

**50**

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE  
(2004)**

**THIRTEENTH LOK SABHA**

**MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES**

**DEMANDS FOR GRANTS  
(2003-2004)**

**{Action Taken by the Government on the Recommendations/  
Observations contained in the Forty Fourth Report of the  
Standing Committee on Agriculture (2003)}**

**REPORT**



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT**

**January, 2004/Pausa, 1925 (Saka)**

## CONTENTS

		PAGE
COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE .....		(iii)
INTRODUCTION .....		(v)
CHAPTER I	Report .....	1
CHAPTER II	Recommendations/Observations which have Been accepted by the Government .....	
CHAPTER III	Recommendations/Observations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view Of the Government's replies .....	
CHAPTER IV	Recommendations/Observations in respect Of which replies of the Government have Not been accepted by the Committee .....	
CHAPTER V	Recommendations/Observations in respect of Which final replies of the Government are Still awaited .....	
	Annexures .....	

## APPENDICES

- II. Analysis of Action Taken by Government on the Recommendations contained in the Forty Fourth Report of the Standing Committee on Agriculture (2003).

**COMPOSITION OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE (2004)**

**LOK SABHA**

**Shri S.S. Palanimanickam - Chairman**

2. Shri Daud Ahmad
3. Prof. S.P. Singh Baghel
4. Shri Girdhari Lal Bhargava
5. Shri Ambati Brahmaniah
6. Shri Ram Tahal Chaudhary
7. Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan
8. Shri Adhir Chowdhary
9. Shri Thawar Chand Gehlot
10. Shri Raghunath Jha
11. Shri Abul Hasnat Khan
12. Dr. C. Krishnan
13. Shri M. Master Mathan
14. Shri Tarachand Shivaji Patel
15. Shri Bhaskar Rao Patil
16. Shri Jaisingrao Gaikwad Patil
17. Smt. Rama Pilot
18. Ms. Prabha Rau
19. Shri N.R.K. Reddy
20. Shri Chandra Bhushan Singh
21. Shri Laxman Singh
22. Shri Ramjiwan Singh
23. Shri Rampal Singh
24. Shri Tejveer Singh
25. Shri Punjaji Sadaji Thakor
26. Shri Tarlochan Singh Tur
27. Shri Chintaman Wanaga
28. Shri Bhal Chandra Yadav
29. Shri Mahboob Zahedi
- \*30. Shri Bhan Singh Bhaura

**RAJYA SABHA**

30. Dr. A.R. Kidwai
31. Smt. Jamana Devi Barupal
32. Shri Oscar Fernandes
33. Dr. A.K. Patel
34. Prof. R.B. S. Varma
35. Shri Sudarshan Akarapu
36. Dr. Swami Sakshi Ji Maharaj
37. Shri R. Kamaraj
38. Prof. M. Sankaralingam
39. Shri Gandhi Azad
40. Shri Sukhbir Singh
41. Shri Rao Man Singh
42. Shri Datta Meghe
43. Shri H.K. Javare Gowda
44. Shri R.S. Gavai

---

\* Shri Bhan Singh Bhaura expired on 3<sup>rd</sup> January, 2004.

**SECRETARIAT**

- |    |                     |   |                      |
|----|---------------------|---|----------------------|
| 1. | Shri P.D.T. Achary  | - | Additional Secretary |
| 2. | Shri S.K. Sharma    | - | Joint Secretary      |
| 3. | Shri Hardev Singh   | - | Deputy Secretary     |
| 4. | Smt. Ratna Bhagwani | - | Assistant Director   |
| 5. | Shri Ramesh Lal     | - | Executive Officer    |
-

## INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairman of the Standing Committee on Agriculture (2004) having been authorised by the Committee to submit the Report on their behalf, present this Fiftieth Report on Action Taken by Government on the recommendations/observations contained in the 44<sup>th</sup> Report of the Standing Committee on Agriculture (2003) on Demands for Grants (2003-2004) of the Ministry of Water Resources.

2. The Forty Fourth Report of the Standing Committee on Agriculture (2003) on Demands for Grants (2003-2004) of the Ministry of Water Resources was presented to Lok Sabha and laid in Rajya Sabha on 25.4.2003. The Ministry of Water Resources was requested to furnish action taken replies of the Government to recommendations contained in the Forty Fourth Report. The replies of the Government to all the recommendations contained in the Report were received.

3. The Committee considered the action taken replies furnished by the Government, approved the draft comments and adopted the Fiftieth Report at their sitting held on 16.1.2004. Minutes of the sittings are placed in Appendix-I.

4. An analysis of the Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations/observations contained in the Forty Fourth Report (13<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha) of the Committee is given in Appendix-II

NEW DELHI  
16, January, 2004  
26, Pausa, 1925(Saka)

**S.S PALANIMANICKAM**  
Chairman  
Standing Committee on Agriculture

## **CHAPTER I**

### **REPORT**

This report of the Committee on Agriculture deals with the action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the Forty-Fourth Report (Thirteenth Lok Sabha) of the Standing Committee on Agriculture (2003) of the Ministry of Water Resources which was presented to the Lok Sabha on 25 April 2003 and laid in Rajya Sabha on the same day.

1.2 Action taken notes have been received from the Government in respect of all the 16 recommendations contained in the Report. These have been categorised as follows :-

- (i) Recommendations/Observations that have been accepted by the Government (Chapter – II of the Report)

Recommendation Nos. 1,2,5,6,7 and 15

Total - 6

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

Recommendation No. Nil

Total - Nil

- (iii) Recommendations/Observations in respect of which reply of the Government have not been accepted by the Committee (Chapter – IV of the Report)

Recommendation Nos. 11,14 and 16

Total - 3

- (iv) Recommendations/Observations in respect of which final replies of the Government are still awaited (Chapter – V of the Report)

Recommendation Nos.3, 4,8,9,10,12 and 13

Total - 7

1.3 The Committee will now deal with the recommendations which have not been accepted and have been included in Chapter – IV and V of the report.

## **Declaration of `2003` as `Fresh Water Year`**

### **Recommendation Sl. no.3**

1.4 The Committee were happy to note that India had declared the year 2003 as 'Fresh Water Year' in line with United Nations resolution adopted during the 55<sup>th</sup> Session of General Assembly to focus on creating mass awareness on the importance of fresh water and its management. A budget provision of Rs.12 crore had been made available for 2003-2004 for celebrating 'Fresh Water Year'. The Ministry had informed that they had already prepared a concept paper for the observance of the fresh water year 2003 with the objective of (a). Increase awareness among stake-holders regarding Scarcity value of Fresh Water. (b). Conservation & efficient use of Fresh Water. (c). Preservation of Fresh Water-Quality & its Ecosystem (d). Augmentation of Fresh Water Resources (e). Community partnership for informed decision making. The Committee were of the strong opinion that the Government had initiated a very important programme and hoped that the objectives as contained in the concept paper would be achieved within their scheduled time frame. They also expected that the benefits anticipated, of celebrating 'Fresh Water Year' would reach the people of the country at large.

1.5 The Ministry in their reply have stated that the proposals of this Ministry connected with the "Fresh Water Year, 2003" activities have since been cleared by the competent authority i.e. Standing Finance Committee. Accordingly, the schemes/programmes are being firmed up/prepared within the approved outlays as per the Concept Paper. It would be ensured that the objectives as contained in the Concept Paper are achieved within the scheduled time-frame.

### **Comments of the Committee**

**1.6 The Committee desire that urgent steps may be initiated by the Ministry to firm up the schemes/programmes relating to 'Fresh Water Year' 2003' so that the allocation of Rs.12 crore made for the purpose is utilized fully.**



## **Ground Water Recharge**

### **Recommendation No.11**

1.7 The Committee were constrained to find that despite their repeated recommendations for early approval of scheme in 'Artificial Recharge to Ground Water' the scheme was still awaiting clearance from Planning Commission. In view of serious problem of declining ground water table in the country, this delay was totally unacceptable to the Committee. They were of the view that since the awareness of ground water recharge was increasing among people and they were coming forward in a big way, the Planning Commission should not delay the approval of the scheme which would supplement their efforts by implementing a well formulated scheme. The Committee had noted that on the advice of the Planning Commission, the Ministry had reformulated the scheme several times leading to unnecessary delay in approval of the scheme. The Ministry had informed that revised Centrally Sponsored Scheme on 'Artificial Recharge to Ground Water' at an estimated cost of Rs.3,000 crore on the funding pattern of 90 :10 between Centre and beneficiaries had been formulated and referred to the Planning Commission on 18.2.2003 for their 'in principle approval'. While expressing happiness over enlarging the scope of the scheme, the Committee had strongly recommended that the Planning Commission should expedite the approval of the re-formulated scheme on an urgent basis in the first trimester of the year itself so that it could be implemented during the current year. Accordingly, suitable enhanced allocation should also be proposed in Revised Estimates by the Ministry for its implementation.

