

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND
FORESTS

GANGA PROJECT
DIRECTORATE—
GANGA ACTION PLAN

ESTIMATES COMMITTEE
1988-89

EIGHTH LOK SABHA



LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

SEVENTY-FOURTH REPORT

ESTIMATES COMMITTEE

(1988-89)

(EIGHTH LOK SABHA)

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS-- GANGA PROJECT DIRECTORATE-- GANGA ACTION PLAN

Action Taken by Government on the recommendations contained in
the Sixty-Second Report of Estimates Committee (Eighth Lok Sabha)



Presented to Lok Sabha on 28 April, 1989

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

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(1988-89)

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(iii)

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STUDY GROUP ON ACTION TAKEN REPORTS OF ESTIMATES
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(1988-89)

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7. Shri Narayan Choubey
8. Dr. Manoj Pandey
8. Shri Ram Singh Yadav

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairman of the Estimates Committee having been authorised by the Committee to submit the Report on their behalf present this Seventy-Fourth Report on action taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the Sixty-Second Report of the Estimates Committee (Eighth Lok Sabha) on the Ministry of Environment and Forests—Ganga Project Directorate—Ganga Action Plan.

2. The Sixty-Second Report was presented to Lok Sabha on 21st April, 1988. Government furnished their replies indicating action taken on the recommendations contained in that Report on 11th October, 1988. The replies were examined and the draft report was adopted by the Estimates Committee at their sitting held on 30th March, 1989.

3. The Report has been divided into the following Chapters:—

- (i) Report.
- (ii) Recommendations/Observations which have been accepted by Government.
- (iii) Recommendations/Observations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of Government's replies.
- (iv) Recommendations/Observations in respect of which replies of Government have not been accepted by the Committee.
- (v) Recommendations/Observations in respect of which final replies of Government are still awaited.

4. An analysis of action taken by Government on the recommendations contained in Sixty-two Report of Estimates Committee (Eighth Lok Sabha) is given in Appendix. It would be observed that out of 17 recommendations made in the Report, 9 recommendations i.e. about 53 per cent have been accepted by Government. The Committee have desired not to pursue 5 recommendations in view of Government's reply i.e. about 30 per cent. Replies have not been accepted in respect of 3 recommendations i.e. about 18 per cent.

NEW DELHI;
March 30, 1989
Chaitra 9, 1911 (S)

ASUTOSH LAW,
Chairman,
Estimates Committee.

CHAPTER I

REPORT

1.1 This Report of the Estimates Committee deals with Action Taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the Sixty-second Report (Eighth Lok Sabha), on Ganga Action Plan, which was presented to the Lok Sabha on 21st April, 1968.

1.2 Action taken Notes have been received in respect of all the 17 recommendations contained in the Report.

1.3 Action taken notes on the recommendations of the Committee have been categorised as follows:—

- (i) Recommendations/Observations which have been accepted by the Government:
Sl. Nos. 1, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 11, 12, 17.
(Total 9—Chapter II)
- (ii) Recommendations/Observations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of Government's replies:
Sl. Nos. 2, 5, 9, 10, 14.
(Total 5—Chapter III)
- (iii) Recommendations/observations in respect of which Government's replies have not been accepted by the Committee:
Sl. Nos. 13, 15, 16.
(Total 3—Chapter IV)
- (iv) Recommendations/Observations in respect of which final replies of Government are awaited:
Nil.
(Nil—Chapter V)

1.4 The Committee will now deal with action taken by Government on some of the recommendations.

Utilisation of Funds

Recommendation (Sl. No. 3, Para 39)

1.5 The Committee had observed that utilisation of funds for Ganga Action Plan had been less than the actual provision of funds. Further, noting that an amount of Rs. 100 crores was left over in the

last year of Seventh Plan as against the estimated requirement of Rs. 64 crores, they had suggested that the targets should be put in right and realistic perspective and steps should be taken to accelerate the tempo of work.

1.6 In their reply the Ministry have stated that in the year 1987-88, a sum of Rs. 43.00 crores has been utilised against the revised estimates of Rs. 45.50 crores. The short-fall was mainly due to serious disruptions of work caused by staff strike in U.P. Jal Nigam in the working season. The Junior Engineers' strike continued even beyond March, 1988. It has been stated that for the year 1988-89, 214 schemes have been sanctioned at a cost of Rs. 217.91 crores and by June, 1988, another 20 schemes at a cost of Rs. 50 crores would be sanctioned.¹ The Ministry have also stated that various measures have been initiated to expedite the progress of work.

