committee should be informed of the action taken by the Government and allied agencies in this regard.

1.83 The Committee also observe from the Ministry's reply that in the year 2010-11 the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change appointed a consortium of seven Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) to prepare a long-term Ganga River Basin Management Plan. The first version of this Plan is likely to be available later this year. They also note that projects and activities with respect to long-term action plan

(a period of 10 years and more) will be assessed from the final report of the Ganga River Basin Management Plan of the Consortium of 7 IITs for restoration of the wholesomeness of river Ganga and its tributaries including river Yamuna in terms of defining concepts of "Aviral Dhara", "Nirmal Dhara" and maintaining the ecological and geological integrity of the river. The Committee also desire the Ministry to expeditiously complete the report of the Ganga River Basin Management Plan being prepared by a Consortium of 7 IITs within three months of the presentation of this report, so that an overall picture of projects/activities required under Ganga River Basin Management Plan may be made available for the use of the Ministry/National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) and allied agencies for taking up further necessary works including DPRs and related activities concerned with implementation of Ganga rejuvenation. The Committee would like to be apprised of further action taken in the matter.

1.84 The Committee observe that one of the components of 'Namami Gange' pertains to "Nirmal Dhara" or ensuring sustainable sewage management. Noting that the Ministry of Urban Development is in the process of working out detailed action plan in this regard, the Committee keeping in view the gravity of the problems desire that the Ministry vigorously pursue with the Ministry of Urban Development to ensure that there is no delay in preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR) pertaining to the composite sewage treatment plan so that the municipal wastes (solid and liquid) and

industrial wastes emanating from urban areas and selected pockets like Kanpur are treated properly before their discharge into the river Ganga and its tributaries.

1.85 The Committee further note that the Ministry of Urban Development jointly with National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) has identified a total of 118 towns on both the banks of river Ganga main stem to undertake sewerage infrastructure projects to achieve 100% coverage of such towns with sewerage facilities under the plan for which a time line for preparation of DPRs are proposed to be three years under the short-term action plan of 'Namami Gange'. The Committee would like the Ministry to take further necessary actions as indicated above in respect of the 118 towns identified and apprise them accordingly.

1.86 The Committee observes that the Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation (MoDW&S) are contemplating a scheme at an estimated cost of Rs. 1800 crore for making the Gram Panchayats numbering 1649 in Ganga bank free from open defecation under 'Nirmal Dhara' to tackle sewage from rural areas. They also note that there are about 1688 Gram Panchayats in rural areas located on the main stream of river Ganga and that an action plan has been prepared and are under submission to the Government for approval with objective to cover all the sanitation/sewage coming from rural areas in one-two years period. The Committee feel that mere preparation of schemes without proper implementation has become a trend which needs to be discouraged and discontinued. The Committee, therefore, desire that

sustained and coordinated efforts should be made immediately by the Ministry for expeditiously getting the approval of the Government in respect of action plan submitted to the Government in this regard so that preparation of the required DPRs may be taken up without delay to ensure tangible results in managing sewage from rural areas on the mainstream of River Ganga. The Committee would like to be apprised of the programme made in this regard.

1.87 The Committee note that under the scheme of 'Nirmal Dhara', for managing industrial discharge, a general project titled 'Pollution Inventorization, Assessment and Surveillance' (PIAS) has been sanctioned for Rs. 34.77 crore under NGRBA in March, 2011 for implementation for 5 years by a NGRBA Cell set up in Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB). Further, CPCB has listed 764 Grossly Polluting Industries (GPIs) to be covered under the project, out of which 727 GPIs have been inspected and actions taken against 178 non-complying industries under Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 by CPCB. Further, it was informed that closure notices have been issued by CPCB to 48 GPIs. The Committee note with grave concern the practice by some industries of discharging untreated, contaminated water into river Ganga and its tributaries, and therefore strongly recommend the Ministry to vigorously pursue with the Central Pollution Control Board of the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change to prosecute 178 non-complying industries under the relevant statutory act. They also recommend that the Ministry take up with the CPCB (NGRBA

cell) for ensuring timely completion of project of 'Pollution Inventorization, Assessment and Surveillance' (PIAS)' which was sanctioned for Rs. 34.77 crore for completion within 5 years. They also recommend that the Ministry would continue to keep a tab on CPCB to ensure that closure notices issued to 48 GPs are duly complied with by them and report any failure on the part of GPs to law enforcement authorities, if necessary. The Committee would like to be apprised of further action taken in this regard.

1.88 According to the Ministry, the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) of the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change has given direction to 17 polluting industries to set up electronic sensors or real time/online effluent quality monitoring system by 31st March, 2015 at their own costs for monitoring the kind of pollution present in water which shall be continuously monitored by the State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs) through a 24X7 display mechanism to be installed suitably by the SPCBs at strategic location and also be accessible by the Central Pollution Control Board on real-time basis. Direction has been issued by the CPCB on 05.02.2014 under Section 18(1) (b) of the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 to 11 Ganga Basins States regarding continuous monitoring of industrial effluent quality before final disposal into river Ganga and its tributaries by the industries. The Committee recommend that the CPCB rigorously pursue with the 17 polluting industries to ensure that the direction issued for setting up electronic sensors/real time effluent monitoring system by 31st March, 2015 is duly complied

with by them so that necessary monitoring work regarding the kind of pollution in water may be taken up by the State Pollution Control Boards on real-time basis. They also desire the Ministry to initiate steps for imposition of punitive measures including fine, penalties, etc., on non-complying industries under the relevant Section 18(1) (b) of the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974. Noting that several follow up meetings/consultative workshops have been organized by the Central Pollution Control Board with the State Pollution Control Boards and the representatives of Grossly Polluting Industries during September and October, 2014, the Committee would further like to be informed of the findings of the meetings held in this regard and the action taken thereon.

1.89 The Committee note that under the Ministry of Urban Development (MoUD), restoration and rejuvenation of Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs) have been taken up including 14 STPs which have since been completed under the Ganga Action Plan. Besides, the National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (NEERI) has been roped in, and it has started some research works in this regard. The Ministry also informed that the States have been requested to take up conditional assessment of STPs and submit DPRs for rehabilitation and up-gradation of all such STPs for effective abatement of pollution while the MoUD has been requested to assist the States with necessary support by experts, if required for carrying out the conditional assessment of STPs and in preparation of DPRs/proposals for restoration/rehabilitation of STPs. The Ministry also informed that a committee has

been set up with involvement of NEERI, CPCB and Professor Vinod Tare of IIT, Kanpur for making a review of appropriate sewage treatment technology in this regard. The Committee are dismayed to note that no proposals/DPRs for restoration of STPs have been received so far from the States. The Committee would like to know what steps have been taken by the Government to pursue the State Governments to submit the proposals and recommend the Ministry to take up the matter immediately with the State Governments so that works/activities related to rehabilitation and upgradation of STPs located in Ganga basin are taken up without delay by the Ministry and other implementing agencies. The Committee also desire that the Committee set up for review of sewage treatment technology completes its work and submit its report expeditiously.

1.90 The Committee note that the Government has declared Gangetic Dolphin as the National Aquatic Animal in an effort towards conservation of existing aquatic life in river Ganga. According to the Ministry, the disposal of unburnt or half burnt dead bodies in the river are responsible for pollution of river Ganga throughout its length. The Committee note that a number of crematorium have been developed in this regard mostly in West Bengal under GAP and NGRBA programme and widely accepted by the community there. The Committee, therefore, recommend that efforts should be initiated by the Ministry/NMCG and allied implementing agencies including State Governments to popularize the practice of electric crematorium in the Ganga Basin States in order to reduce the practice of disposal of unburnt or half burnt dead

bodies in the river Ganga. Further noting that the Ministry are proposing to develop improvised wood-based crematorium requiring smaller quantity of wood, keeping the social sensitivity in mind as discussed during the national dialogue 'Ganga Manthan' in July 2014, the Committee would like the Ministry to expedite necessary action in this regard and apprise them accordingly.

CHAPTER II

MEDIUM IRRIGATION

2.1 Irrigation projects with a Cultivable Command Area (CCA) between 2,000 hectares and 10,000 hectares are classified as medium irrigation projects. The planning, formulation and execution of all Medium Irrigation Projects are carried out by the concerned State Governments and the required funds are allocated out of their State Plan. The Ministry of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation 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.

2.2 The Budget allocations (Plan and Non-Plan) for Medium Irrigation including actual expenditure are given below:-

Table-10: Budget allocations for Medium Irrigation

(Rs. in crore/gross)

Actual Expenditure 2012-13		BE 2013-14		RE 2013-14		Actual Expenditure 2013-14		BE 2014-15	
Plan	Non-Plan	Plan	Non-Plan	Plan	Non-Plan	Plan	Non-Plan	Plan	Non-Plan
176.31	229.61	629.46	251.66	225.36	234.52	205.41	239.19	870.47	263.81

2.3 The Non-Plan Budget allocation for 2014-15 has been increased to Rs 263.81 crore as compared to the previous financial year 2013-14 which was Rs 251.66 crore at BE stage. The total increase amounts to Rs 12.15 crore. However, there was reduction at RE 2013-14 to Rs 234.52 crore. The Ministry replied that the reduction at RE 2013-14 stage (Rs.17.14 crore) is mainly due to reduction of Rs.12.49 crore under 'Data Collection' by the Ministry of Finance under object heads (1) 'Minor Works' for worked charged staff and (2) Rs.4.99 crore under the Sutej Yamuna Link Canal Scheme (provided for in anticipation of decision of Hon'ble Supreme Court, which is still awaited), whereas the reasons for increase in BE 2014-15 over 2013-14 under Medium Irrigation is mainly due to increase in salaries, increment, enhancement DA etc. During the Financial Year 2014-15, in pursuance of Section 85 (1) of the Andhra Pradesh Reorganization Act, 2014 (No. 6 of 2014), notified on 1st March, 2014, the Central Government has constituted two statutory boards: (i) Krishna River Management Board and (ii) Godavari River Management Board vide notification No.SO-1402(e) and SO-1391(e) both dated 28th May, 2014 respectively in the Ministry of

Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation. For meeting establishment related expenditure for the above mentioned two boards, budget allocations of Rs.1.00 crore each have been kept during the Financial Year 2014-15 in the Ministry.

Development of Water Resources Information System

2.4 The Government approved the Scheme of Development of Water Resources Information System (DWRIS) in June, 2008 for implementation 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.