1.8 The Government in their reply have stated that the above recommendations of the Standing Committee have since been brought to the notice of the Planning Commission for necessary action. In this regard, it may also be stated that with reference to the draft scheme on the subject with an estimated cost of Rs.3,000 crore, the Planning Commission has advised the Ministry of Water Resources to either raise the plan outlay for the scheme to Rs.300-400 crore by re-appropriation from other schemes or pursue the appraised scheme for Rs.150 crore with the EFC for approval. Accordingly, the matter has been considered in the Ministry of Water Resources and a Revised EFC Memo costing Rs.175.00 crore for implementation during the last three years of the X Plan has been circulated in June 2003. This proposed scheme is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme as

advised by the Planning Commission/Ministry of Finance with a funding pattern of 90:10 i.e. 90% Central share and 10% beneficiaries share.

### **Comments of the Committee**

1.9 The Committee are not satisfied with the reply of the Ministry that the scheme 'Artificial Recharge to Ground Water' which is one of the very important schemes, as the ground water level is declining very rapidly in almost every part of the country, has not been cleared despite repeated recommendations of the Committee for early clearance from the Planning Commission. The Committee fail to understand as to why the Planning Commission is not clearing the scheme since the scheme has been formulated several times by the Ministry as per the advise of the Planning Commission.

The Ministry in their reply has now informed that a Centrally Sponsored Scheme costing Rs.175.00 crore as advised by the Planning Commission/ Ministry of Finance with a funding pattern of 90:10 i.e. 90% Central Share and 10% beneficiaries for implementation during the last three years of the Xth Plan, has been proposed. The Committee desire that the Ministry should pursue the matter with Planning Commission vigorously for early clearance without further delay and thereafter implemented urgently in order to protect further decline of ground water level in the country.

## **Sardar Sarovar Dam Project**

### **Recommendation Sl. No.14**

1.10 The Committee were unhappy at the slow pace of construction of Sardar Sarovar Dam. They found that the dam had been raised upto an effective height of EL.95 m. about 8 months back. Since then there had been no further progress. The Committee were informed during evidence that according to the directive of the Supreme Court, construction of dam and rehabilitation of displaced person had to be taken up pari passu. An action plan drawn up in this regard was agreed by all the four States and they were to accomplish the rehabilitation within a fixed time so that the height of the dam could be raised. The Project had not been completed within stipulated time due to some problems with the Maharashtra State with the result that the work of the dam had come to a halt. The Committee had desired that the Ministry should take up the matter with the Maharashtra Government at the highest level to expedite the rehabilitating programme. The Committee had also desired that a time schedule should be worked out for undertaking various stages of the dam and make all out efforts to adhere to the time schedule. Besides, the Ministry should impress upon all the concerned States to prepare a plan in advance for rehabilitation of those people who would be affected by the project.

1.11 The Government in their reply have stated that according to the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in its judgement dated 18/10/2000 on the Writ Petition (319/1994) filed by Narmada Bachao Andolan, the Narmada Control Authority (NCA) has finalized an Action Plan for raising the height of the Sardar Sarovar Dam beyond EL + 90.0m which was agreed to by all the party States. According to the said Action Plan, the dam was planned to be raised upto EL + 100.0 m by June, 2002, further up to EL +

110.0 m by June, 2003 and up to FRL (EL 138.68m) by June 2005. The related Resettlement and Rehabilitation (R&R) of Project Affected Families (PAFs) up to these levels was required to be completed 6 months ahead i.e. by December, 2001, December, 2002 and December, 2004 respectively. The court has laid down a mechanism to be followed by NCA for giving the permission for further raising the height of the dam pari-passu with the R&R of PAFs. Accordingly NCA has to obtain the clearance from R&R Sub-group and Environment Sub-group before according such permission. The R&R Sub-group shall give clearance to NCA after consulting the Grievance Redressal Authorities of the party States of Gujarat, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh.

The R&R Sub-group meetings were held from time to time to monitor the progress of the rehabilitation activities related to +100.0m of Sardar Sarovar Dam. The review of R&R works was followed by separate meetings convened by Secretary, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India and Chairman, NCA regularly. The R&R Sub-group in its meeting held on 13.5.2003 conveyed its clearance to NCA to consider permission to raise the dam height from EL 95.0 m to 100.0m. Based on this clearance, the NCA, in its emergency meeting held on 14.5.2003, permitted Government of Gujarat to raise the dam height up to 100.p m with 3 m high hump on block nos. 31 to 45 (leaving the end block without hump) and the decision of the Authority was conveyed to the Government of Gujarat by NCA secretariat immediately.

The permission for further raising the height of the Sardar Sarovar Dam beyond 100.0 m is again linked with the completion of related R&R activities. The NCA will permit further raising after observing the necessary formalities like obtaining clearance from the R&R Sub-group and Environment Sub-group and after consultation with the

concerned Grievance Redressal Authorities of the party States of Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Gujarat.

#### **Comments of the Committee**

**1.12 The Committee are unhappy to note that the construction of Sardar Sarovar Project is going at a slow pace. As per the direction of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in its judgement dated 18.10.2000, the Narmada Control Authority (NCA) has finalized an Action Plan for raising the height of the Sardar Sarovar Dam Project upto Elevation +110.0m by June, 2003. However, the Narmada Control Authority (NCA) at its emergency meeting held on 14.5.2003, permitted the Government of Gujarat to raise the dam height upto 100.0 m. The Committee desire that the Government should make all out efforts to adhere to time schedule for construction of Sardar Sarovar Dam Project as per its Action Plan.**

## **Floods due to rivers from Nepal**

### **Recommendation No.16**

1.13 The Committee had noted with serious concern that the rivers Gandak, Bhagmati and Kosi which were flowing from Nepal to India were causing heavy floods in Bihar and Eastern Uttar Pradesh. Every year there was a great loss of life, property and crops due to floods in these rivers. The Committee had been informed that the Government was having continuous dialogue with Nepal on the subject and negotiations were continuing for two important projects, i.e. Pancheshwar Multi-Purpose Project on river Mahakali and Supta Kosi High Dam in Kosi river as a permanent solution to the flood problem.

The Committee were disappointed to find that though negotiations were going on with the Nepalese Government for the last several years, no concrete progress had been made so far towards implementation of projects. Furthermore, during evidence, the Committee had been informed that Nepalese Government had not agreed for construction of Dam on Gandak river. As regards other projects also, they had not given any clear indication about their progress. The Committee had therefore, desired that as the best efforts of the Government were bearing no fruits, they should consider applying some diplomatic pressure on the Nepalese Government to implement the project urgently. Till the dam was constructed, the Central Government should compensate the affected State Governments for the losses occurred due to floods in these rivers

1.14 The Government in their reply have stated that the Government of India is having continuous dialogue with HMG/Nepal at various levels particularly in reference to the floods in Bihar, which are largely caused by the rivers coming from Nepal. In this

connection, a Joint Inception Report to take up the joint field investigations, studies and preparation of Detailed Project Report in respect of Sapta Kosi High Dam Multipurpose Project and Sun Kosi Storage Cum Diversion Scheme has already been finalized by India and Nepal. The project inter-alia will have major flood control benefits for Bihar. The above scheme for which an outlay of Rs.30 crore has been provided in the 10<sup>th</sup> Plan has already been approved by the Government of India and the Joint Project Office of India and Nepal is likely to be opened shortly. In this regard the matter has already been taken up with Nepal for posting of their personnel. Modalities for setting up of Joint Project Office and other field offices were discussed during the recent meeting of Indo-Nepal Joint Team of Experts held in Kathmandu in June 2003 along with the site visit. Apart from this, field investigations of Pancheshwar Multipurpose Project have been completed and a Joint Detailed Project Report is to be prepared after resolving few outstanding issues with Nepal.