1.7 The Committee appreciate that the Ministry are alive to the situation and are taking appropriate steps to prescribe realistic targets and to accelerate the pace of work. They hope that the progress in the execution of the work would be periodically monitored at an appropriately higher level so that there are no time and cost overruns and the work is completed according to the prescribed schedule. They would also like to be apprised of the actual amount sanctioned for execution of work during the year 1988-89 and the work actually carried out along with reasons for slippages, if any.

Delay in Completion of Work at Patna

Recommendation (Sl. No. 7, Para 43)

1.8 The Committee had expressed concern that out of 20 works taken up for execution at Patna, 18 were over-due for completion and only one work had been completed. They had desired that slow progress might be looked into for necessary remedial action.

1.9 The Ministry have stated that poor progress in the case of Patna Schemes is because the target dates for completion had been set before the estimates of the schemes could be considered and finalised in consultation with the State Government which took considerable time. The needful has since been done and the Ganga Project Directorate has been assured that all the sanctioned schemes would be completed by 31-3-1990.²

1. At the time of factual verification, the Ministry has stated that after this sentence, the following may be added—"By the end of the financial year 1988-89, 262 schemes at a cost of Rs. 258.44 crores have been sanctioned".

2. At the time of factual verification the Ministry has stated that the following may be added to this paragraph :—

"as on date (3rd April, 1989) 45 Schemes have been sanctioned under the Ganga Action Plan for Patna. Of these, 13 have been completed".

1.10 The Committee deprecate that target dates for completion had been set before the consideration and finalisation of the estimates. At this stage they can only express the hope that this sort of faulty planning would be avoided in future. There should be periodical and effective review of execution of such projects at an appropriate level. The Committee would like to be apprised of the up-to-date position of actual progress in the execution of Patna Schemes vis-a-vis the prescribed targets.

Industrial Pollution of River Ganga

Recommendation (Sl. No. 12. Para 56)

1.11 The Committee expressed concern over the industrial pollution of river Ganga and, in the context of Ganga Plan authority not assuming direct responsibility of such pollution, had desired the Ministry/Central Board to issue a directive to State Boards for taking recourse to the powers vested in them to deal with the situation effectively.

1.12 In reply thereto the Ministry have stated that out of 264 Industrial Units 68 Units have been identified as gross polluters and asked to set up treatment facility in a time-bound manner. It has also been stated that 27 of such Industrial Units have not responded or are delaying action to set up treatment facilities.³ Powers, have also been delegated to 20 State Governments by the Government of India to initiate action in appropriate cases. Regarding the remaining States, their consent for delegating these powers has been asked for.

1.13 The Committee are of the opinion that pollution of rivers due to Industrial effluents is a matter of grave environmental concern besides being a serious health hazard. They urge the Ministry to ensure that 27 industrial units, which have not so far responded to set up treatment facilities or are adopting delaying tactics are asked to do the needful expeditiously failing which appropriate action should be initiated against them.

The Committee hope that the Ministry will monitor this work periodically and also ensure that necessary powers to initiate action in appropriate cases under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 are also delegated to all the State Governments at a

3. At the time of factual verification, the Ministry has stated : "One more sentence is to be added after "it was treatment facilities". The new sentence would be as follows :—

"In all the 27 cases appropriate action has been taken by the Government of India to make the Industrial Units set up effluent treatment facilities in a time-bound manner".

very early date. They would also like to be apprised of further developments in this regard.

Ganga Action Plan in Kanpur

Recommendations (Sl. Nos. 13, 15 and 16, Paras 69, 71-72)

1.14 The Committee had referred to improper maintenance of Kanpur Sewerage System resulting in overflow from the sewage line and pollution of the river Ganga. They had also observed that lack of proper maintenance had resulted in the Jajmau main Sewage pumping station to become obsolete and worn out. The Committee had also observed that the dredging of the river near Kanpur was being resorted to for providing adequate water supply in the river basin at Kanpur. The Committee were informed that Dredging Operation would continue indefinitely and had recommended that establishment of a water treatment plant at or near the site where the river Ganga was flowing after changing its course, which was at a distance of about 8 Km., might be considered. They had expressed that, the capital expenditure required would be substantially economical later on as it would obviate the need for dredging of the river at Kanpur. The Committee also noted that the dredged material out of the bypass of the river basin, adjacent to the Kanpur City, was being pumped back into the basin of the river itself and desired that it needed to be examined how far it was in order to pump the dredged material into the basin, itself, instead of at a site from where it could not possibly flow back into the river.