2.5 The Committee wanted to know the targets and achievements made under DWRIS year-wise since 2008 till date. In reply thereto, the Ministry have submitted the information as under:-

Table-11 : Year-wise targets and achievements under DWRIS since 2008

Year	Target	Achievements
2008-09	To collect data from network of Hydrological Observation stations for overall assessment of water resources and analysis of their characteristics.	Observation of data from 878 sites including 371 Water Quality Observation sites continued.
	To establish infrastructure and launch the water resources information system.	A new website, namely, www.waris.gov.in was registered with NIC for online data collection and dissemination. MoU for "Development of digital database

		and web-enabled Water Resources Information System" was signed between CWC and ISRO.
2009-10	<p>Long-term data collection at snow observatories / G&D sites and development of Snow-melt runoff models.</p> <p>Conduct of the field work and data processing in respect of 4th MI Census</p> <p>To monitor water quality at 371 key locations covering all the major river basins of India with a three-tier laboratory system for analysis of water samples.</p> <p>R&M of network of 111 HO sites. Collection of hydro meteorological data and computerization and publication of water year, sediment year and water quality year books.</p> <p>To establish infrastructure and launch the water resources information system.</p>	<p>Work continued.</p> <p>Most of the States completed the field work of 4th MI census. The States have taken up data processing activities through the modified software supplied by the Ministry. The Tabulation Plan finalized.</p> <p>Work continued.</p> <p>Work continued.</p> <p>A workshop with the concerned technical officers was held to finalise the data base structure and arrangements for data inputs for display on the identified digital maps for development of web enabled India-Water Resources Information System (India-WRIS).</p>

	<p>Visits to projects under monitoring and completion of ongoing work for timely creation of additional potential</p>	<p>Ongoing activities of Strengthening of Monitoring Unit in CWC including online Monitoring of AIBP assisted projects are continued.</p>
2010-11	<p>Launching of first version of website INDIA WRIS</p> <p>Assessment of potential creation of additional 50 AIBP funded projects through remote sensing.</p> <p>Monitoring of Major, Medium and ERM projects</p> <p>Secretariat support to WQAA.</p> <p>Data entry, processing and validation of data collected in the MI Census by with the help of NIC.</p> <p>Generation of tables & charts and preparation of all India report.</p>	<p>The web site www.india-wris.nrsc.gov.in/webgis.php# was launched on 07 Dec' 2010.</p> <p>Project for assessment of irrigation potential by remote sensing approved. MOU for carrying out the work signed with NRSC</p> <p>Work continued.</p> <p>Work continued.</p> <p>Field work & data entry completed.</p> <p>Validation work completed except for the State of Jharkhand</p>
2011-12	<p>Collection of hydrological and Meteorological data from existing sites.</p>	<p>Work continued.</p>

	<p>To conduct MI Census in the Country and Publishing the result of 4th MI Census & Preparatory work for Conduct of 5th MI Census</p> <p>To provide support to water quality assessment authority to implement identified studies/ programme for water quality assessment.</p>	<p>Reviewed key results of 4th MI Census in consultation with States/UT's & a study given to NIRD to test check the result.</p> <p>A study given to NISG for re-engineering the Census of Minor Irrigation schemes to ensure timely release and to improve quality of data.</p> <p>Reviewed village Schedule, Scheme Schedule & related guidelines for 5th M.I. Census and discussed in meeting of steering committee in June, 2011.</p> <p>Supervisor Inspection Report and related guidelines were prepared and discussed in meeting of Steering Committee. Conducted All India Workshop With State/UT's on 5th Minor Irrigation Census was conducted on 29th July, 2011 in which Schedules & Guidelines, Forms for monthly, quarterly and Annual reports for State/UT's, honorarium rates for field staff, staff structure of statistical cell of State/Ut's, Forms for supervisor inspection report were finalised.</p> <p>Regional Training Workshops held for State/UT's staff for conduct of 5th MI Census.</p> <p>This is a continuous activity.</p>
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	<p>To monitor Major, Medium Irrigation Projects by making field visits and prepare implementation status report thereof and Strengthening to monitoring units of CWC.</p> <p>Creation of Watershed Atlas and development of web-enabled Water Resources Information System of the country at 1:50000 scale</p>	<p>NRSC, Hyderabad carried out the work of assessment of irrigation potential created in AIBP funded additional 50 projects through remote sensing using cartosat satellite data. Till date, 44 nos. of reports have been submitted by NRSC, Hyderabad. Major and Medium projects were monitored through field visits.</p> <p>Second version of India WRIS was launched by Chairman, CWC on World Water Day i.e. 22nd March, 2012.</p>
2012-13	<p>Continuing activities to collect hydrometeorological and water quality on all major rivers including snowmelt runoff monitoring, compilation and dissemination of the observed data to users. Hydrological Information System, Upgradation of sites, Opening of New Sites and Water Quality Laboratory upgradation</p> <p>To collect reservoir water level of 120 reservoirs whose live storage is proposed to be monitored by the CWC by telemetry system</p> <p>Development of Coastal Management Information System(CMIS)</p>	<p>Work continued.</p> <p>Work continued for existing 85 reservoirs. Plans to expand to 120 reservoirs prepared.</p> <p>Plan for development of CMIS prepared.</p>

	<p>Conduct the 5th MI Census w.r.t. the reference year 2013-14.</p> <p>To collect information through outsourcing on Culturable Command Area (CCA) and their geographical extent, Irrigated area by season, Irrigation Potential created and utilized (IPC & IPU), Cropping pattern, Other project related information</p> <p>Continuous process in respect of secretariat support to WQAA would continue.</p> <p>To monitor Major, Medium Irrigation Projects by making field visits and prepare implementation status report thereof and Strengthening to monitoring units of CWC.</p> <p>Upgradation & Modernisation Library of CWC</p>	<p>Preliminary work started.</p> <p>Comments for finalising the schedule were sought from concerned officer of States Irrigation Departments</p> <p>Work continued.</p> <p>NRSC, Hyderabad carried out the work of assessment of irrigation potential created in AIBP funded additional 50 projects through remote sensing using cartosat satellite data. Till date, 44 Nos. of reports have been submitted by NRSC, Hyderabad.</p> <p>Online monitoring of major & medium projects under AIBP carried out by developing in-house capability (CWC officers were trained).</p> <p>Major and Medium projects have been monitored.</p>
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	Upgradation of IT system in CWC	Work continued. Work continued.
2013-14	<p>Continuing activities to collect hydrometeorological and water quality on all major rivers including snowmelt runoff monitoring, compilation and dissemination of the observed data to users. Hydrological Information System, Upgradation of sites, Opening of New Sites and Water Quality Laboratory upgradation</p> <p>To collect reservoir water level of 120 reservoirs whose live storage is proposed to be monitored by the CWC by telemetry system</p> <p>Development of CMIS.</p> <p>Conduct the 5th MI Census w.r.t. the reference year 2011-12</p> <p>To collect information through outsourcing on Culturable Command Area (CCA) and their geographical extent, Irrigated area by season,</p>	<p>Data were collected from all the stations and work continued.</p> <p>Work continued for existing 85 reservoirs. Preliminary works for expansion to 120 reservoirs carried out.</p> <p>Discussions were held for entering into tripartite agreement with State governments/ research institutes to implement the proposed activities.</p> <p>Study initiated.</p> <p>Comments for finalising the schedule was sought from concerned officer of States Irrigation Departments</p> <p>Work continued.</p> <p>Online monitoring of major & medium projects under AIBP carried out by developing in-house capability.</p>

	<p>Irrigation Potential Created and Utilized (IPC & IPU), cropping pattern, Other project related information</p> <p>Secretariat support to WQAA.</p> <p>To monitor Major, Medium Irrigation projects by making field visits and prepare implementation status report thereof and Strengthening to monitoring units of CWC.</p> <p>Upgradation & Modernisation Library of CWC</p> <p>Upgradation of IT system in CWC</p>	<p>Work continued.</p> <p>Work continued.</p>
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2.6 The Ministry informed that conduct of field work and data processing for 4th Minor Irrigation (MI) census were targeted to be achieved during 2009-10. The States have accordingly taken up data processing activities through the modified software supplied by the Ministry and Tabulation Plan were finalized in 2009-10. Preliminary work was also started to conduct 5th MI census during 2012-13.

2.7 When asked to give the updated status of completion of 4th and 5th Minor Irrigation Census taken up under DWRIS and if any time-line has been fixed for completion of this exercise by the DWRIS, the Ministry have submitted that 4th Minor Irrigation (MI) Census has been completed with reference to the year 2006-07 and the report is available on web-

site of the Ministry. The Ministry have decided to conduct the 5th MI census with traditional methodology with reference to the year 2013-14. Plan Scheme was approved in December, 2013 and the exercise is proposed for completion by end of 12th Plan period ending March 2017.

2.8 As per the information submitted by the Ministry, year-wise Budget allocations and actual utilization for DWRIS since 2007 are given in the following table:-

Table-12 : Year-wise Budget allocations and actual expenditures on Development of Water Resources Information System since 2008 (Rs. in crore)

Year	BE	RE	Actual Expenditure
2007-08	28.50	19.99	19.07
2008-09	46.00	42.50	45.58
2009-10	70.00	70.00	63.07
2010-11	66.00	41.49	38.81
2011-12	59.00	59.00	53.56
2012-13	85.00	40.00	39.13
2013-14	150.00	43.00	41.30

2.9 As per information received from the Ministry, the Central Water Commission is at present monitoring 87 important reservoirs in the country. In the present system, State

Governments collect reservoir data and send the same by fax, telephonic message, e-mail, etc., to CWC, which publish the live storage status of reservoirs in the form of weekly bulletins to Crop Weather Watch Group (CWWG) constituted by the Ministry of Agriculture to monitor various agricultural activities in the country. Many a times, reservoir data is not received in time. Therefore, it was decided to install automatic water level recorders on the important reservoirs in the country during 12th Plan by the Central Water Commission so that the data is transmitted to the monitoring cell in real time, through satellite-based transmission network. During 12th Plan, a total of 120 (87 existing plus 33 additional) reservoirs have been selected in the country for data collection.