Proposals for construction of multipurpose storage dams on river Kamla and on river Bagmati in Nepal are under negotiation with Nepal. Efforts to work out an understanding in this regard are in progress though Nepalese feel that the projects may not be feasible because of social and environmental implications. The matter was also taken up with His Majesty the King of Nepal during his recent visit to India. These projects were further discussed in the 5<sup>th</sup> meeting of the India-Nepal Joint Team of Experts held on 24-27 June 2003, wherein data relating to irrigation water requirement in respect of Kamla and Bagmati irrigation schemes were handed over to HMG/Nepal, who were requested to give similar data to the Indian side.

Further in order to have interaction at higher level pertaining to co-operation in the field of Water Resources including implementation of existing agreements & understanding, a Nepal-India Joint Committee on Water Resources (JCWR) headed by Water Resources Secretaries of both the countries is also functioning with the mandate to act as an umbrella Committee of all Committees & groups. We have also written to the Government of Nepal to firm up dates for holding of meeting of JCWR response for which is awaited.

#### **Comments of the Committee**

**1.15 The Committee are not satisfied with the reply of the Government. They note that though the Government is making continuous efforts on the issue with the Nepalese Government, so far no concrete results have been achieved in the matter. The Committee, therefore, reiterate their recommendation that the Ministry may consider applying diplomatic pressure on the Nepalese Government urgently for early completion of the projects as a permanent solution to the flood problem.**

**Further the Committee are unhappy to find that the Government is silent on their recommendation that the Central Government should compensate the affected State Governments for the losses due to floods. They would like to be apprised of the steps taken by the Government in this regard.**



## CHAPTER II

### RECOMMENDATIONS/OBSERVATIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE GOVERNMENT

#### *Inadequate Plan allocation for the Ministry of Water Resources*

##### **Recommendation Sl no.1**

2.1 The Committee regret to note that against an outlay of Rs.6651.41 crore proposed by the Ministry of Water Resources for the Tenth Plan, Planning Commission approved an outlay of Rs.3600 crore only, which works out to be around 60% of the outlay proposed. With this reduced outlay, the average annual plan allocation would be around Rs.720 crore per year. The Committee are constrained to note that for the first year of the Plan i.e. 2002-03 the allocation was Rs.550 crore only and for 2003-04 the allocation was marginally increased to Rs.554 crore, nowhere near the estimated average annual plan outlay of Rs.720 crore worked out, and approved by the Planning Commission for the Tenth Plan. The Committee wonder as to how with the reduced allocation of Rs.3600 crore, 40% less than that then projected by the Ministry, which too have not been proportionately provided by the Planning Commission during the first 2 years of the Plan, the Ministry could be expected to implement various schemes/programmes for development of water resources effectively.

The Committee are perturbed to note that less allocation for the Ministry has resulted in drastic reduction in proposed outlays for Command Area Development Programme and Flood Control sectors. The proposed restructuring of 'Command Area Development Programme' integrating water management issues with it, in order to make it more effective, would be adversely affected as the reduced outlays would slow down the progress of activities under the programme. In the Flood Control Sector, the important scheme of critical anti-erosion works in Ganga Basin States, which needs to be urgently executed would be adversely affected.

The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Planning Commission should review the allocation to the Ministry, especially in regard to the above two sectors and

make higher allocation for CAD and Flood Control Sectors at the Revised Estimates Stage.

### **Reply of the Government**

2.2 The matter of raising the overall plan allocation for the Ministry in the financial year 2003-04 at the RE Stage was taken up with Planning Commission and Department of Expenditure. Additional Secretary (Budget), Ministry of Finance, vide his D.O. letter No.2(26)-B(S)/2003 dated 02.6.2003 (Annexure I, page No.34) has informed that inter-sectoral and Ministry-wise plan allocation is a subject of the Planning Commission and the matter may be taken up with the Planning Commission. Secretary, Planning Commission in reply vide his D.O. letter No.19(2)/2002-WR dated 30<sup>th</sup> May, 2003 (Annexure II, page No.35-36), has explained the constraints in providing higher allocation to this Ministry.

### ***Schemes not approved by Planning Commission***

#### **Recommendation Sl. no.2**

2.3 The Committee note that 22 new schemes proposed by the Ministry during the Ninth Plan period were not approved by the Planning Commission, as the number of Plan schemes of the Ministry was already too large and the Planning Commission was not in favour of increasing the number of schemes by introducing too many new schemes. The Planning Commission, therefore, suggested amalgamation of schemes with existing schemes, wherever possible. On going through the reasons furnished by the Ministry for non-approval of each scheme, the Committee find that 17 out of these 22 schemes were dropped or merged with on-going schemes as they were already covered under them and the Ministry were not able to justify the need for new schemes. The Committee are not able to comprehend the need for approaching the Planning Commission with new schemes, when the activities under these schemes could have been undertaken through the existing schemes. They strongly feel that the detailed and careful technical studies were not conducted by the Ministry before placing these schemes to the Planning Commission for clearance.

The Committee, therefore, strongly recommend that the Ministry should in future approach the Planning Commission with technically sound and well formulated schemes for approval after conducting requisite detailed studies so that they are able to convince the Planning Commission about the usefulness of these schemes and provide justification for taking them up as separate schemes.

#### **Reply of the Government**

2.4 The Ministry has noted the recommendation of the Committee. Appropriate steps will be taken towards formulation of new plan proposals during the Tenth Plan before sending these proposals to the Planning Commission for processing.

## **Hydrology Project**

### **Recommendation Sl. no.5**

**2.5** The Committee note that the Hydrology project is being implemented with International Development Association (World Bank) assistance under a credit agreement with Government of India. The original validity of the agreement was six years project operation (1995-96 to 2000-01) which was later extended to 31 December 2003 on the request of Ministry. Although the Ministry had hoped to achieve overall physical and financial progress of 97% target by its closing date but, the Committee note that under the training and incremental staffing which form two very important components of the project, the physical achievements made so far are still very low i.e. 65% and 76% respectively.

The Committee therefore, strongly recommend that the Government should take concrete steps to improve the performance in these two components and should make all out efforts to achieve 100% targets under all the components of Hydrology Project upto its closing date i.e. 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2003.

### **Reply of the Government**

**2.6** The training targets and achievements figures were reviewed with the participating States/agencies in the 5<sup>th</sup> National Hydrology Training Committee meeting of Hydrology Project held on 19.12.2002. In this meeting the realistic training targets were worked out as 30261 nos. against which the achievement upto March 2003 was 28549 nos. which is around 94%. The remaining trainings are likely to be completed by November 2003.

Due to Government policy in vogue, the implementing agencies could not get the approval for recruiting new staff specially Information Technology and Water Quality experts. As a result the progress on incremental staffing is low i.e. 76%. In the 9<sup>th</sup> National Coordination Committee meeting of Hydrology Project held under the chairmanship of Member(RM), Central Water Commission, all the agencies were

requested to expedite filling up the vacant posts through redeployment or by hiring on contract basis at the earliest.

The average progress of other infrastructure components of Hydrology Project (involving nine states and six central agencies) upto March 2003 was about 95% and the balance targets are likely to be achieved by the project closing date i.e. December 31, 2003.

## ***Pagladiya Dam Project***

### **Recommendation Sl. no.6**

2.7 The Committee are unhappy to find the slow progress in Pagladiya Dam Project due to delay in land acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement (R&R) and security related issues. The Committee, therefore, desire that the Ministry should work out a time schedule for completion of each activity of the project precisely and strictly monitor them for their timely completion.

### **Reply of the Government**

2.8 The original estimate for Pagladiya Dam Project was cleared at an estimated cost of Rs.542.90 crore by Government of India in January, 2001. In May, 2003, Brahmaputra Board has submitted draft Public Investment Board (PIB) Memo with revised cost estimate in respect of Pagladiya Dam Project at an estimated cost of Rs.1136 crore. At present, the revised estimate is under technical examination in Central Water Commission. Land acquisition Notification for more than 72% of required land for the reservoir submergence including the land required for construction of dam has been issued. For Resettlement & Rehabilitation, about 30% of required land has been taken over by Brahmaputra Board. The R&R activities are to be completed in phases by March 2005 well in advance before the completion of the dam, i.e. March, 2008. The construction schedule for each activity of the project has been prepared by Brahmaputra Board for its timely completion. A Board level Project Implementation Authority alongwith a project level monitoring committee has been set up at the behest of Ministry of Water Resources during January 2002 to review progress of implementation periodically.

