9

STANDING COMMITTEE ON WATER RESOURCES

(2024-25)

EIGHTEENTH LOK SABHA

MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI – DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (2025-26)

[Action Taken by the Government on the Observations / Recommendations contained in the Fourth Report (Eighteenth Lok Sabha) of the Standing Committee on Water Resources]

NINTH REPORT

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

NEW DELHI

August, 2025 / Sravana, 1947 (Saka)

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(Action Taken by the Government on the Observations / Recommendations contained in the Fourth Report on 'Demands for Grants (2025-26) of the Ministry of Jal Shakti - Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation)

Presented to Lok Sabha on 11.08.2025

Laid on the Table of Rajya Sabha on 11.08.2025

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

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5.	Shri Nitin Kumar Nim	-	Assistant Committee Officer

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairperson, Standing Committee on Water Resources (2024-25) having been authorized by the Committee to submit the Report on their behalf, present the Ninth Report on the Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations contained in their Fourth Report (Eighteenth Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants (2025-26) of the Ministry of Jal Shakti -Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation.

2. The Fourth Report of the Committee was presented to Lok Sabha and laid in Rajya Sabha on 11 March 2025. The Action Taken replies of the Government to all the recommendations contained in the Report were received in this Secretariat on 12 June, 2025.

3. The replies of the Government were examined and the Report was considered and adopted by the Committee at their sitting held on 08.08.2025.

4. An analysis of the Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations contained in the Fourth Report (Eighteenth Lok Sabha) of the Committee is given in Appendice-II.

NEW DELHI
08 August, 2025
17 Sravana,1947 (Saka)

RAJIV PRATAP RUDY,
Chairperson,
Standing Committee on Water Resources

CHAPTER I

REPORT

This Report of the Standing Committee on Water Resources (2024-25) deals with the action taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations contained in their Fourth Report (18th Lok Sabha) on the Demands for Grants (2025-26) of the Ministry of Jal Shakti – Department of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation.

2. The Fourth Report was presented to Lok Sabha on 11.03.2025 and was laid on the Table of Rajya Sabha on 11.03.2025. The Report contained 28 Observations/Recommendations.

3. Action Taken Notes in respect of all the 28 Observations/Recommendations of the Committee have been received from the Government. These have been examined and categorized as follows: -

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

Recommendation Nos. 1, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12,14, 15, 16, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27 & 28

(Total – 24)

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

Recommendation Nos. NIL

(Total – NIL)

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

Recommendation Nos. 2, 3, 13 & 17

(Total – 04)

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

Para Nos. NIL

(Total – NIL)

4. The Committee desire that replies to recommendations made in the Chapter-I of this Report may be furnished to the Committee expeditiously.

5. The Committee will now deal with action taken by the Government on some of their Observations/Recommendations that require reiteration or merit comments.

A. National Water Policy

Recommendation No. 2 (Para Nos.2.4, 2.5 & 2.6)

6. The Committee noted that at present the National Water Policy-2012 is in effect with the objective to assess the existing situation and to propose a framework for a plan of action with a unified national perspective and to achieve this objective of the Policy, a number of recommendations have been made therein for conservation, development and improved management of water resources of the country.

The Committee observed that to address current challenges in the Water Sector, revision of National Water Policy has been envisaged and the drafting committee constituted to revise the National Water Policy has submitted its draft report with contrary and non-coherent views from some of the key Members of this Committee and the same is under consideration of the Ministry. In this context, the Committee were of the opinion that as enumerated by the Department various challenges in the water sector including reduction of per capita availability of water due to increasing population, deterioration in quality, overexploitation of ground water resources leading to decline in ground water level and relatively lower efficiency of the facilities for water utilization are multiplying in magnitude over time period. Hence, to mitigate these challenges a robust and collective approach is essential.

Therefore, the Committee urged the Ministry to take necessary decisions in the matter on urgent basis and ensure the implementation of the New National Water Policy on priority so that necessary systems be prepared to confront the current challenges in the Water Sector.