Dam Safety

2.10 The Ministry informed that as per the information compiled through National Register of Large Dams (NRLD) maintained by the Central Water Commission, presently there are 5195 large dams in India. Out of these, 4847 are completed and 348 dams are under construction. Out of the completed large dams, about 76% were completed before 1990. The State-wise details of the large dams completed before 1990 are given in the table below:-

Table- 13: State-wise details of large dams in India completed before 1990

Sl. No.	Name of State	Year of completion						Total
		Upto	1901 to	1951 to	1961 to	1971 to	1981 to	

		1900	1950	1960	1970	1980	1990	
1.	Andaman & Nicobar Island*					1		1
2.	Andhra Pradesh** (Before bifurcation)	7	35	16	22	31	26	137
3.	Arunachal Pradesh							0
4.	Assam						2	2
5.	Bihar	1		1	8	5	5	20
6.	Chhattisgarh		11	1	18	51	98	179
7.	Goa						3	3
8.	Gujarat	6	59	57	86	154	151	513
9.	Himachal Pradesh				1	2	2	5
10.	Haryana							0
11.	Jammu & Kashmir					2	2	4
12.	Jharkhand			9	5	11	22	47
13.	Karnataka	6	24	11	39	49	54	183
14.	Kerala	1	1	9	15	10	10	46
15.	Madhya Pradesh	3	86	35	66	220	301	711
16.	Maharashtra	20	40	23	152	622	416	1273
17.	Manipur					1		1
18.	Meghalaya			1	1	2		4
19.	Nagaland							0
20.	Odisha	2	2	4	8	55	77	148
21.	Punjab			1			4	5

22.	Rajasthan	17	14	33	23	29	36	152
23.	Sikkim							0
24.	Tamil Nadu	0	10	10	26	26	17	89
25.	Tripura					1		1
26.	Uttar Pradesh	4	24	21	22	16	14	101
27.	Uttarakhand				5	4	2	11
28.	West Bengal			1	1	4	16	22
	GRAND TOTAL	67	306	233	498	1296	1258	3658
	*Union Territory (UT)							

**Before bifurcation, as figures for Telengana are not received.

2.11 The Committee desired to know the measures taken / being proposed by the Government to ensure proper renovation of the 76% of large dams completed before 1990, for ensuring their safe functioning. To this query, the Ministry submitted a written reply as below:-

“Safety of dams in India is the principal concern of the dam owners which are mostly State Governments and they are involved in various aspects of their investigations, planning, design, construction operation and maintenance. All dams carry a certain risk to its failure due to unpredictable nature of floods, seismicity and gradual deterioration due to normal wear & tear and weathering overtime. A subjective analysis of Glacial Lake Outburst Flood (GLOF) and Dam Break studies are being carried out for Techno-economic

clearance of projects in order to ensure better safety of dams and of downstream area.

With the ever-increasing number of dams in India, Government of India realized the importance of dam safety and took a number of steps to reinforce its concern. Pursuant to the directives of the State Ministers' Conference and realizing the importance of dam safety, a Dam Safety Organization (DSO) was established in the Central Water Commission in May 1979. The Dam Safety Organization in CWC has made great efforts in creating awareness in the country and has succeeded to a large extent in convincing the States towards the concept of dam safety which has now been accepted by a large number of States.

Large numbers of States established their own Dam Safety Organisations (DSOs) and have taken up measures for ensuring dam safety in their respective jurisdictions – exercising responsibilities for maintaining an inventory of dams, compiling a history to reveal areas requiring special attention and monitoring administrative and technical procedures regarding dam safety. So far, 17 States have created State-level DSOs. Besides, three of the dam owing organizations – namely, NHPC, BBMB and Kerala State Electricity Board – have also created their own DSOs.

Government of India has also constituted the National Committee on Dam Safety (NCDS), which is helping in assimilating the experiences and guiding the dam safety activities in the country.

Government of India also implemented the Dam Safety Assurance & Rehabilitation Project (DSARP), assisted by the World Bank, in four States of the Indian Union – namely Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu –under overall guidance of the CWC during the period 1991 to 1999 at a cost of US\$ 86 million. 33 dams were rehabilitated under DSARP. Besides basic dam safety facilities like providing access roads, backup power, instrumentation, installation of communication system, stockpiling of emergency material, etc., was provided at 182 dams.

Government of India is currently implementing the “Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Project (DRIP) with World Bank assistance under which 223 existing dams in 4 states (Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Kerala, and Tamil Nadu) are targeted for rehabilitation. The project has become effective from 18th April, 2012, and will be implemented over a period of six years.”

2.12 When asked whether the Government has carried out any assessment about the Dams in the country, the Ministry informed the Committee as under:-

“No, Sir. Maintenance, operation and safety aspects related to dam are being looked after by the concerned State Governments. The Dam Safety

Organization of Central Water Commission is associated with recommending the State Dam Safety Organizations to undertake Pre and Post- Monsoon inspections of all the dams under their control and take immediate appropriate measures to remove deficiencies that have been noted. Besides this, it has been prescribed by the Dam Safety Organization of the Central Water Commission that the States shall arrange safety review of dams which are more than 15 metre in height or which store 50,000 acre feet or more of water by an independent panel of experts once in 10 years. The CWC has published a report on Dam Safety Procedures containing necessary guidelines for the benefits of State Governments to maintain the dams under their custody."

2.13 On being asked whether the Ministry keeps a similar National Register of Medium and Minor Dams as in case of large dams, the Ministry submitted as under:-

"There is no classification such as medium or minor dams. As far as Dam Safety Organization, the CWC is concerned, there is no National Register of Medium and Minor dams as in case of large dams. The State Governments are maintaining the list of other than large dams at their level."

2.14 When asked to furnish a list of large dams in India having the risk of dam failure and the steps taken / being proposed for preventing their possible failure, the Ministry replied as under:-

"Dams are owned and maintained by the concerned dam owners which are mostly the State Governments. Dam owners generally carry out pre-Monsoon and post-Monsoon inspections of their dams as per the standard proforma or check-list. Some of the owners also conduct comprehensive dam safety reviews of distressed dams through an independent panel of experts known as "Dam Safety Review Panel". In case of any distress conditions noticed, repair and rehabilitation are taken by the concerned dam owners. As such, the list of large dams having risk of dam failure is not available."

2.15 When asked to furnish the contingency measures / plans put in place by the Government to prepare for any eventuality of dam break catastrophe in the country, the Ministry in their written reply stated as under:-

"The CWC has published Guidelines for the preparation of Emergency Action Plan (EAP) and is vigorously pursuing the dam owners who are mostly State Governments to prepare EAP of all the dams under their control as per Glacial Lake Outburst Flood (GLOF) and Dam Break studies to meet any eventuality of dam break catastrophe in the country and pursue the States through National Committee on Dam Safety (NCDS)."

Budget allocations

2.16 The Committee note that the Ministry provide technical know-how to the State Governments through its subsidiary organizations for planning, formulation and execution of all Medium Irrigation projects. The Non-Plan Budget allocation for 2014-

15 has been increased to Rs 263.81 crore as compared to the previous financial year 2013-14 which was Rs 251.66 at BE stage. The total increase amounts to Rs 12.15 crore. When asked the reasons for increased allocation by Rs. 12.15 crore during 2014-15 over BE 2013-14, despite the decrease in allocation at RE stage in the same year by Rs. 17.14 crore, the Ministry replied that the reduction at RE 2013-14 stage (Rs.17.14 crore) is mainly due to reduction of Rs.12.49 crore under 'Data Collection' by Ministry of Finance under object heads (1) 'Minor Works' for worked charged staff and (2) Rs. 4.99 crore under the Sutlej Yamuna Link Canal Scheme (provided for in anticipation of decision of Hon'ble Supreme Court, which is still awaited), whereas the reasons for increase in BE 2014-15 over 2013-14 under Medium Irrigation is mainly due to increase in salaries, increment, enhancement in DA etc. The Committee are unhappy to note the reduction of Budget allocations at Revised Estimate stage during 2013-14 again by the Ministry despite being asked to desist from this tendency by the Committee in their earlier Reports on Demands for Grants (2011-12, 2012-13 and 2013-14). The Committee observe that the Ministry has not taken the recommendation of the Committee in this regard in the right earnest inspite of repeated assurances. The Committee are therefore, constrained to recommend again that the Ministry should formulate their Budget Estimates judiciously with pre-planning exercise in addition to exercising effective control over its various Offices/Agencies so that in future no room is left for reduction at Revised stage in Budget Estimates. They also hope and expect that the Ministry will make all-out

efforts to achieve full utilization of the increased allocation of Rs. 12.15 crore during 2014-15 in respect of the sectors/heads for which allocations have been envisaged. The Committee desire to be apprised of the status in this regard.

Development of Water Resources Information System

2.17 The Committee note that under the Scheme of Development of Water Resources Information System (DWRIS) launched by the Government in June, 2008, field work and data processing for 4th Minor Irrigation (MI) census were targeted to be achieved during 2009-10. Giving the updated status of completion of 4th and 5th Minor Irrigation Census, the Ministry submitted that 4th Minor Irrigation (MI) Census has been completed with reference year 2006-07 and the report is available on website of Ministry. The Ministry has decided to conduct the 5th Minor Irrigation Census with traditional methodology with reference to year 2013-14, for which the Plan Scheme was approved in December, and the exercise is proposed for completion by the end of 12th Plan period ending March, 2017. The Committee, however, note with concern that for DWRIS the BE for 2013-14 was Rs. 150 crore and the RE was Rs. 43 crore. The Committee are not happy with this tendency of overestimations at the BE stage by such a huge margin and impress upon the Ministry to be more realistic while preparing BE. Noting that the Development of Water Resources Information System has a vital objective to develop a water resources information system, the Committee recommend that all-out efforts should be made for completion of the exercise for 5th

Minor Irrigation Census by the scheduled target i.e. March, 2017 under intimation to this Committee.

2.18 The Committee further note that the CWC is at present monitoring 87 important reservoirs in the country. Reportedly, the State Governments collect reservoir data and send the same to CWC, which publish the live storage status of reservoirs in the form of weekly bulletins to Crop Weather Watch Group (CWWG) constituted by the Ministry of Agriculture to monitor various agricultural activities in the country. According to the Ministry many a times, reservoir data is not received in time and therefore, the Ministry/CWC has decided to install automatic water level recorders on the important reservoirs in the country during 12th Plan so that the data is transmitted to the monitoring cell in real time, through satellite-based transmission network. During 12th Plan, a total of 120 (87 existing plus 33 additional) reservoirs have been selected in the country for data collection. The Committee desire that the Ministry should take expeditious and effective steps to achieve its goal of installing automatic water level recorders on all important reservoirs in the country during 12th Plan and also complete the target set for this exercise in the 12th Plan. The Committee also feel that installation of Automatic Water Level Recorders should not be confined only to important reservoirs, rather efforts should be made to cover all the reservoirs in the country in a phased manner. They should be apprised of further action taken in this regard.

Dam Safety

2.19 As per the information compiled through National Register of Large Dams (NRLD) maintained by the Central Water Commission, presently there are 5195 large dams in India. Out of these, 4847 are completed and 348 dams are stated to be under construction. Out of the completed large dams, about 76% were completed before 1990. Noting that there are as many as 67 dams constructed before 1900 and 306 between 1900 and 1950 in the country, the Committee are perturbed to note that the Government has not carried out any assessment about the safety-levels of Dams in the country on the plea that the maintenance, operation and safety aspects related to dams are being looked after by the concerned State Governments. The Committee are given to understand that it has been prescribed by the Dam Safety Organization of the Central Water Commission that the States shall arrange safety review of dams which are more than 15 metre in height or which store 50,000 acre feet or more of water by an independent panel of experts once in 10 years and further that the CWC has published a report on Dam Safety Procedures containing necessary guidelines for the benefits of State Governments to maintain the dams under their custody. The Committee, therefore, urge the Ministry to ensure safety review of dams which are more than 15 metre high or which store 50,000 acre feet or more, by an independent panel of experts once in 10 years as prescribed. Given the fact that there are as many as 373 large dams in the country over 60 years old, the Committee is agonized that the Government is not keeping a list of large dams in the country having the risk

of dam failure. The Committee while expressing displeasure over this, strongly recommend the Government to immediately take concrete action in this regard before the expiry of this financial year (2014-15) and apprise the Committee as well as all stake-holders.