1.15 The Ministry have stated that besides poor maintenance, the capacity of Jajmau Pumping Station is limited to 80 MLD as against the present requirement of 310 MLD (peak flow). They have also stated that other problems concerned Kanpur Water Supply Department and City Development.⁵

4. At the time of factual verification the Ministry have stated that after this sentence, the following may be added:—

It has been decided to set up a Sewage Treatment Plant of 150 MLD near the Jajmau main pumping station. An experimental 5 MLD ASB plant has already been completed and will be commissioned by 25th April 1989.

5. The Ministry have further informed the Committee that the following may be added to this paragraph:—

The capacity of the Jajmau pumping Station has since been augmented to 150 MLD.

1.16 The Committee are dismayed that the Ministry have not given details of any specific steps intended to be taken to improve the sewerage system. They are not satisfied with this half-hearted and casual reply of the Ministry. The Committee are of the opinion that an integrated approach with the total involvement of State Governments and concerned agencies in the matter is absolutely essential to make the prestigious project of cleaning Ganga a grand success and for restoring its glory. They recommended that effective remedial steps to improve the Sewerage System and drinking water supply system in Kanpur in conjunction with the U.P. Government and Kanpur Water Supply and City Development should be taken with exemplary promptitude, as any failure in the functioning of these systems is likely to pollute the river Ganga, thereby hampering the progress of Ganga Action Plan. The Committee desire that the Ministry should consider their earlier recommendation earnestly and arrange to take appropriate remedial action relating to (a) improving city sewerage system; (b) establishment of water treatment plant at an appropriate place; and (c) pumping the dredged material at a proper place, i.e. Kanpur, as recommended earlier. They would like to be apprised of further developments in these matters.

CHAPTER II

RECOMMENDATIONS/OBSERVATIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE GOVERNMENT

Recommendation (Serial No. 1, Para 11)

The Committee need hardly point out that Ganga has a very important place in the lives of a vast majority of the people in the country in as much as it serves more than 150 to 200 million people, not only for water, but for agriculture and other purposes also. It also occupies a unique place in the holy scriptures like Bhagwad Gita, Upanishads etc. A very large chunk of India's population does not consider Ganga as just another river but treats it with reverence and call it as "Ma Ganga". It is evident from the fact that Government gave precedence to the cleaning of Ganga in comparison to other major rivers which are stated to be equally polluted. The Committee commend the Government for launching a very prestigious project in cleaning Ganga and restoring its past glory. The Committee have an earnest desire that the Ganga Cleaning Project will be completed well in time and the aspirations of the people which touched a new peak with the launching of this project will be amply realised. The Committee do hope that such ambitious projects will be launched so far as the other major rivers of the country are concerned.

Reply of Government

Intensive studies for assessment of basin-wise pollution have been completed in respect of Damodar, Subarnarekha, Brahmani-Baitarni and Krishna rivers. Studies on Sabarmati river basin have also been completed recently. The State Governments of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Maharashtra have prepared an action plan for prevention of pollution of Krishna river. Studies on Mahi, Mahanadi, Godavari and Kaveri basins have also been initiated recently. The State Governments of UP and Haryana and the Delhi Administration have prepared schemes for prevention of pollution of Yamuna river in their territories.

2. While the experience gained under the Ganga Action Plan will definitely be useful in undertaking the similar schemes for other

rivers of the country, decision for launching such projects for other rivers will depend upon the availability of resources. The State Government of Madhya Pradesh has initiated an action plan for cleaning of river Narmada out of their own budgetary resources.

[M/o. Environment and Forests O.M. No. H1101 3-4-88CPW-
(GPD) Dated 11-10-88]
Recommendation (Serial No. 3. Para 39)

The Committee attach great importance to the timely completion of the Ganga Action Plan which is being executed at a considerable cost to the Central Government. The Committee have been assured by the Ganga Project Directorate that the plans of action are proceeding according to schedule, that all schemes for execution during the 7th Plan will be sanctioned in time and expected to be implemented by the end of the Plan. The Committee are, however, perturbed to note that in the first two years of its operation the Ganga Project Directorate has failed to utilise the financial provisions to the extent of Rs. 30 crores as against the provision of Rs. 62 crores; for the year 1987-88 the requirement of funds has been estimated at Rs. 60 crores whereas in the original estimates the provision made was only Rs. 48.50 crores and in the revised estimates the provision has been reduced by Rs. 3 crores to Rs. 45.50 crores (about 75 per cent of the requirement only). The Committee also note that for the year 1988-89 the projected requirement is stated to be Rs. 80 crores whereas the provision has been only Rs. 57 crores (less than 75 per cent) in the budget recently presented to Parliament. The present trend of provision of funds leaves over Rs. 100 crores for the last year of the 7th Plan as against the estimated requirement of funds to the extent of Rs. 64 crores. The Committee therefore feel that the provision of funds and presumably the progress of work have not kept pace with each other adequately so far and that with the present trend of progress, the desired target of completion of work and removal of pollution to the extent of 90 per cent due to domestic sources may not be achieved by the end of the 7th Plan. The Committee, therefore, suggest a fresh look at the progress of action as at present so as to put the targets in their right realistic perspective and the steps that should be taken to accelerate the tempo of work.