7. The Department in its action taken note has replied as follows:

"To ensure implementation of New Water Policy on priority, sincere efforts are being taken by DoWR, RD & GR. New Draft National Water Policy (NWP) is under consideration of the Department."

8. In view of the present National Water Policy-2012 and the significant challenges being faced by the water sector viz., reduction of per capita availability of water due to increasing population, deterioration in quality, over exploitation of ground water resources leading to decline in ground water level and relatively lower efficacy of the facilities for water utilization, the Committee urged the Ministry to expedite the process and ensure the implementation of the New National Water Policy on priority. However, from the action taken reply of the Ministry, the Committee has not observed any significant progress in the position towards implementation of the New National Water Policy as stated by the Ministry in its earlier reply. Here, the Committee believe that in the present scenario of various emerging crises in the water sector, it is of paramount importance that the new National Water Policy is implemented without any further delay. Hence, the Committee reiterate their recommendation and urge the Ministry to urgently ensure the implementation of the New National Water Policy on priority, so that all suitable systems are in place to address the current/emerging challenges in the Water Sector and ensure resilience against scarcity, pollution and climate driven disruptions. The Committee would like to be apprised of the steps taken by the Ministry in this regard, within 3 months of presentation of this Report.

B. National Dam Safety Authority

Recommendation No. 3 (Para Nos.2.7 & 2.8)

9. The Committee note that the National Dam Safety Authority (NDSA) was established in February 2022 to implement policies, guidelines, and standards made by the National Committee on Dam Safety (NCDS). Maintaining standards of dam safety and prevention of dam failure related disasters, discharging such functions as related to implementation of the policies made by the National Committee including making

regulations on the recommendations of the National Committee are some the functions of the Authority.

The Committee note that all dam owning States have constituted the State Committees on Dam Safety (SCDS) and State Dam Safety Organizations (SDSO), in accordance with the provisions of the Dam Safety Act. Further, with regard to availability of adequate personnel, as per the information provided, the Committee observe an acute shortage in SCDSs and SDSOs in most of the States/UTs. In this regard, the Committee are of the view that to facilitate the effective implementation of the Dam Safety Act, it is imperative that all organizations involved in Dam Safety work, commit to it with full capacity. This can only be achieved if all organizations are adequately staffed as insufficient staffing will inevitably compromise their efficiency, thereby hindering the fulfilment of the Act's objectives. Therefore, the Committee recommend that the Department take necessary measures to address this issue and ensure that all organizations are sufficiently staffed and equipped to implement the Act effectively.

10. The Department in its action taken note has replied as follows:

" Many meetings have been held with the Heads of Water Resource Department of the State of Chhattisgarh, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh on dam safety issues including incumbency in SDSOs by NDSA. The issue of shortage of staff was highlighted in these meetings. NDSA has consistently highlighted staffing shortages as a key agenda item in its regional review meetings with all dam-owning States/UTs. So far, 16 regional review meetings have been held with dam-owning States/UTs. During these consultations, States have been informed about the shortage of staff in SDSOs. Furthermore, NDSA has issued official communications to the concerned States/UTs highlighting the need to address these staffing issues on a priority basis."

11. The Committee note from the action taken reply of the Department that regional review meetings have been held with dam-owning States/UTs and issue of shortage of staff in SDSOs have been highlighted by NDSA, with official communications to the States/UTs concerned. However, upon review, the Committee note that the reply has not detailed the outcome, progress, and current initiatives undertaken by the SDSOs to enhance staffing levels and strengthen their organizational capacity. In this regard, the Committee are of the view that the issue of dam safety is directly related to the safety of the common man and therefore, strengthening all responsible agencies for the purpose, is essential and given the gravity of the issue, swift and concrete measures are imperative to address this critical aspect. Hence, the Committee reiterate their recommendation that the Department take all necessary measures to ensure that all organizations are sufficiently staffed and equipped to implement the Act effectively. In this regard, the Committee would like to be appraised about the progress in the matter within three months from the presentation of this report.