***Poor Performance under the scheme Central Water and Power Research Station***

**Recommendation Sl. no.7**

2.9 The Committee are unhappy at the poor performance of various schemes under Central Water and Power Research Station of the Ministry of Water Resources during the Ninth Plan. The physical achievements made under the most of the schemes of Central Water and Power Research Station during the Ninth Plan have been much below the laid down targets. For the schemes viz. Staff Colony Phase III, Hydrology Project (Externally aided), Application of Remote Sensing and Modernisation of Earth Science Laboratory targets were fixed respectively at 130, 127, 161 and 67 units but, the achievements have only been 61, 69, 53 and 37. The main reason stated by the Ministry for the shortfall has been procedural problem leading to non-procurement of various items/equipments. The Committee are of the opinion that the problem is not of such a magnitude which could not have been dealt with proper advance planning and management for procurement of the items. The Committee, therefore, strongly recommend that the Ministry should put in place some effective monitoring mechanism in order to improve the performance under each of the schemes of Central Water and Power Research Station of the Ministry during the current year.

**Reply of the Government**

2.10 The procedural problems mentioned by the Hon'ble Standing Committee as having led to the shortfall have been overcome to a large extent. As a result, of the 4 defaulting schemes of Central Water and Power Research Station, one scheme is already over and closed; two schemes are going to be closed by the end of 2003-04. One remaining scheme will only continue further during the Tenth Plan. In order to ensure implementation of the schemes as per schedule, the Ministry has already started fortnightly review at the level of Secretary (Water Resources) and closer monitoring at different levels is being followed.

*Losses due to floods in other than Ganga Basin States*

**Recommendation Sl. no.15**

2.11 The Committee find that some states like southern and western states are affected by floods due to small rivers, rivulets and nullahs which come with great intensity especially during rainy season damaging the crops, human settlements and other valuable things. The Committee further find that there is no central scheme for undertaking flood protection measures in these areas and the States are also not able to take up the scheme due to funds crunch. The Committee, therefore, desire that the Ministry should formulate a scheme in this regard and place it before the Planning Commission for early approval.

**Reply of the Government**

2.12 A drainage scheme titled "Improvement of drainage in the country including Mokama Tal Area" estimated to cost Rs.54.00 crore has been formulated as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme. The scheme includes drainage schemes of Orissa and Andhra Pradesh, (non-Ganga basin states), in addition to Ganga basin states of Bihar & Uttar Pradesh. Similarly, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme titled "Critical Anti Erosion Works in coastal and other than Ganga Basin states" amounting to Rs 20.64 crore has been formulated to take up critical anti sea & anti river erosion works in the coastal & other than Ganga Basin states of Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Orissa, Tamil Nadu and UT of Pondicherry. EFC memo for the scheme "Improvement of drainage in the country including Mokama Tal area" has been circulated to the appraising agencies on 10 June 03. The scheme "Critical anti-erosion works in coastal and other than Ganga basin states" has been cleared by Standing Finance Committee on 18 June 03. Scheme has now been sent to Planning Commission for obtaining approval of full Planning Commission.



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

NIL

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

*Ground Water Recharge*

**Recommendation Sl. no.11**

4.1 The Committee are constrained to find that despite their repeated recommendations for early approval of scheme in 'Artificial Recharge to Ground Water' the scheme is still awaiting clearance from Planning Commission. In view of serious problem of declining ground water table in the country, this delay is totally unacceptable to the Committee. They are of the view that since the awareness of ground water recharge is increasing among people and they are coming forward in a big way, the Planning Commission should not delay the approval of the scheme which will supplement their efforts by implementing a well formulated scheme. The Committee note that on the advice of the Planning Commission, the Ministry has reformulated the scheme several times leading to unnecessary delay in approval of the scheme. The Ministry have informed that revised Centrally Sponsored Scheme on 'Artificial Recharge to Ground Water' at an estimated cost of Rs.3,000 crore on the funding pattern of 90 :10 between Centre and beneficiaries has been formulated and referred to the Planning Commission on 18.2.2003 for their 'in principle approval'. While expressing happiness over enlarging the scope of the scheme, the Committee strongly recommend that the Planning Commission should expedite the approval of the re-formulated scheme on an urgent basis in the first trimester of the year itself so that it can be implemented during the current year. Accordingly, suitable enhanced allocation should also be proposed in Revised Estimates by the Ministry for its implementation.

**Reply of the Government**

4.2 The above recommendations of the Standing Committee have since been brought to the notice of the Planning Commission for necessary action. In this regard, it may also be stated that with reference to the draft scheme on the subject with an estimated cost of Rs.3,000 crore, the Planning Commission has advised the Ministry of Water Resources to either raise the plan outlay for the scheme to Rs.300-400 crore by re-appropriation from

other schemes or pursue the appraised scheme for Rs.150 crore with the EFC for approval. Accordingly, the matter has been considered in the Ministry of Water Resources and a Revised EFC Memo costing Rs 175.00 crore for implementation during the last three years of the X Plan has been circulated in June 2003. This proposed scheme is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme as advised by the Planning Commission/Ministry of Finance with a funding pattern of 90:10 i.e. 90% Central share and 10% beneficiaries share.

#### **Comments of the Committee**

4.3 For comments of the Committee please refer to Para No. 1.9 of Chapter I of this report.

## ***Sardar Sarovar Dam Project***

### **Recommendation Sl. no.14**

4.4 The Committee are unhappy at the slow pace of construction of Sardar Sarovar Dam. They find that the dam has been raised upto an effective height of EL.95 m. about 8 months back. Since then there has been no further progress. The Committee were informed during evidence that according to the directive of the Supreme Court, construction of dam and rehabilitation of displaced person have to be taken up pari passu. An action plan drawn up in this regard was agreed by all the four States and they were to accomplish the rehabilitation within a fixed time so that the height of the dam could be raised. The Project has not been completed within stipulated time due to some problems with the Maharashtra State with the result that the work of the dam has come to a halt.

The Committee desire that the Ministry should take up the matter with the Maharashtra Government at the highest level to expedite the rehabilitating programme. The Committee also desire that a time schedule should be worked out for undertaking various stages of the dam and make all out efforts to adhere to the time schedule. Besides, the Ministry should impress upon all the concerned States to prepare a plan in advance for rehabilitation of those people who would be affected by the project.

### **Reply of the Government**

4.5 According to the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in its judgement dated 18/10/2000 on the Writ Petition (319/1994) filed by Narmada Bachao Andolan, the Narmada Control Authority (NCA) has finalized an Action Plan for raising the height of the Sardar Sarovar Dam beyond EL + 90.0 m which was agreed to by all the party States. According to the said Action Plan, the dam was planned to be raised up to EL + 100.0 m by June, 2002, further up to EL + 110.0 m by June, 2003 and up to FRL (EL 138.68 m) by June, 2005. The related Resettlement and Rehabilitation (R&R) of Project Affected Families (PAFs) up to these levels was required to be completed 6 months ahead i.e. by December, 2001, December, 2002 and December, 2004 respectively. The Court has laid down a mechanism to be followed by NCA for giving the permission for further raising the height of the dam pari-passu with the R&R of PAFs. Accordingly NCA has to obtain the clearance from R&R Sub-group and Environment Sub-group before according such

permission. The R&R Sub-group shall give clearance to NCA after consulting the Grievance Redressal Authorities of the party States of Gujarat, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh.

The States of Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh have taken every effort to complete the R&R of the PAFs and the Grievance Redressal Authority of the States have been consulted by the R&R Sub-Group of NCA.

The R&R Sub-group meetings were held from time to time to monitor the progress of the rehabilitation activities related to + 100.0 m of Sardar Sarovar Dam. The review of R&R works was followed by separate meetings convened by Secretary, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India and Chairman, NCA regularly. The R&R Sub-group in its meeting held on 13/05/2003 conveyed its clearance to NCA to consider permission to raise the dam height from EL 95.0 m to 100.0 m. Based on this clearance, the NCA, in its emergency meeting held on 14/05/2003, permitted Government of Gujarat to raise the dam height up to 100.0 m with 3 m high hump on block nos. 31 to 45 (leaving the end block without hump) and the decision of the Authority was conveyed to the Government of Gujarat by NCA secretariat immediately.