Reply of Government

The Action Plan formulated in December, 1984, was only a strategy document identifying the types of schemes and indicating the total amounts of Rs. 250 crores calculated on the basis of

rough per capita cost, the actual process of identification and preparation of schemes was taken up only in June, 1985 after the Ganga Project Directorate was set up. In the first meeting of the CGA held in October 1985, the Chief Ministers of all the three States agreed that the detailed project reports would be submitted by the end of 1985. However, by that date only 34 schemes were submitted at a cost of Rs. 19.23 crores all of which were sanctioned. In view of this late start to the programme only Rs. 6.52 crores could be utilised during 1985-86 as against the initial allocation of Rs. 10 crores. The budget Estimates for 1986-87 were formulated during November, 1985 in which on the basis of assurance from the three States in CGA meeting, the allocation was kept at Rs. 52.8 crores. However, on a realistic assessment later on, the revised estimates provided for Rs. 25.80 crores only which was utilised.

So far as the year 1987-88 is concerned, the reduction in the revised estimates was necessitated due to resource constraints in the context of the drought situation in the country. Out of the R.E. of Rs. 45.50 crores, Rs. 43 crores has been utilised. The shortfall in the volume of expenditure as compared to the R.E. was mainly because of serious disruptions to work caused by staff strike in UP Jal Nigam in the working season. The Junior Engineers' strike has continued even beyond March, 1988. These are unforeseen factors beyond easy control but in spite of all this, the different agencies had tried hard to step up the pace of work.

The provision for 1988-89 has been made after taking into account the overall resource position by the Planning Commission. The steering Committee at its 13th meeting held on 25th April, 1988 reviewed the position in detail in consultation with the State Governments. Till 15th May, 1988, 214 schemes have been sanctioned at a cost of Rs. 217.91 crores. By June, 1988 another 20 schemes at a cost of Rs. 50 crores will be sanctioned taking the value of sanctions to about Rs. 275 crores. Several steps have been agreed to in the Steering Committee meeting to expedite the progress, such as—

- (i) Steps should be taken to ensure that all sanctionable schemes are cleared by 30th June, 1988;
- (ii) In view of a much larger work base available at present in terms of sanctioned schemes, implementation of schemes should be strengthened and expedited absorbing more funds in the last two years of the 7th Plan.

- (iii) State Government should aim at a higher target that what is reflected in the budget estimate of Rs. 55.50 crores for 1988-89.

[Ministry of Environment and Forests O.M. No. H-11013/4/88-CPW(GPD) dated 11-10-1988]

Recommendation (Serial No. 4, para 40)

The Committee note that in respect of 4 completed works in Uttar Pradesh, the actual expenditure has exceeded the sanction by Rs. 23.27 lakhs i.e. by nearly 13 per cent. The Committee apprehend that similar trend, if existing in other works on completion, could result in the financial estimation going away. The Committee therefore, recommend that adequate financial control may be exercised at every stage so as to ensure that costs of works are contained within the estimates.

Reply of Government

The UP Government have been asked to furnish data in detail justifying the cost increase in respect of the 4 completed schemes in the State. Regarding control in future, the three State Governments have been asked to inform GPD promptly about any increase in the scope of work or cost escalation and take approval of the GPD before exceeding the estimates.

[Ministry of Environment and Forests O.M. No. H-11013/4/88-CPW(GPD) dated 11-10-1988]

Recommendation (Serial No. 6, Para 42)

The Committee are surprised to note that for one work costing Rs. 96 lakhs, no funds have been released though the work has been completed and that at Kanpur, expenditure incurred has been far in excess of the funds released. The Committee recommend that the causes may be looked into for appropriate action.

Reply of Government

This relates to the renovation of Ghat pumping stations and improvement to some of the Ghats at Varanasi taken up the UP Government itself prior to the commencement of the Ganga Action Plan. However, since the nature of the schemes is similar, the item has been included in the Ganga Action Plan for Varanasi for purposes of monitoring and coordination.

[Ministry of Environment and Forests O.M. No. H-11013/4/88-CPW(GPD) dated 11-10-1988]

Recommendation (Serial No. 7, Para 43)

The Committee are perturbed to note that out of 20 works taken up for execution at Patna, 18 of them are already overdue for completion, but only one work has been completed. The works overdue for completion include as many as eleven works which ought to have been completed by January, 1987. The Committee recommend that the slow progress may be looked into for necessary remedial action.