Recommendation No. 4 (Para No.2.9)

12. The Committee further observed that the NDSA established under Dam Safety Act, 2021 has mandate to implement policies, guidelines and standards made by the National Committee on Dam Safety. Similarly, State Committee on Dam Safety and State Dam Safety Organizations were constituted under the provision of the Act. However, the Committee felt that since the uses, functioning, safety and O&M of Dam Structures are very crucial public issues, it is imperative that a local public representative may be included in the bodies/organizations under NDSA, from the planning phase of any project, so that a seamless implementation process is ensured. This will facilitate bridging the gap between the local people and the Authority and also address the needs and concerns of local people of the area in an inclusive way. Therefore, the Committee recommended that necessary provision may be incorporated for inclusion of elected public representatives (Member of Parliament / Member of

Legislative Assembly) in the bodies / organizations under NDSA by suitably amending Dam Safety Act, 2021 to further strengthen the NDSA.

13. The Department in its action taken note has replied as follows:

"As per the Dam Safety Act (DSA) 2021, NDSA is mandated, inter-alia, to formulate guidelines, provide technical assistance, knowledge sharing etc., with the dam owners in the matters for the dam safety. Planning of the Project is done by the State Govts/PSU and NDSA does not play any role there. Since dam projects are conceptualized, planned, and executed by the respective State Governments, it may be appropriate that the matter may be taken up with the States to consider involving elected public representatives in the matter relating to dam safety."

14. Taking note of the needs and concerns of local people and for bridging the gap with the authorities, the Committee recommended for incorporation of necessary provision for inclusion of elected public representatives (MPs / MLAs) in the bodies / organizations under NDSA by suitably amending Dam Safety Act-2021 to ensure their representation from the planning phase of dam projects. However, in its action taken reply, the Department informed the Committee that dam projects are conceptualized, planned, and executed by the respective State Governments and the matter may be taken up with the States to consider involving elected public representatives in the matter relating to dam safety. In this regard, the Committee accept the reply of the Ministry, however, here, the Committee are of the opinion that, in any dam project, addressing the concerns of the local people is essential and in view of the seriousness and apprehensions of the Committee on this issue, the Ministry may proactively intervene in the issue by mooting a proposal / advisory to the States / UTs/ PSUs for inclusion of elected public representatives (Member of Parliament / Member of Legislative Assembly) from the planning phase of any dam project. In this regard, the

Committee would like to be appraised about the progress in the matter within three months from the presentation of this report.

C. Brahmaputra Board

Recommendation No. 7 (Para No.2.14)

15. The Committee expressed grave concern regarding the recurring floods and riverbank erosion caused by the Brahmaputra River in the North East Region, particularly in the State of Assam. In this regard the Brahmaputra Board has listed out various efforts to combat these problems, which include Preparation of Master Plans, DPRs of Multipurpose Projects, monitoring of FMBAP schemes, execution of anti-erosion and flood control schemes in the identified region and execution of Drainage Development Schemes. While acknowledging the endeavours made by the Board to achieve its mandated objectives, the Committee believe that much needs to be done on ground to bring these cherished goals to reality. Realising that floods and land erosion are still responsible for humanitarian crisis displacing a huge population and pushing them into economic insecurity and landlessness in North East Region, the Committee recommended that a concerted time bound action plan needs to be envisaged to address the issue comprehensively and effectively in the North East Region particularly in the State of Assam to safeguard land and livelihood in the region.

16. The Department in its action taken note has replied as follows:

> *"The Board has been actively engaged in preparing Master Plans, developing Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) for multipurpose projects, monitoring FMBAP schemes, and executing anti-erosion, flood control, and drainage development schemes. The Board recognizes the need for comprehensive and integrated approach involving the basin states along with the stake holders to address the problems of flood and erosion in the North East (NE) Region.*

The Board is currently preparing and updating the master-plans for 15 river sub-basins using state-of-the-art technology. These includes-

Dikhow (Nagaland and Assam)

Jhanji (Nagaland and Assam)

Dikrong (Arunachal Pradesh and Assam)

Kolodyne (Mizoram)

Tuichang (Mizoram)

Bugi (Meghalaya)

Dareng (Meghalaya)

Kynshi (Meghalaya)

Umngi (Meghalaya)

Umiew (Meghalaya)