The permission for further raising the height of the Sardar Sarovar Dam beyond 100.0 m is again linked with the completion of related R&R activities. The NCA will permit further raising after observing the necessary formalities like obtaining clearance from the R&R Sub-group and Environment Sub-group and after consultation with the concerned Grievance Redressal Authorities of the party States of Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Gujarat.

## **Comments of the Committee**

4.6 For Comments of the Committee please refer to Para No. 1.12 of Chapter I of this report.

## *Floods due to rivers from Nepal*

### **Recommendation Sl. no.16**

4.7 The Committee note with serious concern that the rivers Gandak, Bhagmati and Kosi which are flowing from Nepal to India are causing heavy floods in Bihar and Eastern Uttar Pradesh. Every year there is a great loss of life, property and crops due to floods in these rivers. The Committee have been informed that the Government is having continuous dialogue with Nepal on the subject and negotiations are continuing for two important projects, i.e. Pancheshwar Multi-Purpose Project on river Mahakali and Supta Kosi High Dam in Kosi river as a permanent solution to the flood problem.

The Committee are disappointed to find that though negotiations are going on with the Nepalese Government for the last several years, no concrete progress has been made so far towards implementation of projects. Furthermore, during evidence, the Committee have been informed that Nepalese Government has not agreed for construction of Dam on Gandak river. As regards other projects also, they have not given any clear indication about their progress. The Committee, therefore, desire that as the best efforts of the Government are bearing no fruits, they should consider applying some diplomatic pressure on the Nepalese Government to implement the project urgently. Till the dam is constructed, the Central Government should compensate the affected State Governments for the losses occurred due to floods in these rivers

### **Reply of the Government**

4.8 The Government of India is having continuous dialogue with HMG/Nepal at various levels particularly in reference to the floods in Bihar, which are largely caused by the rivers coming from Nepal. In this connection, a Joint Inception Report to take up the joint field investigations, studies and preparation of Detailed Project Report in respect of Sapta Kosi High Dam Multipurpose Project and Sun Kosi Storage Cum Diversion Scheme has already been finalized by India and Nepal. The project inter-alia will have major flood control benefits for Bihar. The above scheme for which an outlay of Rs.30 crore has been provided in the 10<sup>th</sup> Plan has already been approved by the Government of India and the Joint Project Office of India and Nepal is likely to be opened shortly. In this regard the matter has already been taken up with Nepal for posting of their personnel.

Modalities for setting up of Joint Project Office and other field offices were discussed during the recent meeting of Indo-Nepal Joint Team of Experts held in Kathmandu in June 2003 along with the site visit. Apart from this, field investigations of Pancheshwar Multipurpose Project have been completed and a Joint Detailed Project Report is to be prepared after resolving few outstanding issues with Nepal.

Proposals for construction of multipurpose storage dams on river Kamla and on river Bagmati in Nepal are under negotiation with Nepal. Efforts to work out an understanding in this regard are in progress though Nepalese feel that the projects may not be feasible because of social and environmental implications. The matter was also taken up with His Majesty the King of Nepal during his recent visit to India. These projects were further discussed in the 5<sup>th</sup> meeting of the India-Nepal Joint Team of Experts held on 24 – 27 June 2003, wherein data relating to irrigation water requirement in respect of Kamla and Bagmati irrigation schemes were handed over to HMG/Nepal, who were requested to give similar data to the Indian side.

Further in order to have interaction at higher level pertaining to co-operation in the field of Water Resources including implementation of existing agreements & understanding, a Nepal-India Joint Committee on Water Resources (JCWR) headed by Water Resources Secretaries of both the countries is also functioning with the mandate to act as an umbrella Committee of all Committees & groups. We have also written to the Government of Nepal to firm up dates for holding of meeting of JCWR, response for which is awaited.



## **Comments of the Committee**

4.9 For Comments of the Committee please refer to Para No. 1.15 of Chapter I of this report.

## CHAPTER V

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

#### *Declaration of `2003` as `Fresh Water Year`*

#### **Recommendation Sl no.3**

5.1 The Committee are happy to note that India has declared the year 2003 as 'Fresh Water Year' in line with United Nations resolution adopted during the 55<sup>th</sup> Session of General Assembly to focus on creating mass awareness on the importance of fresh water and its management. A budget provision of Rs.12 crore has been made available for 2003-2004 for celebrating 'Fresh Water Year'. The Ministry have informed that they have already prepared a concept paper for the observance of the fresh water year 2003 with the objective of (a) Increase awareness among stake-holders regarding Scarcity value of Fresh Water, (b) Conservation & efficient use of Fresh Water, (c) Preservation of Fresh Water-Quality & its Ecosystem, (d) Augmentation of Fresh Water Resources, (e) Community partnership for informed decision making. The Committee are of the strong opinion that the Government have initiated a very important programme and hope that the objectives as contained in the concept paper would be achieved within their scheduled time frame. They also expect that the benefits anticipated, of celebrating 'Fresh Water Year' would reach the people of the country at large.

#### **Reply of the Government**

5.2 The proposals of this Ministry connected with the "Fresh Water year, 2003" activities have since been cleared by the competent authority i.e. Standing Finance Committee. Accordingly, the schemes/programmes are being firmed up/prepared within the approved outlay as per the Concept Paper. It would be ensured that the objectives as contained in the Concept Paper are achieved within the scheduled time-frame.

## **Comments of the Committee**

5.3 For comments of the Committee please refer to Para No. 1.6 of Chapter I of this report.

## *Inter-linking of Rivers*

### **Recommendation Sl. no.4**

5.4 The Committee note that as desired by the Supreme Court, the Union Government has constituted a Task Force through a resolution dated December 13, 2002 under the Chairmanship of Shri Suresh P. Prabhu, Member of Parliament, Lok Sabha to expedite the inter-linking of rivers and to draw up a programme for ensuring the implementation of the link project with a reasonable time frame of not more than 10 years. The Ministry have informed that the Task Force has already held one meeting in January, 2003 and they are expected to prepare Action Plan by April 30, 2003 giving the outline of the time schedules for the completion of feasibility studies, detailed project reports and implementation of the project on 31.12.2005, 31.12.2006 and 31.12.2016 respectively. The Committee feel that the inter-linking of rivers project is one of the biggest challenge before the Government, which besides successful execution of various inter-links also requires to address the intricate issues like sharing of waters by States; Rehabilitation and Resettlement of displaced persons etc. The Committee hope that Task Force would address all these issues carefully and tactfully, also the Government would adhere to laid down time schedule and make this dream come true.

Meanwhile, the Committee also recommend that the Government should give top priority to small links which can be easily implemented. The Committee in this connection would eagerly await the outcome of discussion/consensus reached between the State Governments of Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh for implementation of Ken-Betwa Link for which few meeting have already been held and State Governments have shown their keenness to go ahead with this project.

### **Reply of the Government**

5.5 (1) Task Force on Interlinking of Rivers

The Task Force on Interlinking of Rivers under the Chairmanship of Shri Suresh P. Prabhu, MP is examining all the aspects related to interlinking of rivers and would suggest the modalities towards implementation of programme of interlinking of rivers by 2016. It has been strengthened by including nine more experts as members drawn from various disciplines such as Finance, Law, Engineering, Environment etc. The Task Force has so far held 3 meetings in January, March & April, 2003. As per the milestones indicated in the Govt. of India resolution dated 13.12.2002 constituting the Task Force, Action Plan-I giving an outline of the time schedule for completion of feasibility studies, detailed project reports, estimated cost, implementation schedule, concrete benefits and advantages of the project etc. has been prepared by the Task Force and submitted to the Hon'ble Union Minister for Water Resources on 30<sup>th</sup> April, 2003.

The components of Action Plan-I of the Task Force are described below in brief:

(i) Time schedule for completion of feasibility studies

The National Water Development Agency (NWDA) has identified 30 links in all, 14 in the Himalayan Component and 16 in the Peninsular Component of the National Perspective Plan (NPP). NWDA has already prepared feasibility reports (FRs) for 8 links. The work for preparation of FRs is ongoing for 16 links and the same for the remaining 6 links is yet to commence. FRs for all these 22 links are planned for completion by December, 2005. Out of these, FRs for 12 links are to be completed in the year 2004 and for 10 links in the year 2005.