2.20 Noting further that the CWC has published Guidelines for the preparation of Emergency Action Plan (EAP) and is pursuing the dam owners, who are mostly State Governments, to prepare EAP of all the dams under their control as per Glacial Lake Outburst Flood (GLOF) and Dam Break studies, the Committee expect an immediate and fresh initiative by the Ministry to ensure that the Emergency Action Plan Guidelines under reference are fully adhered to by all dam owners in the country. The Committee would like to be apprised of the action taken in this regard.

CHAPTER III

MINOR IRRIGATION

3.1 Minor Irrigation (MI) schemes are those ground and surface water schemes which have a Culturable Command Area (CCA) upto 2,000 hectare individually. Surface water minor irrigation schemes are generally funded from the public sector outlay.

3.2 The Budget allocations for Minor Irrigation including actual expenditure are given in the following table.

Table-14 : Budget allocations for Minor Irrigation

(Rs in crore/gross)

Actual Expenditure 2012-13		BE 2013-14		RE 2013-14		Actual Expenditure 2013-14		BE 2014-15	
Plan	Non-Plan	Plan	Non-Plan	Plan	Non-Plan	Plan	Non-Plan	Plan	Non-Plan
135.38	118.65	256.02	134.31	119.00	127.32	101.69	127.21	357.02	136.35

3.3 The Budget allocations for Minor Irrigation under Plan head was Rs. 256.02 crore for BE 2013-14, which was hiked to Rs. 357.02 crore for 2014-15 (BE). This represents an increase of Rs. 101.00 crore over the allocation in 2013-14, although the allocations had to be reduced during the corresponding period from Rs. 256.02 crore at BE stage to Rs. 119.00 at RE stage. When asked by the Committee to state the reason for reduction of Plan allocation for 2013-14 to Rs. 119 crore at Revised Estimate state and whether some schemes / projects suffer fund shortage or slackening of work progress on account of this

reduction, the Ministry apprised the Committee that the approval in respect of the scheme was obtained after elapse of six months. On account of this, the expenditure was quite low by the month of September, 2013 due to which the budget was curtailed at RE stage by Ministry of Finance. The Ministry also informed that due to delay in approval of scheme of 'Ground Water Management & Regulation', the activities as envisaged could not be taken up. But there was no shortage of funds.

Ground Water Management and Regulation

3.4 The Scheme of Ground Water Management and Regulation (GWM&R) was launched with the merger of some of the 10th Plan schemes at a cost of Rs.460.00 crore for implementation by the Central Ground Water Board during 11th Plan.

3.5 The Budget allocations for GWM&R are given in the following table.

Table-15 : Budget allocations for Ground Water Management and Regulation

(Rs. in crore/gross)

Actual Expenditure 2012-13		BE 2013-14		RE 2013-14		Actual Expenditure 2013-14		BE 2014-15	
Plan	Non-Plan	Plan	Non-Plan	Plan	Non-Plan	Plan	Non-Plan	Plan	Non-Plan
117.97	0.00	232.50	0.00	106.00	0.00	83.17	0.00	350.00	0.00

3.6 Asked about the reasons for the reduction of Budget allocation to Rs. 106 crore during 2013-14 at Revised Estimate stage and why the allocation for BE 2014-15 was kept at Rs. 350 crore in spite of this reduction, the Ministry submitted as under:-

"The scheme of Ground Water Management & Regulation was approved in September 2013 as a result the budget was curtailed. However, it is now expected that full utilization of funds will take place during the current financial year. In view of high priority accorded by the Government to Aquifer Mapping and Management Programme in the country, it was decided to retain the original allocation of Rs 350 crore for the year 2014-15."

Aquifer Mapping

3.7 Aquifer mapping is a multi-disciplinary scientific process wherein a combination of geologic, geophysical, hydro-geological, hydrological and water quality data are integrated to characterize the quantity, quality and distribution of ground water in aquifers. 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 and design of wells, water logged areas and quality problem areas etc. Aquifer mapping is one programme among the major activities proposed during 12th Plan under GWM&R.

3.8 The Committee wanted to know the status of Aquifer mapping in the country being carried out under GWM&R. To this query, the Ministry informed that Aquifer mapping has been initiated so far in 2.76 lakh sq. km. and is under various stages of progress. During 2012-13, an amount of Rs. 118.28 crore was incurred on Aquifer Mapping whereas the figure for 2013-14 was only Rs. 80.40 crore. Till August, 2014, an amount of Rs. 92.43

crore (including an amount of Rs. 67 crore placed at the disposal of DGS&D) was incurred by the Ministry. An area of 8.89 lakh sq. km. is targeted to be covered under Aquifer mapping programme during 12th Plan.

3.9 When to furnish Budget allocation for Aquifer Mapping in 2014-15, the Ministry replied as under:-

“The budget allocation for the Scheme of Ground Water Management & Regulation during 2014-15 is Rs 350 crore, of which aquifer mapping component is for Rs 140 crore and is felt to be adequate for meeting the requirements.”

3.10 The Ministry further informed that in order to realize the targets under Aquifer mapping, State-level Ground Water Coordination Committee has been set up in most of the States / UTs. Various activities like Data Compilation, Identification of Data Gap, Data Generation, Data Integration, Aquifer Map Preparation, Aquifer Response Modelling & Aquifer Management Plan are being taken up. Regular meetings of National Inter-departmental Steering Committee and Project Monitoring Group are being held.

3.11 According to the Ministry, a new technique called ‘3-D Aquifer mapping’ programme is proposed to be initiated during December, 2014 for which some preliminary activities have already been taken up. Under 3-D Aquifer mapping, delineation of lateral and vertical disposition of aquifers with their characterization in 3 dimension on a much larger scale of 1:50,000 or higher scale in some of the vulnerable areas is envisaged to conceptualize the aquifer geometry precisely.

Central Ground Water Authority

3.12 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.

3.13 The CGWA is regulating ground water withdrawal through notification of over-exploited/critical areas. The Ministry, in their Action Taken Replies on recommendations of the Committee in their 17th Report on Demands for Grants (2013-14), informed that the CGWA has notified a total 162 over-exploited/critical areas in the country. Further, the CGWA has further issued directions to the Authorized Officer (s) 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 Board to set up 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 on conditions in NOC issued.

3.14 The Committee wanted to know the number of cases / complaints received in connection with violation of CGWA directions regarding notified areas and penal action

taken so far for against any person or authority. To this query, the Ministry replied as under:-

“In total, 133 complaints have been received by Central Ground Water Authority. CGWA has forwarded the complaints received to Authorised Officers (District Collectors/Deputy Commissioners/District Magistrates) for taking penal action as per Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. As per information available with CGWA, apparently some cases are under trial in courts. The CGWA does not have any complaint pending with it.”

3.15 When asked whether penal action (including fine/jail term) has been imposed on individuals/authorities for violation of CGWA directions, the Ministry also informed that some of the Authorized Officers in the notified areas have taken penal action like sealing of tube wells, filing of court cases etc. in case of violations of directions of CGWA.

Central Ground Water Board

3.16 The Central Ground Water Board (CGWB), under the Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation is a multi-disciplinary scientific organization with a mandate to “develop and disseminate technologies, monitor and implement national policies for the scientific and sustainable development and management of India’s ground water resources, including their exploration, assessment, conservation, augmentation,

protection from pollution and distribution, based on principles of economic and ecological efficiency and equity.” The CGWB has 18 regional offices, each headed by a Regional Director, supported by 17 engineering Divisions and 11 State Units for undertaking various activities. To meet the various challenges, the proposal for restructuring of CGWB is under consideration of the Ministry.

3.17 The Budget allocations for Central Ground Water Board are given in the following table.

Table-16 : Budget allocations for Central Ground Water Board

(Rs. in crore/gross)

Actual Expenditure 2012-13		BE 2013-14		RE 2013-14		Actual Expenditure 2013-14		BE 2014-15	
Plan	Non-Plan	Plan	Non-Plan	Plan	Non-Plan	Plan	Non-Plan	Plan	Non-Plan
0.00	118.65	0.00	134.31	0.00	127.32	0.00	127.17	0.00	136.35

3.18 The Ministry informed that ground water resources assessment and categorization of assessment units is being carried out after every two years jointly with the respective State Government departments. Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) is monitoring ground water level on regional scale through network of observation wells in the country. At the level of the Ministry, a National Inter-departmental Steering Committee (NISC) and Project Monitoring Group (PMG) have been constituted, who have been regularly monitoring the project / scheme.

3.19 The Ministry have informed that as per assessment made in 2009, the annual replenishable ground water resource was estimated to be 431 billion cubic metre (BCM) and the stage of ground water development was 61%. The Ministry further in their written reply have submitted that State-wise assessment of Dynamic Ground Water Resources (as on 31st March 2011) has been carried out jointly by Central Ground Water Board and State Ground Water Departments and a report entitled 'Dynamic Ground Water Resources of India' (as on March 2011) is placed on website of CGWB (www.cgwb.gov.in). According to the latest assessment, the annual replenishable ground water resources in India is 433 BCM, whereas net annual ground water availability and annual ground water draft for irrigation, domestic and industrial usages respectively amount to 398 BCM and 245 BCM. The stage of ground water development is 62%. Of the 6,607 assessment units made, 697 units were semi-critical, 217 units were critical, 1071 units were over-exploited, and 92 units were saline. A total of 4,630 assessment units were found to be safe in the country.

3.20 Further giving a comparison of the ground water assessments of 2009 and 2011, the Ministry stated that the ground water quantity has deteriorated in 156 assessment units in the country, whereas 113 assessment units have shown improvement in terms of their categorization. Further, the saline assessment units have increased from 71 as per assessment of 2009 to 92 as on 2011. As per the dynamic ground water resources assessment (as on March 2011), there are 1,071 over-exploited assessment units as against 802 in the year 2009.

3.21 During the evidence of the Committee on Demands for Grants (2014-15), the Committee drew the attention of the Ministry to the illegal activities of many industries like tannery, meat plants etc which pollute ground water. To this, the Secretary elaborated during the evidence as under:-

“Sir, where the illegal activities are taking place, like I mention earlier, for the industrial part, the online census has been ordered and for that they have been given time till 31st March, 2015 by the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change and Central Ground Water Board.”