Reply of Government

The poor progress in the case of Patna schemes is mainly because the target dates for completion had been set even before the estimates of the schemes could be considered and finalised in consultation with the State Government which took considerable time. Initial progress of the schemes has, no doubt, been slow. The matter has since been discussed in detail with the Bihar State Government and the GPD has been assured that all the sanctioned schemes will be completed before the dead line of 31st March, 1990. Incidentally, out of the 20 works referred to by the Committee, 5 have already been completed and the remaining have made substantial headway and all possible efforts are being made to ensure their expeditious completion.

[Ministry of Environment and Forests O.M. No. H-11013/4/88-CPW (GPD) dated 11-10-1988]

Recommendation (Serial No. 8, Para 44)

The Committee also note that as against funds released to the extent of Rs. 529.93 lakhs for all the locations in Bihar State, the total expenditure so far incurred has already exceeded the funds released by Rs. 11.31 lakhs. The Committee also note that this trend is due to the position obtaining at Patna and Chapra wherein funds released were Rs. 434.33 lakhs, whereas expenditure incurred has been Rs. 473.70 lakhs. The Committee recommend that the contributory causes in this regard should be reviewed.

Reply of Government

The figures appear to have been taken on a particular date during the year and are not consistent with the figures furnished in our evidence. The position as of 31st March, 1988 is out of Rs. 924 lakhs released, expenditure is Rs. 894 lakhs in Bihar.

[Ministry of Environment and Forests O.M. No. H-11013/4/88-CPW (GPD) dated 11-10-1988]

Recommendation (Serial No. 11, Para 47)

The Committee note that the executing agencies have furnished certificates of utilisation of funds to the extent of only Rs. 4.86 crores as against release of funds to the extent of over Rs. 31 crores. The Committee also note that one of the organisations that have furnished certificate of utilisation is Allahabad Nagar Mahapalika whereas according to the statement furnished to the Committee, no funds were released to the Nagar Mahapalika in 1985-86 or 1986-87. The Committee desire this discrepancy to be reconciled. They also recommend that the progress of utilisation by the executing agencies may be duly monitored by ensuring periodical scrutiny of the accounts by internal audit.

Reply of Government

During 1985-86 and 1986-87, funds to the Nagar Mahapalika were not made available directly but through UP Jal Nigam. The submission of utilisation certificates is clearly mentioned as a condition while all schemes are sanctioned. The implementing agencies have again been asked to furnish utilisation certificates upon completion of schemes as well as utilisation certificates for funds released annually.

[Ministry of Environment & Forests O.M. No. H-11013/4/88-CPW
(GPD) dated 11-10-1989]

Recommendation (Serial No. 12, Para 56)

The Committee find that even though the industrial pollution of river Ganga in terms of quantity is to the extent of 25 per cent only, in toxic terms, it equals or is more than the extent of pollution by domestic sources. The Committee are informed that the Ganga Project Authority has not assumed direct responsibility to control industrial pollution and this menace has to be dealt with as per laws of the land. The Committee would like the Ministry/Central Board to issue directive to the State Boards for taking recourse to the powers vested in them to deal with the situation effectively. The decision of the Supreme Court in the case of *M. C. Mehta Vs Union of India* in September last is an eye opener in this direction.

Reply of Government

Out of 264 industrial units which discharge their effluents into the river Ganga, 68 industrial units have been identified as gross polluters considering the volume of discharge (more than 1000 kilolitres per day) and the characteristics (high content of toxic materials). These 68 units have been asked to set up treatment facility in a time bound manner. Of these 34 units are in UP, 5 in Bihar and 29 in West Bengal.

The GPD in consultation with the Central Government Ministries and the State agencies concerned has been reviewing the position periodically and has been pursuing the setting up of the treatment facilities in these cases. The position at the end of August, 1988 is as under:—

i. Treatment plants provided	25
ii- Treatment plants under construction	11
iii. Industries which have not responded or delaying action	27
iv. Units closed	5
	<hr/>
TOTAL	68

Action against the 27 units in category (iii) is under way for not setting up the treatment facilities.

To enable the State Governments to initiate action in appropriate cases, powers under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, have been delegated by the Government of India to 20 States of Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Gujarat, Goa, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Mizoram, Orissa, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Meghalaya, Punjab and Uttar Pradesh. Regarding the remaining States, the Central Government has asked for their consent for delegating these powers. It is expected that these State Governments will take recourse to the powers vested in them to deal with the situation effectively.