Critical review of all link proposals by the Task Force is in progress. Alternative proposals, as a result of such review for Peninsular links, are being examined in the Ministry.

For facilitating an early consensus for preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR), the Task Force has decided to initially take up those independent linkages which could be pursued for discussion with the concerned states.

Based on the views of the respective states, completed & ongoing FRs may need to be further modified. NWDA would attend to such modifications on priority and the above time-table of preparation of FRs would, therefore, get modified.

(ii) Time schedule for completion of Detailed Projects Reports (DPRs).

The DPR preparation is to be completed by December, 2006. The finalisation of Terms of Reference is scheduled for completion by August, 2003 based on which the task of preparation of DPRs could be initiated with a completion target by the end of 2006, if consensus develops on some links. Implementation could be started thereafter i.e. in 2007.

(iii) Estimated Cost

The estimated cost of interlinking of rivers programme for all acceptable links will be based on DPRs which would be available by December, 2006.

The Task Force on interlinking of rivers has considered the consensus expressed in various quarters about shortage of funds for the ongoing water sector schemes and rain-water harvesting schemes. The Task Force is of the opinion that the ILR programme should promote and if possible, include costs of such programmes in order to meet with justified concerns. The quantum of the required funding would be worked out & included in Action Plan-II of the Task Force to be submitted by 31.7.2003.

(iv) Implementation Schedule

A group of the Task Force will examine the two schedules viz. (i) 10 years as per milestones spelt out in the Govt. of India resolution dated 13.12.2002; and (ii) 40 years as indicated by the Govt. in its counter affidavit filed before the Supreme Court. Thereafter, the Task Force will arrive at a reasonable and practicable implementation schedule in due course.

(v) Benefits of the Programme

The ILR programme extends the water availability beyond the traditional & conventional means adopted so far, to meet the presently unmet needs and future needs of the growing size of the Indian society.

The avenues through which the country's growth potential can be realized and enhanced could be as detailed below.

Irrigation :	Gross potential increased from 140 to 174 mha,
Hydropower :	Addition of 34000 MW installed capacity
Drinking, Municipal and Industrial Water Supply :	About 12 BCM of quantum

Other avenues such as drought proofing, navigation, employment generation etc., are to be quantified.

Informal discussions with the State Chief Ministers are being held by the Chairman of the Task Force. A formal meeting with the Chief Ministers to deliberate over the project and to elicit their cooperation is proposed to be held in June 2003. Action Plan-II, giving alternative options for funding and execution of the project as also the suggested methods for cost recovery, will be prepared by the Task Force by the end of July, 2003.

(2) Ken-Betwa Link Project

Ministry of Water Resources constituted a Group under the Chairmanship of Chairman, Central Water Commission in June, 2002 to discuss and expedite the process of arriving at consensus amongst the States regarding sharing of surplus water as per interbasin water transfer proposals of NWDA as well as the issue of preparation of DPRs of the link proposals by NWDA.

The first meeting of the above Group was held on 10<sup>th</sup> February, 2003 at New Delhi to sort out various issues involved in the Ken-Betwa link project. The first item on the agenda was to reach an understanding between Govt. of M.P. and U.P. about balance of the Ken basin. The representatives of the Govts. of M.P. and U.P. reaffirmed the acceptance of their States on water yield of river Ken at proposed Daudhan dam site. However, it was informed by the State representative that Madhya Pradesh was in the process of finalizing Master Plan for Ken basin and therefore, the water balance as worked out by NWDA could not be accepted. After discussions, while the representative of Uttar Pradesh agreed to send the pending information on water utilisation to the Group within a month, the representative of M.P. agreed to furnish the same within two months.

The remaining two items on the agenda viz. (II) to consider the feasibility report of proposed Ken-Betwa link project and (III) water sharing agreements for facilitating preparation of DPR of proposed Ken-Betwa link project could not be discussed due to lack of information from the two States on Agenda item No.1.

The requisite information on water utilisation is yet to be received from both the States.



## ***Command Area Development***

### **Recommendation Sl. no.8**

5.6 The Committee are extremely unhappy over the drastic shortfall in achievement of physical targets fixed for Warabandi and Reclamation of water logged area under Command Area Development programme during the Ninth Plan. Against physical targets of 3000 and 0.060 million ha. under the above two components, the achievements have only been 1,930 and 0.02 million ha. The Committee are not convinced with the reasons stated by the Ministry that there has been proportionate reduction in the target and achievement by States in accordance with the actual allocation of funds. The Committee find that against an approved outlay of Rs.854.77 crore during Ninth Plan for CAD programme the fund released has been Rs.764.14 crore i.e. around 90% of approved outlay and reduction was only around 10%. This 10% reduction is not commensurate with the drastic shortfall in the achievement of physical targets for Warabandi and Reclamation of Water logged areas. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Ministry should review the performance of these two components of the CAD programme and take concrete measures to achieve the targets.

### **Reply of the Government**

5.7 The shortfall in achievement of physical targets fixed for Warabandi under Command Area Development programme during the Ninth Plan is mainly due to slow progress in the formation of Water Users Associations (WUAs), in some of the States as the Irrigation Acts are yet to be amended to facilitate formation of WUAs. This has resulted into lower budget allocations in the States. However, the matter has been pursued in various forums including the Annual review Meeting of State Secretaries in charge of CAD programme.

Reclamation of water logged area under Command Area Development programme was introduced as a new activity during the Ninth Plan. The total number of projects sanctioned during IX Plan for reclamation was for an area of 57123 ha. Accordingly a target of 0.06 m. ha was fixed for reclamation of waterlogged area. However, it takes two to three years for any waterlogged area to be reclaimed after

initiation of works. It is reported that 0.02 m. ha works was completed. It was also clarified that the projects under waterlogged areas were in various stages of implementation.

Table given below provides year wise ninth plan figures of central share release on four core CAD activities vis-à-vis actual releases made to the States after adjustment of the backlog.

(Rupees in lakhs)

S. No	Year	Central share release on Field Channel	Central share release on Field Drains	Central share release on Warabandi	Central share release on Reclamation Of Water Logged Areas	Total amount Released to States after adjustment of Backlog
1.	1997-98	4906.07	251.39	387.32	30.00	12648.24
2.	1998-99	11214.09	764.37	511.80	183.41	17334.43
3.	1999-00	13514.43	438.37	550.26	639.32	16295.00
4.	2000-01	11396.66	594.61	479.30	571.34	14215.31
5.	2001-02	11829.96	514.54	372.06	572.85	14672.68
	Total	52861.20	2563.28	2300.74	1996.92	75165.70

As it is clear from the table above the release on Warabandi is 3% and on reclamation is 2.6 % of the total release during IX Plan.

The States are being persuaded to complete the reclamation work in the balance area at the earliest. As recommended by the Committee, the Ministry would further review the progress of these two items with the States and take appropriate measures during the 10<sup>th</sup> Plan period to makeup the shortfall.

### ***Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme***

#### **Recommendation Sl. no.9**

5.8 The Committee are distressed to find the slow progress of completion of projects under AIBP. The Ministry have informed that in all 155 major/medium irrigation projects have received CLA under AIBP since inception of the programme in 1996-97, out of these only 21 major/medium projects have since been completed.

While showing their disappointment at the slow pace of completion of irrigation projects, the Committee in their 34<sup>th</sup> Report on Demands for Grants (2002-2003) had recommended that monitoring of ongoing projects under AIBP should be intensified. The Committee are constrained to find that no effective steps have been taken by the Ministry in this regard. They desire that the Government should take up this issue of incomplete irrigation projects with the State Government at highest level and impress upon them the need for their completion expeditiously.

In this connection, the Committee note that working group of Planning Commission has suggested to the Ministry of Water Resources to carry out a State-wise review of on-going irrigation projects through a committee headed by the Secretary, with Chairman, CWC, Advisor Water Resource in Planning Commission and concerned Secretaries of State Governments as members. The Committee desire that the aforesaid suggestion of Planning Commission should be urgently followed up so that the hurdles in completion of projects could be identified and speedy action taken to overcome them.