Scheme of Repair, Renovation and Restoration of Water Bodies

3.22 For revival of water bodies, the scheme on Repair, Renovation & Restoration (RRR) of Water Bodies in 12th Plan was approved by the Union Government in September, 2013 and guidelines were issued in October, 2013. Under the Scheme, about 10,000 water bodies having a Culturable Command Area (CCA) of 6.235 lakh ha would be covered. Out of 10,000 water bodies, 9000 water bodies will be in rural areas and balance 1,000 water bodies will be in urban areas. An outlay of Rs. 6,235 crore has been provided under the scheme during 12th Plan, while a total grant amounting to Rs. 120.339 crore has been released to the States for completion of spill over water bodies from 11th Plan and taking up new water bodies till date.

3.23 When asked about the achievements so far made in respect of works taken up for repair, renovation and restoration of water bodies in the country, the Ministry stated that

under the Pilot Scheme for RRR of water bodies directly linked to Agriculture launched in January, 2005 for implementation during 10th Plan, a total no. of 1098 water bodies in 26 districts of 15 states were taken up for revival. Out of this, work was completed in 1085 water bodies and work was dropped in 13 water bodies. An (irrigation) potential of 0.78 lakh ha. has been restored. During 11th Plan, the Government approved the scheme of RRR of water bodies with domestic support at an outlay of Rs. 1,250 crore for implementation. Under the scheme, a total no. of 3,341 water bodies were taken up in 12 States for restoration, out of which 2,100 water bodies have been completed so far and an irrigation potential of 0.93 lakh ha. has been restored till date. The Ministry further informed that the scheme on RRR in 12th Plan will emphasize development of catchment area, desiltation and command area development in respect of water bodies. The RRR scheme in rural area will be implemented in convergence with the Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP). The proposal of water bodies where the Integrated Water Management Programme is implemented would be considered for inclusion under the scheme of RRR of water bodies.

Budget allocations

3.24 The Committee observe that Minor Irrigation (MI) schemes are those ground and surface water schemes which have a Culturable Command Area (CCA) upto 2,000 hectare individually. The Budget allocations for Minor Irrigation under Plan head was Rs. 256.02 crore for BE 2013-14, which was hiked to Rs. 357.02 crore for 2014-15 (BE). This represents an increase of Rs. 101.00 crore over the allocation in

2013-14, although the allocations had to be reduced during the corresponding period from Rs. 256.02 crore at BE stage to Rs. 119.00 at RE stage. As informed by the Ministry, the reason for reduction of Budget allocations at RE stage was that the approval in respect of the scheme was obtained after elapse of six months. For this reason, the expenditure was quite low by the month of September, 2013 due to which the budget was curtailed at RE stage by the Ministry of Finance. The Ministry also informed that due to delay in approval of scheme of 'Ground Water Management & Regulation', the activities as envisaged could not be taken up. The Committee are distressed to note that the problem of reduction of Budget allocations at Revised Estimate stage have been persistently plaguing the budgetary projections of the Ministry in Minor Irrigation sector. The Committee note with concern that the reduction of allocations at RE stage shows poor pre-planning, lack of monitoring and control on the part of the Ministry. They, therefore, recommend that the Ministry must take concrete steps at the earliest to streamline and simplify the process of getting approval of water resources schemes under Minor Irrigation and thus avoid in future the chronic issue of reduction of allocations at RE stage so that both the manpower and resources are not wasted away in the process of estimation of allocations.

Ground Water Management and Regulation

3.25 The Committee note that the Scheme of Ground Water Management and Regulation (GWM&R) was launched with the merger of some of the 10th Plan schemes at a cost of Rs.460.00 crore for implementation by the Central Ground Water Board

during 11th Plan. The Committee further note that a Budget allocation of Rs. 232.50 crore was made during 2013-14 which was reduced to Rs. 106.00 crore at Revised Estimate Stage. The Budget allocation for 2014-15 was kept at Rs. 350.00 crore, which shows an increase of Rs. 128.50 over BE 2013-14 . The Ministry stated that the reason for the curtailment of the allocations was because of the scheme of Ground Water Management & Regulation was approved only in September 2013, as a result of which the budget was curtailed. However, it is now expected that full utilization of funds will take place during the current financial year. In view of high priority accorded by the Government to Aquifer Mapping and Management Programme in the country in the 12th Plan, it was decided to retain the original allocation of Rs 350.00 crore for the year 2014-15. The Committee are optimistic that concerted efforts will be made by the Ministry to fully utilize the Budget allocation of Rs. 350.00 crore made for Ground Water Management and Regulation during 2014-15 by constant monitoring and control and apprise the Committee accordingly. The Committee also feel that accountability should be fixed for under-utilization of funds as it has serious implications in the overall management of finances in the country.

Aquifer Mapping

3.26 The Committee note that Aquifer mapping is one programme among the major activities proposed during 12th Plan under GWM&R. An amount of Rs. 140 crore has been allocated for this programme during 2014-15, whereas Rs. 80.40 crore was

incurred during 2013-14. The target set for Aquifer mapping during 12th Plan is 8.89 lakh sq. km, against which Aquifer mapping has been initiated so far in 2.76 lakh sq.km. and is under different stages of progress. The Committee note that in order to realize the targets under Aquifer Mapping, State-level Ground Water Coordination Committee has been set up in most of the States / UTs. Various activities like Data Compilation, Identification of Data Gap, Data Generation, Data Integration, Aquifer Map Preparation, Aquifer Response Modelling & Aquifer Management Plan are being taken up. Regular meetings of National Inter-departmental Steering Committee and Project Monitoring Group are being held.

3.27 While appreciating that the Ministry is proposing a new technique called 3-D Aquifer Mapping and also recognizing the potential benefit of this technique in identification of areas feasible for ground water development, ground water regulation, rainwater harvesting and artificial recharge, yield potential, depth and design of wells, water logged areas and quality problem areas etc., the Committee strongly recommend that this new improved technique should be introduced in all the priority areas such as over-exploited, critical, semi-critical, quality-affected and water scarce regions all over the country based on participatory approach involving in the programme various end-users like farmers and other stake-holders. They, therefore, urge upon the Ministry to come up with a suitable action plan for achieving the same during 2014-15 and inform the Committee accordingly.

Central Ground Water Authority

3.28 The Committee note that Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA), constituted under Section 3(3) of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, had notified a total 162 over-exploited/critical areas in the country and issued directions to the Authorized Officer (s) to ensure that no person/organization/industry will take any scheme/project in the notified area without prior specific approval of the CGWA. The Ministry informed that a total of 133 complaints have been received by Central Ground Water Authority which have been forwarded to Authorized Officers (District Collectors/Deputy Commissioners/District Magistrates) for taking penal action as per Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. As per information available with CGWA, apparently some cases are under trial in courts. The Ministry also informed that some of the Authorized Officers in the notified areas have taken penal action like sealing of tube wells, filing of court cases etc. in case of violations of directions of CGWA. Taking serious note of depletion of ground water level in the country, the Committee strongly recommend the Ministry to take vigorous steps to get the existing directions of CGWA enforced by the concerned authorities, namely District Collectors/Magistrates, courts, State Governments (State Pollution Control Boards) and Central Pollution Control Boards without fear or favour. They also recommend the Government to press for toning up the functioning of such regulatory/enforcement bodies such as Central Ground Water Authority, Central Pollution Control Board and State Pollution Control Boards so that there is no slackness in the implementation of the relevant directions by them.

Central Ground Water Board

3.29 The Committee note that the CGWB has 18 regional offices, each headed by a Regional Director, supported by 17 engineering Divisions and 11 State Units for undertaking various activities. The Committee's examination of Demands for Grants reveal that a Budget allocation of Rs. 136.35 crore has been made for Central Ground Water Board for 2014-15, which is almost the same amount allocated during BE 2013-14, i.e. Rs. 134.31 crore. The Ministry informed that the CGWB made an assessment of the dynamic ground water resources in the country in 2009 and assessed the annual replenishable ground water resource to be 431 billion cubic metre (BCM) and the stage of ground water development was 61%. However, as per the assessment of dynamic ground water resources carried out jointly by Central Ground Water Board and State Ground Water Departments (a report entitled 'Dynamic Ground Water Resources of India' is placed on website of CGWB www.cgwb.gov.in), the annual replenishable ground water resources in India (as on 31 March, 2014) is 433 BCM, while the net annual ground water availability and annual ground water draft for irrigation, domestic and industrial usages respectively are 398 BCM and 245 BCM. The stage of ground water development is 62%, and 697 assessment units were semi-critical, 217 assessment units critical, 1071 assessment units over-exploited, and 92 assessment units were saline. This shows that as compared to 2009, the ground water quantity in 2011, has deteriorated in 156 assessment units in the country, Further, the saline assessment units have increased from 71 to 92 during the same

period, and there are 1,071 over-exploited assessment units as against 802 in the year 2009.

3.30 Noting that the overall ground water scenario in the country has deteriorated in the last 5 years or so and that the proposal for revamping the Central Ground Water Board is on the anvil of the MoWR, RD and GR, the Committee hope that this exercise be completed in a time-bound manner at the earliest so that the Board become empowered, adequately staffed and strengthened to undertake its various activities and thereby fulfill its mandate effectively and satisfactorily. The Committee would like to be apprised of the action taken in the matter.

3.31 The Committee note that the quality of ground water in some parts of the country have deteriorated due to pollution of under ground water by industries like tannery, meat plant, etc. They also note the reply of the Ministry that an online census has been ordered by the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change and the Central Ground Water Board in respect of such areas associated with illegal activities by 31st March, 2015. The Committee urge upon the Ministry to vigorously pursue it with the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change and the Central Ground Water Board to ensure timely completion of the stated online census by the schedule date, 31st March, 2015 and apprise the Committee accordingly.

Scheme of Repair, Renovation and Restoration of Water Bodies

3.32 The Committee also note that for revival of water bodies, the scheme on Repair, Renovation & Restoration (RRR) of Water Bodies in 12th Plan was approved by the Union Government in September, 2013 and guidelines were issued in October, 2013. Under the Scheme, about 10,000 water bodies having a Culturable Command Area (CCA) of 6.235 lakh ha would be covered. Out of 10,000 water bodies, 9000 water bodies will be in rural areas and balance 1,000 water bodies will be in urban areas. An outlay of Rs. 6,235 crore has been provided under the scheme during 12th Plan, while a total grant amounting to Rs. 120.339 crore has been released to the States for completion of spill over water bodies from 11th Plan and taking up new water bodies till date. Realizing the importance of water bodies as a major factor for recharging ground water all over the country, the Committee recommend that the Ministry explore the viability of convergence of works pertaining to RRR Scheme in rural areas with those taken up for ground water recharge under MNREGA Scheme so that at least 10% of the fund allocated under the MNREGA Scheme is utilized for activities taken up for repair, renovation and restoration of water bodies in the rural areas. The Committee are of the opinion that if necessary, the Ministry may also encourage Members of Parliament for making optimal utilization of their MPLAD funds in respect of works related to rejuvenation of water bodies.