In the context of Supreme Court decision, out of 69 units which did not have primary effluent treatment plants and hence were ordered to be closed down, by 21st April, 1988, 49 have put up the primary ETPs and in the case of 7 units, the ETPs are under construction.

[Ministry of Environment and Forests O.M. No. H-11013/4/
88-CPW(GPD) dated 11-10-1988]

Recommendation (Serial No. 17, Para 77)

The Committee do not consider that monitoring of the implementation of the Ganga Action Plan has yet come to an effective stage because the progress of work at various places has not kept adequate pace for achievement of the prescribed targets by the due dates and the financial provision has also fallen short of the estimated needs, at least upto the end of 1988-89. It is difficult to reconcile that whereas in certain places funds released have remained unutilised, there are other places wherein expenditure incurred has been far in excess of the funds released, yet in other cases, sanctioned funds have not been released. The Committee urge that the monitoring mechanism should be further strengthened and geared up so that it becomes an effective instrument for keeping a strict watch on the regular flow of funds and also timely implementation of the various projects. The Committee also recommend that the monitoring mechanism should evaluate the performance of each completed work *vis-a-vis* its objectives to be achieved by it on a regular basis so that shortcomings could be rectified and effectiveness improved. This is all the more necessary since Ganga Action Plan is an epoch making project and the difficulties being encountered in its execution and solutions found for the same can be gainfully taken note of when similar projects are undertaken subsequently for other rivers.

Reply of Government

At the recent meeting of the Steering Committee, this and other recommendations of the Estimates Committee were considered in detail. It has been agreed that a special technical group comprising experts will visit major work sites and assess the performance. Detailed discussions have also been held with the State Governments about 1988-89 Works Programme and targets for physical progress and expenditure established.

[Ministry of Environment and Forests O.M. No. H-11013/4/
88-CPW (GPD) dated 11-10-1988]

CHAPTER III

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

Recommendation (Serial No. 2, Para 15)

The Committee note that Central Ganga Authority has been created by a Government's Resolution dated 16th February, 1985 to oversee the implementation of the Ganga Action Plan. They, however, feel that since the Central Ganga Authority has to deal with a very large number of local bodies, industries etc., it should have been vested with some statutory powers. The Committee only hope that the organisational set up as at present in existence will be able to cater to the onerous job of completing the project as per time schedule.

Reply of Government

Since the focus of the Action Plan in the first phase was on preventing pollution from Municipal waste and as many organisations like local bodies, State and Central Government agencies were involved, the organisational structure for the Ganga Action Plan has been devised to associate these different agencies. Accordingly, the Central Ganga Authority with the Prime Minister as Chairman, is the forum at the highest level for policy directions which includes the Chief Ministers of UP, Bihar and West Bengal as well as the Union Ministers and others concerned as Members. The Steering Committee under the Chairmanship of Secretary (Env.) similarly includes the Chief Secretaries of UP, Bihar and West Bengal and other Secretaries to the Government of India concerned as well as Technical Experts. All out efforts are being made by all concerned to ensure expeditious completion of the schemes under the Ganga Action Plan within the stipulated time frame.

[Ministry of Environment and Forests O.M. No. H-11013/4/
88-CPW(GPD) dated 11-10-1988]

Recommendation (Serial No. 5, Para 41)

The Committee note that one of the schemes undertaken in Uttar Pradesh is electrification of street lights leading to ghats at Varanasi at a cost of Rs. 18.78 lakhs. The Committee are of the view that the admissibility of this type of work for being financed out of Ganga Action Plan funds may be reviewed by the Ministry.

Reply of Government

For Varanasi, where the city and the river are indistinguishable in daily life, a multi-sectoral special action programme was considered and approved by the Central Ganga Authority. Improvement and renovation of ghats is a part of this special action programme and the expenditure over the electrification of street lights leading to ghats has been incurred under this programme.

[Ministry of Environment & Forests O.M. No. H-11013/4/88-CPW (GPD) dt. 11-10-88]

Recommendation (Serial No. 9, Para 45)

The Committee note that out of the total estimated cost of Rs. 291 crores the expenditure to be incurred in and around Calcutta has been to the extent of about Rs. 124 crores. While the Committee attach great importance to the schemes concerned with local sanitation and drainage facilities for control of pollution, they would like the Ministry to consider whether the cleaning of Ganga beyond Calcutta port is called for to the proposed extent, because beyond that point, the river is greatly affected by tidal conditions because of which the port authorities are undertaking dredging of the river basin for navigation purposes at a considerable cost to the Central exchequer.