#### **Reply of the Government**

5.9 AIBP was commenced in 1996-97 for providing Central Loan Assistance (CLA) to accelerate completion of selected major and medium irrigation projects which are in advanced stage of completion. A sum of Rs.11541.7314 crore has been released as on date to the States as CLA under this programme for 172 major/medium irrigation projects and more than 5000 minor irrigation projects of Special Category States. The Field Chief Engineers of CWC are closely monitoring the projects receiving funds under AIBP and submitting periodical monitoring reports to Ministry of Water Resources and CWC Head Quarters. The Chief Engineer, CWC at Head Quarters examines the reports and visits the projects as and when required. Senior Officers of this Ministry make monitoring visits and review the progress with State Government Officers. However, the objectives set forth are not being achieved as only 20 projects are reported to be completed with potential creation of 1,974 thousand hectare upto March, 2002. As such the Secretary (WR) has addressed Chief Secretaries of all the States during May, 2003 referring to earlier communication, high-lighting the necessity to achieve the objectives of AIBP and also completion of ongoing irrigation projects of 10<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan. It has also been informed that State-wise review meetings will be held in this Ministry during

July/August, 2003 with respective State Irrigation Secretaries, where Chairman, CWC and Advisor (WR), Planning Commission will also be present to review the progress of all the projects included under AIBP and other ongoing irrigation projects of 10<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan and also to finalize the programme under AIBP for the year 2003-04.

## **AIBP Fast Track Programme**

### **Recommendation Sl. no.10**

5.10 The Committee note that during 2001-02, 15 Major/Medium projects in 6 States were included under Fast Track Programme launched by Government in February, 2002 to complete Major and Medium Irrigation projects. The projects under Fast Track Programme are required to be completed in one year(two working seasons). The Committee are constrained to find that only one project has since been completed. The Ministry have informed that remaining 14 projects are likely to be completed during 2003-04. The Committee, therefore, desire that the Ministry should strictly monitor the completion of remaining 14 projects in order to ensure their timely completion.

The Committee are further constrained to find that the Ministry have not yet received project proposals from States for their inclusion under fast track programme during 2003-04. They wonder as to how the allocation of funds for various projects under AIBP could be planned unless the proposals are received in time from the States. The Committee, therefore, strongly recommend that the Ministry should take up the matter with the States at highest level to persuade them to send their proposals for inclusion under fast track programme urgently for timely completion of projects vital for the concerned States.

### **Reply of the Government**

5.11 The Fast Track Programme of Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) was commenced in the month of February, 2002. As the Central Loan Assistance (CLA) is provided in two equal instalments, the 1<sup>st</sup> instalment for the projects included under the Fast Track was released by the end of March, 2002. As per the norms for projects under Fast Track, the projects are to be completed in two working seasons. As such, the States have got one working season only. The delay is due to the shortage of time in the 1<sup>st</sup> working season. The 2<sup>nd</sup> instalment of CLA has been released for those States which have reported utilization of 1<sup>st</sup> instalment. During 2001-02 an amount of Rs. 472.86 crore was released for 13 major/medium projects while during 2002-03 an amount of Rs. 386.855 crore was released for 16 major/medium projects totaling to Rs. 859.715 crore as CLA under Fast Track Programme. The Field Chief Engineers of Central Water Commission are visiting the projects and submitting the monitoring reports regularly to

the Ministry. It is now programmed that Secretary (WR) will be reviewing with the States during July/August, 2003 all the projects under Fast Track.

The funds under AIBP as well as under Fast Track Programme are made by the Planning Commission during plan discussions with the State Governments. This Ministry recommends funds to the State Governments as per allocations made by the Planning Commission. The programme for 2003-04 will also be finalized in the review meetings. During the above meetings, State Governments would be asked to complete all the irrigation projects included under Fast Track Programme as per Fast Track programme norms.

## ***Flood Proofing Programmes***

### **Recommendation Sl. no.12**

5.12 The Committee note that the Budget Estimates for Flood Proofing Programmes for 2002-2003 was earmarked at Rs.1.50 crore, it was scaled down to Rs.0.01 crore at the Revised Estimates stage, which shows almost a nil performance under the scheme. The Ministry in their reply informed the Committee that the reasons for poor performance of the scheme was due to delay in completion of schemes under the programme by the State Government of Bihar. Out of 100 approved schemes under the programme only 57 schemes have been taken up for implementation by the State Government. The Committee are deeply concerned over the poor performance under the scheme. The Committee feel since Bihar is cronicly flood affected State, there is an urgent need to implement flood proofing programme with full vigour to mitigate the suffering of people in the region. They therefore, recommend that the Ministry should take up the issue at the highest level and persuade Bihar Government to speed up the implementation of all the 100 schemes in order to get its full benefits for the people of the State.

### **Reply of the Government**

5.13 An amount of Rs.1.5 crore was provided in the budget estimate for the year 2002-2003 to take up the Flood Proofing programmes in the States of Bihar, U.P., West Bengal, Assam, Orissa and Andhra Pradesh identified as chronically flood affected states. The proposed enlarged scheme in the 10<sup>th</sup> Plan is in continuation of the scheme on “Flood proofing programme in North Bihar” which had been under operation during 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> Five Year plans.

As the formulation of the scheme with the enlarged scope was dependent on the receipt of the schemes from the respective State Governments, the continuing scheme of flood proofing programme in North Bihar spilling over from 9<sup>th</sup> plan was extended for implementation during 2002-2003 and 2003-2004. No expenditure could be incurred in respect of Flood Proofing Programme in North Bihar during the year 2002-2003, because

of the slow progress of works as reported by the State Government because of the encroachment on identified land and need for revision of estimates by them.

Up till the end of 9<sup>th</sup> Plan, an amount of Rs.406.84 lakhs has been released by the Government of India. Government of Bihar has submitted utilization certificates amounting to Rs.465.32 lakhs. Out of the total utilization certificates for an amount of Rs.465.32 lakh submitted by the Government of Bihar, an amount of Rs.324.295 lakh could only be adjusted by the Ministry of Water Resources. In respect of the balance amount, the comments have been sent to Government of Bihar for compliance, which is awaited.

Efforts are being made by Ganga Flood Control Commission and the Ministry of Water Resources with the Government of Bihar to expedite the progress and also with the other State Governments to furnish the schemes so as to enable the Ministry to formulate the scheme with the extended scope for implementation during 10<sup>th</sup> Plan. In this regard the matter has been taken up by Secretary (WR) with the concerned Chief Secretaries.



## *Desilting of Old Rivers*

### **Recommendation Sl. no.13**

5.14 The Committee are satisfied to note that the Ministry of Water Resources has paid some attention to the problem of desilting of rivers by appointing a high level Scientific Committee to study the problems of silting in rivers. Which has since submitted its Report.

The committee has examined the recommendations of the Scientific Committee but, are not fully satisfied with them, and observe the following.

- (1). The Committee consider that the Scientific Committee should have included experts in sedimentology, geology and geography and should also have taken into consideration the views of the farmers in the concerned areas.
- (2). From the Report it appears that the Scientific Committee did not have enough data on the subject and, therefore, the Committee feel that more relevant data should be collected and made available for a deeper study of the problem.
- (3). The Scientific Committee's observations that the desilting of rivers is not an economically viable solution, cannot be accepted because, if silting of rivers in the Indo-Gangetic Plain is not checked at this stage, the rivers will be totally choked. This will lead to water spreading over to agricultural lands from Varanasi to Farakka. Thus the rich agricultural land in the Indo-Gangetic Plain will be flooded with water with the result that one crop every year will be lost.
- (4). The spread of sand on the alluvial soil on both banks of the river will make the land uncultivable. This is what is happening all over the Indo-Gangetic Plain.
- (5). The Committee also do not agree that the problem can be solved by desilting at some specific locations such as tidal rivers and confluence points because unless the whole passage of river upto the estuary is cleared, any effort to do it in parts will not help.
- (6). The Scientific Committee should have got some experiments done with small dredgers which would remove silt from riverbeds and put it on either side of river banks so that the riverbed is made deeper and at the same time both the river

banks are strengthened with the silt removed from riverbed. In the Himalayan rivers where there is heavy silting, the dredging operations should be a continuous process throughout the year except during the rainy season so that there is no accumulation of silt in the river. It is claimed that this method would be cheaper than the present method of protecting the banks with boulders and manual operations because the dredging operation not only clears the riverbed but also simultaneously strengthens both the riverbanks as a mechanical process.