Umsohryngkew (Meghalaya)

Umngot (Meghalaya)

Myntdu (Meghalaya)

Lubha (Meghalaya)

Simsang (Meghalaya)

These masterplans will address the flood and erosion problem in the concern basins while catering to the water resources problem in a holistic way for proving a sustainable solution. These masterplans will also take account of the environmental related aspects while maintaining the biodiversity and will be prepared with the latest state of the art technology in consultation with the basin states. The Board has started the mechanism formulating the Request for Proposal (RFP) in consultation with stakeholders and obtaining the suggestion and views during all the phases of preparation of these masterplans. Board has also formulated committee for preparing the roadmap for preparation of these masterplans which involve members from respective State Govt., Central Water Commission(CWC), North East Space Application Centre(NESAC), Survey of India(SoI),Geological Survey of India (GSI), Academia and other Institutions.

Further as decided by the HPRB and 84th Meeting of BB, and in addition to the above 15 master-plans, following major rivers in NE region has been identified for preparation/updation of the masterplans, utilizing state-of-the-art technology based on the latest data, tools, and technologies, in close coordination with the basin states in phased manner.

Sankosh-Raidak
Teesta
Ganol
Jinjiram
Umtru
Kopili Kollong
Dhansiri (North)
Tangani
Noanadi
Nanoi
Barnadi
Feni
Muhuri
Gumti

RFP documents have been prepared for these four packages (Package-2 to Package-5). A meeting will be convened soon to determine the scope and objectives of the master plans.

HPRB also agreed that Brahmaputra Board should focus on preparing state-of-the-art DPRs for the States and monitor their implementation by the states. It was further advised by HPRB that the Board should develop its institutional and technical capabilities so that it could provide high quality technical assistance to the states for addressing their specific challenges.

HPRB further agreed that other than regular/continuing works, the Board should also take up strategic pilot projects aimed at enhancing its own technical capacities and showcasing innovations and best practices to the states in such

domains as scientific support to indigenous water management practices, nature-based solutions, springshed and watershed development, drainage development, urban flooding, irrigation solutions, research studies, data systems and institutional development etc.

HPRB also agreed that the states should take up anti-erosion and flood protection works under ongoing FMBAP scheme of Ministry. If necessary, they may seek the assistance of Brahmaputra Board for making holistic/ integrated DPRs for this purpose.

As advised by the HPRB, Brahmaputra Board is on the quest to transform into a knowledge-based River Basin Organization (RBO) capable of providing the best possible technical solution and assistance to the basin states in preparing holistic & integrated masterplans, DPRs of water resources projects, capacity building, etc and advice on matters related to the spectrum of water resources management.

The Brahmaputra Board will continue its coordination with State Governments and concerned agencies to ensure effective planning and implementation of flood management measures. Additionally, it will focus on scientific studies, capacity building, and stakeholder engagement to enhance the long-term resilience of the region against these recurring challenges.

The Board remains committed to working towards safeguarding land, livelihood, and communities in the region and will strive to strengthen its initiatives to achieve the desired outcomes."

17. The Committee note from the action taken reply that to address the flood and erosion problem in the North East Region, various efforts have been listed out by the Department including preparing and updating the masterplans for 15 sub-basins using state-of-the art technology. Further, in addition around 14 major rivers in North East region have been identified for preparation / updation of the masterplans with the updated technologies in coordination with the basin states in phased manner and in this regard a meeting will be convened soon to determine the scope and objectives of the master plans. Further, the Committee

also observe that High Power Review Board (HPRB) have also advised the Board to focus on preparing state-of-art DPRs for States and monitor their implementation and also develop its institutional and technical capabilities showcasing innovations and best practices. Here, the Committee observe that while various initiatives have been proposed to mitigate floods and erosion in the North East region, their success hinges on effective implementation and to achieve this, a dedicated and proactive approach by the Board is essential. The Committee expect the Board to leverage its concerted efforts to not only finalize its master plans but also ensure their rigorous implementation. The Committee hope that through its concerted efforts the Board will be successful in completing its masterplans and will also ensure their effective implementation. The Committee would like to be apprised of the progress in this regard within 3 months of the presentation of this Report.