3.33 Further noting the importance of compilation and maintenance of data regarding the number, size and ownership status of water bodies spread across the country for comprehensive and coordinated efforts by the Centre and States for

repair, renovation and restoration of water bodies, the Committee recommend the Ministry to undertake a comprehensive census of water bodies in India and place the data on public domain such as website of the Ministry and WRIS so that it serves as useful tool for policy-makers, planners, water users and other stake-holders. The Committee would like to apprise of action taken in this regard.

CHAPTER IV
FLOOD CONTROL AND DRAINAGE

4.1 Every year, some part or the other of the country gets flooded. To control/manage the floods, a multi-pronged approach consisting of measures of prevention, protection, management, forecasting and early warning are needed.

4.2 The Budget allocations for Flood Control and Drainage are given in the table below.

Table-17: Budget allocations for Flood Control and Drainage

(Rs. in crore/gross)

Actual Expenditure 2012-13		BE 2013-14		RE 2013-14		Actual Expenditure 2013-14		BE 2014-15	
Plan	Non-Plan	Plan	Non-Plan	Plan	Non-Plan	Plan	Non-Plan	Plan	Non-Plan
117.95	74.09	206.00	78.96	51.20	75.53	129.21	77.52	114.00	84.32

4.3 The Plan allocation for Flood Control and Drainage for the year 2013-14 was earmarked at Rs.206.00 crore. However, it was reduced to Rs.51.20 crore at the Revised Estimate stage for the same financial year and increased to Rs.114.00 crore for BE 2014-15. The actual expenditure during 2013-14 was Rs. 129.21 crore under Plan head, while

the Budget Estimate for 2014-15 was kept at Rs. 114.00 crore, which is Rs. 92 crore less than the allocations made during BE 2013-14.

4.4 Asked to give the reason for reduction of Plan allocation for Flood Control at Revised Estimate stage to Rs. 51.20 crore during 2013-14 while the actual expenditure stood at Rs. 129.21 crore, the Ministry in a written reply submitted as under:-

“The main two Central Plan Schemes namely ‘Flood Forecasting’ and ‘River Management Activities and Works Related to Border Areas’ are yet to be approved by the competent authority due to which new activities proposed planned in 2013-14 could not commence and the allocations in 2013-14 was reduced at RE stage.”

Flood Damage

4.5 The Ministry furnished the losses resulted in the country during the 11th and 12th Plan periods due to floods (year-wise) in terms of human life, property, cattle, agricultural land etc. which is reproduced in a table as under:-

Table - 18: Year-wise flood damages in the country during 11th & 12th Plans (2007 to 2013)

Year	Area affected	Popula tion affect- ed	Damage to Crops		Damage to Houses		Cattle lost	Hum an lives lost	Damage to public utilities	Total damages to Crops, Houses & Public utilities
			Area	Value	Nos.	Value				
	mha	million s	mha	Rs. in crore		Rs. in crore	nos.	nos.	Rs. in crore	Rs. in crore
										(col.6+8+11)

)
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
2007	7.145	41.402	8.795	3121.532	3280233	2113.108	89337	3389	8049.037	13283.677
2008	3.427	29.910	3.186	3401.563	1566809	1141.891	101780	2876	5046.481	9589.935
2009	3.844	29.537	3.592	4232.609	1235628	10809.795	63383	1513	17509.353	32551.758
2010	2.624	18.297	4.994	5887.380	293830	875.952	39706	1582	12757.253	19520.586
2011	1.895	15.973	2.718	1393.847	1152518	410.475	35982	1761	6053.570	7857.892
2012	2.141	14.689	1.950	1534.108	174526	240.573	31558	933	9169.968	10944.649
2013	0.746	17.809	1.693	3159.674	593838	509.176	153779	1924	3008.120	10092.700
TOTAL	21.821	167.617	26.928	22730.714	8297382	16100.971	515525	13978	61593.782	103841.197
AVG.	3.117	23.945	3.847	3247.245	1185340	2300.139	73646	1996	8799.112	14834.457
MAX.	7.145	41.402	8.795	5887.380	3280233	10809.795	153779	3389	17509.353	2009.000
(YEAR)	2007	2007	2007	2010	2007	2009	2013	2007	2009	2009

Master Plans

4.6 The Committee wanted to know the flood-prone basins of the country. In reply thereto, the Ministry informed that Ganga and Brahmaputra are the historically known main flood-prone basins of the country. However, recurrent floods have recently been experienced in other basins also.

4.7 The National Water Policy, 2002 envisaged that there should be a Master Plan for flood control and management for each flood prone basin. When asked whether Master Plans of flood management have been prepared in pursuance of National Water Policy 2002 for each flood-prone basins, the Ministry replied as under:-

“The Master Plans for Ganga and Brahmaputra Basins which are the main flood-prone basins have been prepared even prior to National Water Policy, 2002. However, the recommendations of National Water Policy, 2002 and 2012 are incorporated / being addressed during updation of these Master Plans.”

4.8 On being further asked the progress made in preparing Master Plans in the country, the Ministry submitted as under:-

“The Brahmaputra Board has prepared 57 Master Plans for NE Region and Ganga Flood Control Commission has prepared 23 Master Plans for Ganga basin States and the same had been forwarded to concerned States for implementation . These Master Plans are also updated from time to time in consultation with the State Governments.”

4.9 The achievements (physical and financial) made under Flood Control since 11th Plan is given below:-

Sl. No.	Name of Scheme	Physical achievements since 11 th Plan (upto FY: 2013-14)	Financial Achievements since 11 th Plan (upto FY:2013-14)
1	Flood Forecasting (FF)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flood Forecasting activities were continued throughout the country. • Modern system of automatic data collection was installed at 222 stations besides the system installed at 223 stations prior to 11th Plan. • One Earth Receiving Station (ERS) was set up at New Delhi besides two earlier ERS at Bural and Jaipur for downloading the data signals. • 10 Modelling Centres were established besides 11 Modelling Centres set up prior to 11th Plan, for data analysis and its validation including flood forecast formulation. 	An expenditure of Rs. 152.94 crore was incurred since 11 th Plan.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mathematical modeling studies were continued. 	
2	River Management Activities and Works related to Border Areas (RMBA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hydrological observations and flood forecasting activities on common border rivers with neighbouring countries were continued. • Survey & Investigations for Panscheshwar Multipurpose Project were completed and hydrological observations for verifications of design parameters were continued. • Survey & investigations for Sapta High Kosi Dam were undertaken and the works were in progress. • Breach closure works of Kosi Embankments were completed. • Works of strengthening and extension of embankments of Kamla, Bagmati, Lalbakeya and Khando in Nepal portion were completed. • Dredging of river Ichamati in 20 km. in West Bengal was completed. • Anti-erosion works of Majuli Island and Debang Project were in progress. • Preparation of Master Plans and their regular updation were undertaken by Brahmaputra Board. • The physical and financial progress of flood management works in Ganga basin States was monitored by Ganga Flood Control Commission. 	An expenditure of Rs. 777.16 crore was incurred since 11 th Plan.
3	Flood Management Programme (state sector scheme)	517 flood management projects were included under this Programme since 11 th Plan, out of which 252 projects had been completed and remaining projects are in progress. The completed projects have provided protection to 2.589 lakh hectare of old flood-affected area and 19.593 lakh hectare of new flood-affected area benefitting the population of 197.277 lakh in various States against floods.	A total Central assistance of Rs. 4259.73 crore has been released under FMP since 11 th Plan till date.

Flood Forecasting

4.10 The objective of the Flood Forecasting Scheme is to strengthen flood forecasting and inflow forecasting network in India and develop forecast information system.

4.11 The Budget outlays of Flood Forecasting system have given in the following table.

Table-19: Budget outlays of Flood Forecasting system

(Rs. in crore/gross)

Actual Expenditure 2012-13		BE 2013-14		RE 2013-14		Actual Expenditure 2013-14		BE 2014-15	
Plan	Non-Plan	Plan	Non-Plan	Plan	Non-Plan	Plan	Non-Plan	Plan	Non-Plan
25.20	0.00	130.00	0.00	20.80	0.00	21.61	0.00	90.00	0.00

4.12 When asked the reason for reduction in Plan allocation from Rs. 130 crore at BE 2013-14 to Rs. 90 crore in 2014-15 (BE), the Ministry informed that as the Scheme was not approved yet, no new works can be taken up. The actual expenditure for flood forecasting during 2013-14 also worked out to only Rs. 21.61 crore. There was also reduction in allocation under this head from Rs. 130 crore at BE to Rs. 20.80 crore at RE stage during 2013-14. The Ministry further informed that all efforts are being made to prepare the scheme according to requirements of EFC.

4.13 Asked how many flood forecasting stations are being operated in the country as of March, 2014, the Ministry replied as under:-

“Flood forecasts are issued by CWC at 175 stations (147 Level Forecast Stations + 28 Inflow Forecast Stations). Annually, about 6000 flood forecasts are issued by CWC during floods.”

4.14 The Ministry informed that it has proposed to undertake various works/activities on Flood Forecasting during 12th Plan including (i) continuation of ongoing activities in relation to 175 existing flood forecasting stations sanctioned in earlier Plan period, (ii) modernization of 219 new flood forecasting stations by installation of automatic data acquisition and satellite-based data transmission system at these remote stations, (iii) setting up of 100 new flood forecasting stations which would also involve 310 new base stations for installation of automatic data acquisition and satellite-based data transmission system, and (iv) inundation modeling using available DEMs for forecast generation.

Strengthening & Modernization of Flood Forecasting and Hydrological Observation Network in Brahmaputra and Barak Basin.

4.15 The Budget (Non-Plan) allocation for 'Strengthening & Modernization of Flood Forecasting and Hydrological observation Network in Brahmaputra and Barak Basin' is given in a table below:

Table-20 : Budget allocations for Scheme of 'Strengthening & Modernization of Flood Forecasting and Hydrological Observation Network in Brahmaputra and Barak Basin'

(Rs. in crore/gross)

Actual Expenditure 2012-13	BE 2013-14	RE 2013-14	Actual Expenditure 2013-14	BE 2014-15

2.72	3.04	2.71	2.42	3.23
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4.16 Every year river Brahmaputra suffers devastating floods which impact thousands of people and property worth of crores. During 11th Plan period alone, enormous damages have been caused due to floods in North-Eastern States of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland and Tripura, i.e. 1.053 Mha. area and 3.722 million people were affected with the loss of 112 human lives and total damages to crops, houses and public utilities amount to Rs. 537.070 crore. Further, due to annual floods in Brahmaputra, animal life in Kaziranga National Park is adversely affected. Asked further whether the Ministry has examined the feasibility of dredging the Brahmaputra river channel for addressing the problem of devastating flood of Assam, the Ministry furnished the following reply:-

“Brahmaputra Board has not yet taken up study on feasibility of dredging in the Brahmaputra River for addressing the problem of floods and erosion in Assam.”