Reply of Government

The Calcutta Port stretches all the way down to Diamond Harbour. For purpose of Ganga Action Plan only the Calcutta Metropolitan District has been taken. However, the tidal influence of the river goes upstream of Calcutta Port as well. Furthermore, the tidal influence also has the effect of conveying pollution up and down stream throughout the Metropolitan District. It is, therefore, essential that an integrated view of controlling the pollution coming into the river is taken.

[Ministry of Environment & Forests O.M. No. H-11013/4/88-CPW (GPD) dt. 11-10-88]

Recommendation (Serial No. 10, Para, 46)

The Committee note from the table relating to West Bengal that the progress of works has not caught up with the speed needed though works costing substantial outlay have been sanctioned. For Calcutta Corporation Area (Rs. 38.67 crores) and the Kamarhati Baranagar region (Rs. 11.05 crores) no funds have been released for the former and only Rs. 64 lakhs have been released for the latter. The Committee also note that as against funds needed to the extent of Rs. 87.64 crores for West Bengal, funds released have been to the extent of Rs. 11.77 crores so far. As against this, the expenditure incurred has, however, been in excess of funds released by Rs. 5 crores. The Committee feel that there exists some lack of coordination of undertaking works and release of funds and would recommend that a review of the position may be conducted to put the whole operation on proper footings.

Reply of Government

Here again the figures in the report do not tally with the figures furnished to the Committee. The position as on 31-3-1988 for the expenditure incurred by West Bengal is Rs. 23.18 crores as against release of Rs. 23.35 crores.

[Ministry of Environment and Forests, O.M. No. H. 11013/4/88-CPW (GPD) dated 11-10-83.]

Recommendation (Serial No. 14, Para 70)

The Committee feel that a similar situation must be existing in other cities as well wherein under the Ganga Action Plan the existing facilities are upgraded or renewed or fresh facilities are provided. The Committee recommend that both for Kanpur and for other places the matter relating to maintenance of the facilities and financial provision therefor should be fully looked into and provided for now itself so that the investments that are now being made, do not become infructuous after some passage of time.

Reply of Government

The steering Committee has examined the issues in regard to operation and maintenance of sewage treatment plants in details in consultation with the State Governments. On the basis of the discussions, the financial and organisational arrangements will be placed for consideration of the CGA at its next meeting.

[Ministry of Environment and Forests, O.M. No. H. 11013/4/88-CPW (GPD) dated 11-10-83.]

CHAPTER IV

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

Recommendation (Serial No. 13, Para 69)

The Committee consider it unfortunate that the city sewage system established in 1952 and improved upon in 1970 at a considerable cost, had not been maintained properly by the local authorities, as a result of which the domestic wastes are being allowed to overflow from the sewage line and pollute the river Ganga day by day. The Committee also feel that lack of proper maintenance has resulted in the Jajmau main sewage pumping station to become obsolete and wornout because under normal maintenance, main sewage pumping stations function at other places for considerably long period.

Reply of Government

While poor maintenance is certainly a major reason, it is also to be noted that the capacity of the Jajmau pumping station was limited to 80 MLD compared to present requirement of 310 MLD (peak flow).

[Ministry of Environment and Forests, O.M. No. H. 11013/4/88-CPW (GPD) dated 11-10-88.]

Recommendation (Serial No. 15, Para 71)

The Committee noticed during the visit that the dredging of the river near Kanpur is being resorted to for providing adequate water supply in the river basin at Kanpur. The Committee have been informed that it would be necessary for the dredging operations to continue indefinitely to maintain the river flow at the present level. The Committee, however, desire that the establishment of a water treatment plant at or near the site where the river Ganga is now flowing after changing its course, which is at a distance of about 8 Kms., may be considered. This will help in pumping the drinking water supply from the site directly to the city by providing the pipelines. The Committee consider that even though the capital expenditure could be initially heavy, this will prove substantially

economical later. Moreover the need for continuous dredging of the river at Kanpur will be obviated by allowing the river to have its chosen course of flow without interruption. The basin of the river through which the river does not flow now could also be profitably utilised for developmental activities of the city after reclamation.

Reply of Government

The matter pertains entirely to Kanpur Water Supply and City Development.

[Ministry of Environment and Forests, O.M. No. H. 11013/4/88-CPW (GPD) dated 11-10-88.]

Recommendation (Serial No. 16, Para 72)

The Committee are surprised to learn that the dredged material out of the by pass of the river basin, adjacent to the Kanpur city, is being pumped back into the basin of the river itself. The Committee feel this situation to be odd and would like the concerned authorities to examine how far it is in order to pump the dredged material into the basin itself instead of pumping it at a site from which it could not possibly flow back into the river.

Reply of Government

The matter concerns the Kanpur Water Supply. Hence it has been taken up with the Government of Uttar Pradesh.