D. Rainwater Harvesting

Recommendation No. 13 (Para Nos.2.21 & 2.22)

18. The Committee noted that Rainwater harvesting (RWH) has emerged as a very viable and crucial strategy to address India's escalating water scarcity, ensuring sustainable water management, and mitigating the reliance on conventional water sources. By collecting and storing rainwater, RWH can significantly alleviate water scarcity issues, providing a reliable alternative to traditional water sources that are often inadequate or unpredictable. Furthermore, RWH contributes to improved groundwater recharge, rendering it a vital and viable solution in regions where aquifers have depleted.

The Committee observed that for promoting rain water harvesting in the country, no dedicated financial support to States/UTs has been provided by National Water Mission (NWM). On this issue, the Department apprised the Committee about the

various efforts deployed by NWM in this regard including the Jal Shakti Abhiyan: “Catch the Rain campaign”, which is a convergence of various Central Government schemes and funds like MGNREGA, Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT), Per Drop More Crop Repair, Renovation and Restoration Components under the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana (PMKSY) , Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority(CAMPA), Finance Commission Grants, State Government schemes, Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) funds etc. While acknowledging these efforts of the Government, the Committee believed that rainwater harvesting can be a versatile and effective solution to tackle water scarcity, manage storm water runoff, and support sustainable water management. Use of available rainwater harvesting techniques is vital in enhancing groundwater recharge, improving agricultural productivity and reduce dependence on traditional water sources and provision of dedicated financial support to States/UTs will definitely motivate them to make serious efforts to promote rainwater harvesting measures and ensure the participation of communities in masses. Keeping in view the fact that rainwater harvesting is increasingly recognized as a vital strategy to address water scarcity and ensure sustainable water management, the Committee recommended that the Ministry consider providing dedicated financial grant / support to the States / UTs to promote use of rainwater harvesting through available techniques so that problem of water scarcity in the country may be mitigated to some extent.

19. The Department in its action taken note has replied as follows:

“Rainwater harvesting (RWH) is increasingly recognized as a vital strategy to address India’s growing water scarcity and ensure sustainable water management. Rainwater harvesting offers a solution to the challenges posed by the over exploitation of water resources, erratic rainfall, and a rapidly increasing population. By collecting and storing rainwater, this practice can significantly alleviate water scarcity issues, offering a reliable alternative to conventional water sources, which are often insufficient or unreliable. It also helps improve

groundwater recharge, making it a key solution in regions where aquifers have been depleted.

The Hon'ble Prime Minister's vision for water security embraces a ***Whole of Government and Whole of Society approach*** *to address India's diverse water needs—rural and urban, domestic and industrial. The Ministry of Jal Shakti has been implementing the Jal Shakti Abhiyan (JSA) campaign since 2019, a flagship programme of the National Water Mission, Ministry of Jal Shakti with the tagline from 2021 "Catch the Rain: Where it Falls, When it Falls". Institutionalized as an annual intervention, JSA:CTR is anchored in the principles of decentralization and public participation, with a strong emphasis on the community-driven construction, revival, and maintenance of rainwater harvesting and groundwater recharge structures. By engaging citizens at the grassroots level, the campaign fosters collective ownership and long-term stewardship of water resources across the country.*

The sixth edition of the Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain (JSA: CTR) 2025 was launched in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) The campaign focuses on awareness generation around water conservation, while driving five key intervention areas each year. Intervention-wise progress (completed as well as ongoing works) as on 02.06.2025 includes (i) Water Conservation & Rainwater Harvesting Structures: 58,06,024; (ii) Renovation of Traditional Water Bodies: 12,43,752; (iii) Reuse and Recharge Structures: 31,00,664; (iv) Watershed Development: 73,64,755; (v) Afforestation: 1,39,98,27,636.

The Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidari (JSJB) initiative, launched in 2024, has rapidly accelerated local groundwater recharge efforts across India through an innovative, community-driven approach. The initiative focuses on the construction of ***low-cost artificial recharge structures*** *with focus on roof top rainwater harvesting structures, recharging of defunct bore wells and recharge pits. With an ambitious target of constructing* ***over one million recharge structures*** *by May 2025, the initiative has already exceeded expectations, with*

*more than **27 lakh recharge structures uploaded** on JSJB portal as on 2nd June 2025. The success of JSJB **does not rely on central funding but is driven by convergent** and inclusive funding model, which integrates resources from government schemes such as MGNREGA, AMRUT, and PMKSY with contributions from the private sector, including Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) funds, philanthropic donations, individual donors, and crowdfunding platforms. This integrated financial approach not only facilitates broad-based participation but also fosters community ownership and ensures the long-term sustainability of groundwater conservation efforts.*

*Across the country, youth groups, women collectives, self-help groups, NGOs, farmers, and students are taking small, localised steps—creating a large national movement. Community ownership of water resources has been the backbone of this movement, fostering sustained engagement, accountability, and the ongoing upkeep of the assets created. This is the true spirit of **Jan Bhagidari** is that citizens not merely as beneficiaries, but as active agents of change. The JSJB initiative aligns with the Hon'ble Prime Minister's vision of a **"Whole-of-Government, Whole-of-Society" approach**, underscoring the importance of both community involvement and governmental coordination in effective water management.*

*Under JSJB, several innovative community-driven models have emerged to promote sustainable groundwater conservation. The **Karmbhoomi se Matribhoomi Model** enables individuals working in Gujarat to fund borewell recharge projects in their state of birth, thereby fostering strong emotional and ecological ties. The **Alwar School Building Model**, developed integrates rooftop rainwater harvesting and sanitation facilities into schools, turning infrastructure into educational tools. In Raipur, the **CREDAI-Hydrologist Model** brings together builders and hydrologists to develop low-cost recharge structures at just ₹1,500 per unit, exemplifying cost-effective collaboration. Meanwhile, the **Gir Ganga Trust NGO Model** unites NGOs, philanthropists, and local communities, with shared responsibilities in construction and resource support. These models*

exemplify cost-effective, participatory, and scientifically sound approaches to water conservation, reinforcing India's grassroots-led water security efforts.

An incentive mechanism has been developed by the ***Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA)*** *to reward Municipal Corporations (MCs) and Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) demonstrating exemplary performance in water conservation and rainwater harvesting efforts. This mechanism is based on measurable indicators and is designed to promote equitable competition and balanced representation across urban areas. By recognizing successful models and practices at the city and town level, MoHUA aims to encourage urban stakeholders to proactively engage in the Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidari initiative under the Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain campaign.*

Separately, the ***Ministry of Jal Shakti (MoJS)*** *has proposed an incentive mechanism for recognizing outstanding contributions by Industry Associations, NGOs, Philanthropists, District Administrations, and other non-governmental actors. This incentive scheme also relies on measurable performance indicators and seeks to enhance private sector, civil society, and district-level participation in water conservation efforts. The approach reinforces decentralized, community-driven models by encouraging innovation and local leadership, in alignment with the core spirit of the Jal Shakti Abhiyan and Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidari initiatives.*

As per the Dynamic Ground Water Resources Assessment Report, 2024, there has been a total increase of ***11.36 billion cubic meters (BCM) in 2024 with respect to 2017*** *through recharge by Tanks, Ponds and Water Conservation Structures, surpassing even the live storage capacity of* ***9.75 BCM of the Indira Sagar Dam.***

Apart from the Jal Shakti Abhiyan (JSA), *several other flagship initiatives are also contributing significantly towards augmenting water supply, particularly through rainwater harvesting. Notable among these are the Atal Bhujal Yojana, which focuses on community-led groundwater management, and the*

Rejuvenation, Renovation, and Restoration (RRR) component of the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY), which emphasizes the revival of traditional water bodies to enhance water availability and sustainability.