4.17 The Ministry also informed that out of the 7 statutory posts in Brahmaputra Board , only the post of Secretary is filled in and other remaining 6 posts are lying vacant. Filling up of posts of Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Financial Adviser are under process in Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation while vacancy circular for filling up the posts of General Manager and Chief Engineer-I has been issued and the

proposal for filling up the post of Secretary and Chief Engineer-II on regular basis is under submission to the Ministry.

4.18 Asked to provide the updated status of the restructuring of Brahmaputra Board, the Ministry replied as under:-

“Draft Policy Documents of restructuring of Brahmaputra Board as Brahmaputra & Barak River Basin Authority (BBRBA) considering the integrated River Basin Management approach was formulated in MoWR and sent to N.E. States including West Bengal for their views. All the N.E. States and West Bengal have in principle agreed for restructuring of Brahmaputra Board as Brahmaputra & Barak River Basin Authority. The draft Bill on Brahmaputra & Barak River Basin Authority is under finalization in the Ministry.”

Flood Havoc in Jammu and Kashmir

4.19 An unprecedented flood devastated Jammu and Kashmir this year (2014), causing untold misery to the people. Commenting on this tragedy, the Ministry stated that in Jammu and Kashmir, the Central Water Commission (CWC) is operating 11 sites in Chenab and 5 sites in Jhelum to collect data for water resources planning purposes. Those are hydrological observations mainly for gauge discharge of silt and water quality. The CWC has no flood forecasting network in the State.

4.20 When the Committee enquired the reasons for the unprecedented flood in Jammu and Kashmir during September, 2014, the Ministry furnished the following reply:-

"J&K state experienced heavy to very heavy rainfall during September 3-7, 2014 resulting widespread flooding in different parts of the state. The maximum impact of flooding was around Srinagar city. As per IMD records, the average rainfall in the drainage area of Jhelum river up to Srinagar during September 3-7, 2014 was about 303 mm. This rainfall was about 320% more than the maximum monthly normal of the monsoon months. Resulting runoff from continuous heavy rainfall was many times more than the carrying capacity of the Jhelum river, causing overtopping of flood protection embankments of Jhelum and consequent inundation in almost entire Srinagar town.

Similarly, the departure of actual rainfall in Chenab basin was about 300% of monthly normal on monsoon period.

Srinagar town and surrounding valley are located in bowl shaped area. Topography indicates that once Jhelum river enters Kashmir valley plains, the slope of the river and surrounding area becomes as flat as 1m in 10 km or 1:10000. The Jhelum also maintains the slope of the order of 1:7500 downstream of Srinagar and upto Wular lake. Because of that terrain, even the rainfall of 175mm at Srinagar and 311mm at Malangpura was so heavy to create drainage congestion and heavy water logging in Srinagar area. It is to note that this rainfall was taking place directly over the city and surroundings and hence was causing build up of water levels in low lying area between 3rd to 7th September 2014 and the additional flow coming from high altitudes

in Jhelum caused breaches in the embankment thereby further adding the water in the areas which are known to be low lying.

The flat slope of terrain down stream of Srinagar town was not capable of discharging the accumulated water rapidly which has made the water stand for a long time and hence the damage was accentuated.

Based on the above, it is clear that the floods from the river has played a supplementary part and drainage congestion is the main culprit. Rainfall values were independently available to all concerned in real-time. Hence, causes can be concluded as follows:

- Primary reason being heavy local rainfall which created a drainage congestion and after which the floods arrived from higher reaches.
- Breach of embankments have compounded the misery due to flow of flood water into low lying areas of city which do not have any normal outlet.
- The slope of river downstream of Srinagar upto Wular lake is only 1 in 7500. Such a flat natural slopes prevented speedy evacuation of accumulated water and have also contributed to the continuation of standing water for long periods."

4.21 The Committee further asked whether the State Government of Jammu and Kashmir was issued any flood warning by the CWC. To this query, the Ministry replied as under:-

"Since CWC is not maintaining Flood Forecasting network in J&K, no hydrological forecast was issued by CWC to the Govt of J&K for 2014 flood in the State."

Budget allocations

4.22 The Committee observe that the Plan allocation for Flood Control for the year 2013-14 was earmarked at Rs. 206.00 crore. However, it was reduced to Rs. 51.20 crore at the Revised Estimate stage for the same financial year and the allocation for 2014-15 was kept at Rs. 114.00 crore. The Committee are unhappy to note the reduction in the Budget allocations for Flood Control from the previous financial year, i.e. 2013-14 onwards and hope that this does not represent downscaling or sluggishness of works pertaining to flood control, flood protection and mitigation in the country. The Committee also note the Ministry's reply which attributed the reduction of allocation at RE stage to Rs. 51.20 crore during 2013-14 to non-approval of two main Plan schemes, viz. 'Flood Forecasting' and 'River Management Activities and works Related to Border Areas' by the competent authority due to which new activities proposed/planned in 2013-14 could not commence thereby causing the reduction at RE stage. The reasons put forward by the Ministry only reflect regrettable lack of foresightedness and seriousness at the time of making assessment of Budget allocations. The Committee would like to know the reasons behind "non-approval" of the said two main Plan schemes and also recommend the Ministry to simplify and streamline the procedures for getting approvals in order to eliminate administrative delays and apprise them of the action taken accordingly.

Flood Control

4.23 The Committee note that under the Plan scheme of Flood Control, a total expenditure of Rs. 152.94 crore was incurred since 11th Plan on Flood Forecasting, a total of Rs. 777.16 crore on River Management Activities and Works related to Border Areas, and a total of Rs. 4,259.73 crore on Flood Management Programme. They note that under Flood Forecasting programme, modern system of automatic data collection was installed at 222 stations besides the system installed at 223 stations prior to 11th Plan. One Earth Receiving Station (ERS) was set up at New Delhi besides two earlier ERS at Bural and Jaipur for downloading the data signals, while 10 Modelling Centres were established besides 11 such centres already set up before 11th Plan, for data analysis and its validation including flood forecast formulation. In addition, under Flood Management Programme, 517 flood management projects were included since 11th Plan, out of which 252 projects were completed providing flood protection to 2.589 lakh ha. of old flood-affected area and 19.593 lakh ha. of new flood-affected area benefitting a population of 197.277 lakh in various States, while the remaining projects are in progress. The Committee would like the Government to take action expeditiously for installing modern system of automatic data collection in additional stations besides 223 stations already installed prior to 11th Plan under Flood Forecasting scheme. They also desire the Ministry to accelerate the pace of works pertaining to Earth Receiving Station (ERS) already set up at New Delhi, Bural

and Jaipur, and also the Modelling Centres besides 11 such centres set up prior to 11th Plan, for data analysis and its validation including flood forecast formulation.

4.24 Further noting that only 252 projects out of the 517 flood management projects taken up since 11th Plan have been completed, the Committee urge the Government to vigorously pursue with the State Governments and various agencies such as Ganga Flood Control Commission, Central Water Commission and Brahmaputra Board to make all-out efforts for completing the remaining projects during the 12th Plan period so that more flood-affected areas are brought under the umbrella of flood protection, mitigation and relief. The Committee should be apprised of further development in the matter.

Master Plans

4.25 The Committee note that annual floods during 11th and 12th Plans (2007-13) have affected 21.821 Mha. area and 167.617 million people with approximately 14,000 loss of human lives. Besides, the damages caused in terms of damages to crops, houses, cattle lost, damage to public utilities also amounted to Rs. 1,03,841.197 crore in monetary terms during the same period. In this connection, the Committee note that recurrent floods have recently been experienced in basins besides Ganga & Brahmaputra. They also note that the National Water Policy, 2002 envisaged that there should be a Master Plan for flood control and management for each flood-prone basin and that accordingly, the Brahmaputra Board has prepared 57 Master Plans for NE States and the GFCC has prepared 23 Master Plans for Ganga basin States and

the same had been forwarded to concerned States for implementation. The Committee desire that apart from the Ganga and Brahmaputra basins which form the major flood-prone zones, the Government should initiate steps for having Master Plans for flood control and management for the other remaining river basins of the country. They also feel that the Ministry should pursue with the concerned State Governments of the Ganga and Brahmaputra basins through frequent meetings, written reminders, seminars etc. to ensure timely execution of the Master Plans. Additionally, the Committee would like to see accelerated pace of activities/works in flood control and management by concerned authorities, and they therefore, recommend the Ministry to initiate urgent steps to overhaul the organization and functioning of Ganga Flood Control Commission and Brahmaputra Board to enable them to achieve their mandate effectively. The Committee would like to be apprised of further action taken in this regard.

Flood Forecasting

4.26 The Committee note that the objective of the Flood Forecasting scheme is to strengthen flood forecasting and inflow forecasting network in India and develop forecast information system. A Budget allocation of Rs. 90.00 crore has been made for 2014-15 under this Plan head. The Ministry stated that the CWC through its monitoring stations numbering 175 (including 147 Level Forecast Stations plus 28 Inflow Forecast Stations) issues approximately 6,000 flood forecasts during floods to the concerned State Governments every year. The Ministry also informed that the

overall accuracy of forecasts issued by CWC over the past years has been upwards of 96% forecasts which compares well with international standards in view of the river characteristics in India. The Committee were informed that the Ministry also propose to undertake various works/activities on Flood Forecasting during 12th Plan to make it more effective and scientific. While appreciating near 100% accuracy in forecasting of floods by CWC over the years, the Committee would like the Ministry to prepare an implementable time-bound, year-wise action plan for achieving goals set for the 12th Plan and apprise the Committee of the achievements.

Strengthening & Modernization of Flood Forecasting and Hydrological Observation Network in Brahmaputra and Barak Basin.

4.27 The Committee note that every year river Brahmaputra brought devastating floods in North-East region which impact thousands of people and property worth of crores. During 11th Plan period alone, due to floods 1.053 Mha. area and 3.722 million people were affected with the loss of 112 human lives and total damages to crops, houses and public utilities amount to Rs. 537.070 crore. Further, due to annual floods in Brahmaputra, animal life in Kaziranga National Park is adversely affected. However, the Ministry has informed that only Rs. 3.23 crore has been allocated for strengthening and modernization of flood forecasting and hydrological observation network in Brahmaputra and Barak basin during 2014-15. The Committee feel that sufficient allocation should be made so that necessary works may be taken up by

Brahmaputra Board more efficiently and effectively in this regard. The Committee also desire the Board to take up study on feasibility of dredging in the Brahmaputra River for addressing the problem of floods and erosion in Assam.