[Ministry of Environment and Forests, O.M. No. H-11013/4/88-CPW (GPD) dated 11-10-88.]

CHAPTER V

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

—NIL—

NEW DELHI;
March, 30, 1989

Chairra 9, 1911 (S)

ASUTOSH LAW,
Chairman,
Estimates Committee.

APPENDIX

(Vide Introduction of the Report)

Analysis of Action Taken by Government on the 62nd Report of Estimates Committee (Eighth Lok Sabha)

I.	Total number of Recommendations	17
II.	Recommendations/Observations which have been accepted by Government.		
	(Nos. 1, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 11, 12, 17)		
	Total		9
	Percentage		53%
III.	Recommendations/Observations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of Government's replies.		
	(2, 5, 9, 10, 14)		
	Total		5
	Percentage		30%
IV.	Recommendations/Observations in respect of which Government's replies have not been accepted by the Committee.		
	(13, 15, 16)		
	Total		3
	Percentage		18%
V.	Recommendations/Observations in respect of which final replies of Government are still awaited.		
	Nil.		

**LIST OF AUTHORISED AGENTS FOR THE SALE OF LOK SABHA
SECRETARIAT PUBLICATIONS**

Sl. No.	Name of Agent	Sl. No.	Name of Agent
ANDHRA PRADESH		UTTAR PRADESH	
1.	M/s. Vijay Book Agency, 11-1-477, Mylargadda, Secunderabad-500361	12.	Law Publishers, Sardar Patel Marg, P.B. No. 77, Allahabad U.P.
BIHAR		WEST BENGAL	
2.	M/s. Crown Book Depot, Upper Bazar, Ranchi (Bihar)	13.	M/s. Manimala, Buys & Sells, 123, Bow Bazar Street, Calcutta-1
GUJARAT		DELHI	
3.	The New Order Book Company, Ellis Bridge, Ahmedabad-380006. (T.No. 79065)	14.	M/s. Jain Book Agency, C-9, Connaught Place, New Delhi (T.No. 351663 & 350806).
MADHYA PRADESH		15.	M/s. J.M. Jaina & Brothers P.Box 1020, Mori Gate, Delhi 110006. (T.No. 2915064 & 230936
4.	Modern Book House, Shiv Vilas Palace, Indore City. (T. No. 352289)	16.	M/s. Oxford Book & Stationery Co., Scindia House, Connaught Place, New Delhi-110001. (T.No 3315308 & 45896).
MAHARASHTRA		17.	M/s. Bookwell, 2/72, Sant Niranjari Colony, Kingsway Camp Delhi-110009. (T.No. 7112309).
5.	M/s. Sunderdas Gian Chand, 601, Girgaum Road, near Princess Street, Bombay-400002.	18.	M/s. Rajendra Book Agency, IV-D/50, Lajpat Nagar, Old Double Storey, New Delhi-110024 (T. No. 6415362 & 6412131).
6.	The International Book Service, Deccan Gymkhana, Poona-4.	19.	M/s. Ashok Book Agency BH-82, Poorvi Shalimar Bagh Delhi-110033.
7.	The Current Book House, Maruti Lane, Raghunath Dadaji Street, Bombay-400001.	20.	M/s. Venus Enterprises, B-2/84 Phase-II, Ashok Vihar, Delhi.
8.	M/s. Usha Book Depot, 'Law Book Seller and Publishers' Agents, Govt. Publications, 585, Chira Bazar, Khan House, Bom- bay-400002.	21.	M/s. Central News Agency Pvt Ltd, 23/90, Connaught Circus New Delhi-110001. (T.No. 344444 322705, 344478 & 344508).
9.	M&J Services, Publishers, Re- presentative Accounts & Law Book Sellers, Mohan Kunj, Ground Floor, 68, Jyotiba Fuele Road, Nalgaum-Dadar, Bom- bay-400014.	22.	M/s. Amrit Book Co., N-2 Connaught Circus, New Delhi.
10.	Subscribers Subscription Services India, 21, Raghunath Dadaji Street, 2nd Floor, Bombay- 400001.	23.	M/s. Books India Corporation Publishers, Importers & Ex- porters, L-27, Shastri Nagar Delhi-110052. (T.No. 269631 & 714465).
TAMIL NADU		24.	M/s. Sangam Book Depo 4378/4B, Murari Lal Stree Ansari Road, Darya Ganj, Ne Delhi-110002.
11.	M/s. M.M. Subscription Agencies, 14th Murali Street, (1st Floor), Mahalingapuram, Nungambak- kam, Madras-600034. (T.No. 476558).		