- (7). Any excess sand, which has accumulated over the years, could be used for filling the pits in mines specially coalmines in Jharkhand area. Therefore, mining companies should be directed to take away the excess sand to fill up the pits and restore the top soil for proper utilisation of the land as per the provisions of the Mining Act.
- (8). The role of Farakka Barrage in causing siltation of the Ganges and its tributaries by preventing full discharge of the sand needs to be examined. In this context, it would be worthwhile to re-examine the feasibility report which had been prepared when proposal for the construction of the Farakka Barrage was under consideration. It is believed that some of the experts had anticipated the problem of silting of rivers due to the Barrage. Steps taken for the discharge of full sand along with flood water have not been adequate.

The Committee recommend that the Ministry of Water Resources, before finalising its views on desilting of rivers, should take into consideration the experience of UNDP who funded the project and Bangladesh which had also faced the same problem and conducted feasibility study of desilting of 20 medium and minor rivers. In fact, it would be advisable for the Ministry to hold a scientific seminar on the subject in which not only irrigation engineers but also geologists, hydrologists, geographers and sedimentologists as well as administrators, public men and the farmers who are concerned with the problem and if possible, foreign scientists having the necessary expertise and experience, should be invited. The deliberations in such a seminar would be very fruitful in dealing with the problem of silting of rivers.

## **Reply of the Government**

5.15 The report of the Mittal Committee on problem of silting in rivers submitted in January, 2003 has been further examined by the Select Group set up by the Ministry of Water Resources under the Chairmanship of Chairman, Central Water Commission which has suggested various action points for implementation by the State Governments/ UTs/Other concerned agencies. The report of the Select Group has since been accepted by Ministry of Water Resources and various State Governments/ UTs/ Other agencies have been requested to take necessary follow up in respect of various action points. In this regard parawise replies to the recommendation No. 13 are given as under:

1. The Committee on silting of rivers consisted of Shri Suresh Chopra, a Geologist from Geological Survey of India and Prof. Sivasami, a Geographer from JNU, New Delhi. Secretaries/ Commissioners, Water Resources Department, Governments of Bihar, Assam and West Bengal were Members of the Committee. The Secretary, West Bengal informed the Committee that dredging could not be carried out in Ichhamati river due to non – availability of land for disposal of dredged material as farmers were not ready to provide land for it.

2. The Committee collected all the data that was available in different organizations in order to find out the status of silting in rivers of the country. However, as desired by the Committee, all the State Governments/ Union Territories and Central Water Commission have already been asked to collect and analyse the relevant data to monitor the carrying capacity of rivers on regular basis to obtain complete knowledge regarding aggradation/ degradation to understand the nature of silting process.

3-4-5. The Committee deliberated upon the efficacy of desilting of rivers from economic point of view as desilting entails enormous expenditure besides requiring land to dispose dredged material. However based on the recommendations of the Mittal Committee and the select group all the State Government / UTs have been requested to take suitable measures like afforestation, right practice of land use and catchment area treatment for

minimization of siltation. The Institutes like North Eastern Hydraulic & Allied Research Institute (NEHARI), Irrigation Research Institute (IRI), Roorkee, River Research Institute (RRI), Central water & Power Research Station, Pune and States/ UTs have also been requested to take up specific scientific study to establish the cause of aggradation/ degradation in rivers and to suggest short term/ long term remedial measures to minimize/ remove the siltation problem.

6. Government of Assam carried out dredging operation in river Brahmaputra for 4 Km or so near Guwahati during 1975, the result of which was not encouraging. Dredging operation was abandoned subsequently due to several practical difficulties. The river, however, restored its original position during the next flood season. The volume of silt involved for removal from the rivers is so huge that it is not practically possible for dumping on the banks of the river. In this connection as per the study carried out by CWPRS, as brought out by the select Group in their report, it has been estimated that in a reach of about 50 km in river Kosi, the aggradation in the tune of 351 million cubic meter has occurred during the period 1988-2002. The Select Group has brought out that if this volume of silt is to be removed from the river bed, it would require an amount of Rs 2106 crore @ Rs 60/= per cubic meter. The above quantum of silt if transported in trucks of capacity 6 cubic meter each will require 58.50 million trips to remove the silt from the river and disposal for the same will also be a problem.

7. As advised by the Parliamentary Standing Committee, the Ministry of Mines, Government of India has already been requested to examine the matter and take necessary action.

8. In this regard it is submitted that the Farakka Barrage is not causing siltation at upstream and downstream though there is shoal formation in upstream and downstream of barrage due to bank erosion in the upstream in the river Ganga. The crest of the barrage floor has been kept at the lowest level of the bed of the river. The sediments are carried by flood water during the flood season and mostly in the rising and falling wave of flood, when all the gates are kept completely open. In such circumstances, accumulation of silt does not occur due to any obstruction of the barrage. The sediments

that form shoals are mainly brought down from bank erosion in the upstream. This is a common phenomenon in all deltaic rivers. In the feasibility report of the barrage which was prepared by a Group under the leadership of Dr. N.K. Bose, Director River Research and assisted by Mr. S.P. Sarathi, Chief Engineer CPT, and Prof. Hensen an international expert on river engineering, there is also no mention that siltation may be caused by the Farakka Barrage. Since during the flood period the entire discharge of the floodwater is completely allowed to pass through all the opened gates of the barrage, as such there is no question of taking any additional measure to pass the silt of the floodwater. Even, during the lean period when the silt is very negligible in the water, the gates of the barrage are operated in such a way that the shoal formed in the downstream is washed by the water flowing through the barrage gates.

Further as recommended by the Mittal Committee, the Ministry of Water Resources had taken up the matter with the Ministry of Water Resources, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh and also requested Ministry of External Affairs to take up the matter with Deptt. of Sedimentation in China regarding exchange of information relating to feasibility study of desilting of 20 medium and minor rivers in Bangladesh stated to have been undertaken by Department of Sedimentation, Chinese Institute of Water Resources and Hydropower research. In this connection the information has been received from Ministry of Water Resources, People's Republic of Bangladesh wherein it has been intimated that no Chinese Institute or agency is involved in any feasibility study for desilting in Bangladesh. However, Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB) undertook dredging works of the Gorai river, in the Ganges basin in Bangladesh, as a pilot scheme in the year 1998-99 with the financial assistance from the Royal Netherlands Government as well as Belgium Government. The excavation was done in a length of 19.55 km along mainstream line covering a width of 250 meter with an average excavation depth of 4 meter. As the people along the Gorai river were opposed to allow their lands being used for dumping of the dredged silt, it had therefore to be deposited on the river banks itself which consequently came back into the dredged channel in the monsoon following the first year of capital dredging. This also necessitated maintenance dredging in the year 1999-2000 and 2000-2001. A total cost of

US \$ 51 million is stated to have been incurred for the first capital dredging and the subsequent two years of maintenance dredging. The dredging carried out by BWDB was found to be very costly and the operations had thus to be suspended.

As regards holding of a Scientific Seminar on the subject of desilting of rivers, Central Water Commission have already initiated action for holding of such a seminar in October-November 2003, in association with Central Water & Power Research Station, Pune. The Parliamentary Committee would be duly informed of the detailed programme of the same.

NEW DELHI  
16 January, 2004  
26 Pausa, 1925(Saka)

**S.S PALANIMANICKAM**  
Chairman  
Standing Committee on Agriculture

## APPENDIX II

### ANALYSIS OF ACTION TAKEN BY GOVERNMENT ON THE 44<sup>TH</sup> REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE (13<sup>TH</sup> LOK SABHA)

(i)	Total number of Recommendations	16
(ii)	Recommendations/Observations which have been Accepted by the Government	
	Serial Nos. 1, 2, 5, 6, 7 & 15.	
	Total	6
	Percentage	37.5%
(iii)	Recommendations/Observations which the Committee Do not desire to pursue in view of the Government's replies	
	Serial No. Nil.	
	Total	Nil.
	Percentage	Nil.
(iv)	Recommendations/Observations in respect of which replies Of the Government have not been accepted by the Committee	
	Serial Nos. 11, 14 & 16.	
	Total	3
	Percentage	18.75%
(v)	Recommendations/Observations in respect of which Final replies of the Government are still awaited	
	Serial No. 3, 4, 8, 9, 10, 12 & 13	
	Total	7
	Percentage	43.75%