4.28 When asked about the functioning of Brahmaputra Board which is entrusted with flood control and mitigation works in the region, the Ministry informed that out of the 7 statutory posts in Brahmaputra Board, only the post of Secretary is filled in and other remaining 6 posts are lying vacant. The Committee are at a loss to understand as to how the Brahmaputra Board is working with only one Secretary and therefore, recommend the Ministry to expedite the process of filling up the remaining 6 statutory posts so that the Board is sufficiently strengthened and equipped before the onset of the next Monsoon season. Further given the fact that all the N.E. States and West Bengal have in principle agreed for proposed restructuring of Brahmaputra Board as Brahmaputra & Barak River Basin Authority for which "Draft Policy Documents of restructuring of Brahmaputra Board as Brahmaputra & Barak River Basin Authority" (BBRBA) has been formulated and sent to N.E. States including West Bengal for their views and draft Bill on Brahmaputra & Barak River Basin Authority is being finalized in the Ministry, the Committee would like the Ministry to pursue this matter vigorously with concerned States and authorities so that a revamped Brahmaputra Board would see the light of the day soon.

Flood Havoc in Jammu and Kashmir

4.29 The Committee note that an unprecedented flood devastated Jammu and Kashmir this year (September, 2014), causing untold misery to the people. The Committee also note that in Jammu and Kashmir (J&K), the Central Water Commission (CWC) is operating 11 hydrological observation sites in Chenab and 5 sites in Jhelum to collect data for water resources planning purposes and that the CWC is not maintaining Flood Forecasting sites in the State. The Committee are shocked to note that no flood forecasting site is being maintained by CWC in Jammu and Kashmir and while they would like to know the reasons behind it, strongly recommend the Ministry to initiate urgent action for setting up Flood Forecasting networks in the State of J&K as done in the rest of the country so as to help avoid any chances of unpreparedness in facing flood fury in future. Further, given the peculiar nature of the topography of the Kashmir valley, the Committee also would like the Ministry to undertake a comprehensive study of the entire flood-related scenario in the area within the next 6 months and come up with an implementable time-bound set of action programme. The Committee would like to be apprised of the action taken.

NEW DELHI
19 December, 2014
28 Agrahayana, 1936 (Saka)

HUKUM SINGH,
Chairperson,
Standing Committee on Water Resources

MINUTES OF THE THIRD SITTING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON WATER RESOURCES (2014-2015) HELD ON FRIDAY, 19 SEPTEMBER, 2014 ON DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (2014-15)

The Committee sat from 1130 hours to 1340 hours in Committee Room 'B', Ground Floor, Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

PRESENT

Shri Hukum Singh - Chairperson

LOK SABHA

2. Shri Radheshyam Biswas
3. Shri Sukhbir Singh Jaunapuria
4. Shri Vinod Kumar B.
5. Shri Murali Mohan Maganti
6. Shri Sidhant Mohapatra
7. Shri Rodmal Nagar
8. Shri Subhash Patel
9. Shri Sanjay Kaka Patil
10. Smt. Aparupa Poddar
11. Shri Ram Prasad Sarmah
12. Smt. Sathyabama V.
13. Shri Lallu Singh
14. Shri L.K. Vaghela

RAJYA SABHA

- 15 Shri Balwinder Singh Bhunder
16 Smt. Naznin Faruque
17 Prof. Mrinal Miri
18 Dr. K. Keshava Rao
19 Shri V. Hanumantha Rao
20 Shri A.V. Swamy
21 Shri Lal Sinh Vadodia

SECRETARIAT

- | | | | |
|----|---------------------|---|---------------------|
| 1. | Shri A.K. Singh | - | Joint Secretary |
| 2. | Smt. Anita B. Panda | - | Director |
| 3. | Smt. Rita Jaikhani | - | Additional Director |

REPRESENTATIVES OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES, RD & GR

1. Shri Alok Rawat, Secretary
2. Dr. Amarjit Singh, Additional Secretary(WR, RD &GR)
3. Shri Sunil Kumar Kohli, JS &FA (WR, RD &GR)
4. Shri Servesh Kumar, A.D.G. (WR, RD &GR)
5. Smt. Urvilla Khati, JS(WR, RD &GR)
6. Shri Narender Kumar, Commissioner (WR, RD &GR)
7. Shri Kushvinder Vohra, Commissioner (WR, RD &GR)
8. Shri N.K. Mathur, Commissioner (WR, RD &GR)
9. Shri Pradeep Kumar, Commissioner (Parl)
10. Shri C. Lal, Sr. JC (WR, RD &GR)
11. Shri Munni Lal, Sr. JC (WR, RD &GR)
12. Shri Manoj Kumar, Dy. Commr. (WR, RD &GR)
13. K.M.M. Alimalmigothi, Econ. Advisor (WR, RD &GR)
14. Shri R.K. Gupta, Director (WR, RD &GR)
15. Shri Manish Tripathi, Director (WR, RD &GR)
16. Shri Arvind Chaudhury, Director (WR, RD &GR)
17. Shri Ravindra Singh, Director (WR, RD &GR)
18. Shri S. Uke, C. A. (WR, RD &GR)

REPRESENTATIVES OF THE CENTRAL WATER COMMISSION

19. Shri A. Mahendran, Member (CWC)
20. Shri V. N. Wakpanjar, Member (CWC)
21. Shri C. K. Aggarwal, Member (CWC)
22. Shri Anup Kr. Srivastava, Secretary (CWC)
23. Shri Sanjeev Aggarwal, Chief Eng. (CWC)
24. Shri C. P. Singh, Chief Eng. (CWC)
25. Shri D. P. Mathuria, Director (RMC, CWC)
26. Shri Shivanandan, Director (CWC)
27. Shri V. D. Roy, Director (CWC)

REPRESENTATIVE OF THE NATIONAL MISSION FOR CLEAN GANGA

28. Shri R. R. Mishra, JS & Mission Director, NMCG

REPRESENTATIVE OF THE GANGA RIVER BASIN AUTHORITY

29. Shri K. A. Roy, OSD(GRBA)

REPRESENTATIVE OF THE NATIONAL PROJECTS CONSTRUCTION CORPORATION LTD.

30. Shri H. L. Chaudhury, CMD, NPCC

REPRESENTATIVE OF THE WATER & POWER CONSULTANCY SERVICES (INDIA) LIMITED

31. Shri R. K. Gupta, CMD, WAPCOS

REPRESENTATIVE OF THE CENTRAL GROUND WATER BOARD

32. Dr. R. C. Jain, Member, SAM, CGWB

REPRESENTATIVE OF THE GANGA FLOOD CONTROL COMMISSION

33. Shri N. K. Bhandari, Chairman, GFCC

REPRESENTATIVE OF THE NATIONAL WATER DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

34. Shri S. M. Hussain, DG (NWDA)

REPRESENTATIVES OF THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

35. Shri G V V Sarma, JS(DM), MHA

36. Shri A. K. Sanghi, JS, NDMA

37. Shri V. Venkateshan, Consultant NDMA

REPRESENTATIVE OF THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

38. Shri C. M. Pandey, Addl. Commr. (NRM), M/o Agriculture

At the outset, the Chairperson welcomed the Members to the sitting of the Committee. The Chairman then welcomed the representatives of the Ministry of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation to the sitting of the Committee convened to consider and examine the Demands for Grants (2014-15) of the Ministry of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation.

2. After the introduction, the Secretary, Ministry of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation briefed the Committee on the subject. Thereafter, highlights of the Demands for Grants (2014-15) were explained to the Members through a power point presentation. The Members sought clarifications on various issues to which the representatives responded. The major concerns raised during discussion included the following:

- (i) Corrective measures to be initiated and implemented for stopping the pollution of Rivers of the country;

- (ii) Implementation of the Ganga Action Plan viz. beautification of Ghats, utilization of Sewerage Treatment Plants (STPs), Conservation of existing aquatic life (Gangetic dolphin) and setting up of Ganga Knowledge Centre for general awareness of masses;
 - (iii) Implementation of the programme for the dredging of river Brahmaputra to save the wildlife; and
 - (iv) Issues related to schemes under Command Area Development.
3. The Committee asked the Secretary, Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation to furnish written replies to those queries raised by Members during the sitting which could not be replied by the representatives orally.
4. A copy of the verbatim proceedings of the sitting was kept for record.

The Committee then adjourned.

MINUTES OF THE SIXTH SITTING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON WATER RESOURCES
(2014-2015) HELD ON FRIDAY, 19 DECEMBER, 2014

The Committee sat from 1000 hours to 1030 hours in Committee Room 'E', Parliament House Annex, New Delhi.

PRESENT

Shri Hukum Singh – Chairman

MEMBERS

LOK SABHA

2. Shri Devusinh Chauhan
3. Shri Sidhant Mohapatra
4. Shri Sukhbir Singh Jaunapuria
5. Shri Abhijit Mukherjee
6. Shri Murali Mohan Maganti
7. Shri Lallu Singh
8. Shri Rodmal Nagar
9. Shri Vishnu Dayal Ram
10. Shri Ram Prasad Sarmah
11. Smt. Sathyabama V.
12. Shri Vinod Kumar B.
13. Shri Sanjay Kaka Patil
14. Shri Vijaysinh Shankarao Mohite Patil
15. Shri L.K.Vaghela

RAJYA SABHA

16. Shri Anil Madhav Dave
17. Prof. Mrinal Miri
18. Shri V. Hanumantha Rao
19. Shri A.V. Swamy
20. Shri Lal Singh Vadodia

SECRETARIAT

1. Shri A. K. Singh - Joint Secretary
2. Shri S. Chatterjee - Director
3. Smt. Rita Jalkhani - Additional Director

At the outset, the Chairperson welcomed the Members to the sitting of the Committee convened for consideration and adoption of (i) Draft Report on Demands for Grants (2014-15) of the Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, and (ii) Draft Report on Action Taken by the Government on the observations/recommendations of the Committee contained in the 21st Report (15th Lok Sabha) on "Review of Ganga Flood Control Commission".

2. Thereafter, the Committee took up the above two draft Reports for consideration. After some discussion, the Committee adopted the Reports with slight modifications/amendments.

3. The Committee then authorized the Chairman to finalise the Reports in the light of verbal and consequential changes arising out of factual verification by the Ministry and to present the Reports to both the Houses of Parliament.

The Committee then adjourned