*The **Repair, Renovation, and Restoration** (RRR) component under the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY), a **Centrally Sponsored Scheme**, focuses on restoring traditional water bodies such as tanks, ponds, and lakes to improve their water storage capacity and ecological functionality.*

*Furthermore, the **Atal Bhujal Yojana**, **Central Sector Scheme,** supported by World Bank, promotes sustainable groundwater management through community participation, encouraging the formation of water budgets and preparation and implementation of Gram Panchayat-wise water security plans. These plans are locally relevant, grounded in scientific assessment of groundwater availability and usage, and foster judicious water use through informed decision-making and collective action at the grassroots level.*

*The Department of Land Resources under Ministry of Rural Development is implementing **Watershed Development Component of Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana Scheme**, which is a **Central Sector Scheme**. The scheme aims to develop degraded and rainfed areas of the country, by undertaking watershed development projects in an integrated approach. The activities undertaken, interalia, include ridge area treatment, drainage line treatment, soil and moisture conservation, rainwater harvesting, nursery raising, pasture development, livelihoods for asset-less persons etc.*

***AMRUT (Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation) 2.0** is a flagship initiative of the Government of India aimed at improving urban infrastructure with a strong focus on water sustainability. The mission emphasizes rainwater harvesting through effective stormwater drainage into clean water bodies, developing aquifer management plans to enhance groundwater recharge, and spreading awareness through IEC campaigns. The key components include improving urban water supply and sewerage systems, developing green spaces, and rejuvenating water bodies. Complementing*

national efforts like the Jal Shakti Abhiyan, Catch the Rain,JSJB, AMRUT 2.0 plays a vital role in ensuring water security and promoting efficient water use in urban areas. Under AMRUT, the ***Shallow Aquifer Management component****, which is part of Urban Aquifer Management initiatives, addresses the city-wise groundwater recharge. It focuses on mapping city aquifers, preparing Aquifer Management Plans, and implementing recharge measures like rainwater harvesting and recharge wells. This helps improve groundwater availability and supports sustainable urban water management.*

It is important to acknowledge the pivotal role played by flagship government schemes like ***MGNREGA and the Mission Amrit Sarovar (MAS****) in advancing the objectives of water conservation and community participation. Under MGNREGA alone, more than* ***₹1.17 lakh crore*** *have been spent over the past five years on the creation and rejuvenation of water-related assets across rural India, significantly enhancing groundwater recharge, drought resilience, and irrigation potential. Complementing this, the* ***Mission Amrit Sarovar*** *has led to the creation of over* ***68,000 water bodies*** *since its launch, serving not just as water conservation structures but also as symbols of Jan Bhagidari and environmental stewardship. These initiatives reflect the convergence of livelihood generation with sustainable water management.*

Rainwater harvesting and groundwater recharge are central to India's water security strategy. Flagship initiatives like JSA:CTR and JSJB, supported by schemes such as PMKSY, Atal Bhujal Yojana, DoLR's watershed programmes, and MoHUA's urban water initiatives, highlight the power of community-led, convergent, and decentralized action. Together, they are driving a nationwide movement to restore the hydrological balance and build a resilient, water-secure future'.

The ongoing efforts by the Central Government, State Governments, Urban and Rural Local Bodies, along with meaningful private sector participation, have collectively demonstrated encouraging progress in advancing the objectives of the ***Jal Shakti Abhiyan (JSA)*** *and* ***Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidari (JSJB).*** *The*

core spirit *of JSJB lies in* ***community-led water conservation efforts****, where local ownership, public participation, and collective responsibility drive impactful outcomes.*

Introducing a dedicated financial or administrative vertical beyond the current incentive-based, mission-mode approach may not align the spirit of JSA/ JSJB. Such a move risks undermining the ***foundational spirit*** *of these initiatives, which is rooted in fostering intensified community engagement and strengthening decentralized, state-led implementation.*

This view is reinforced by the findings of the ***Dynamic Ground Water Resources Assessment Report 2024*** *released by the Central Ground Water Board (CGWB), which highlights that significant improvements in groundwater levels and recharge potential were most visible in regions where integrated, community-led interventions under JSA/ JSJB were effectively implemented—without reliance on a rigid vertical structure."*

20. The Committee observe from the action taken reply that the Ministry listed out various efforts in the form of numerous schemes, community-led/ incentive-based programmes run by the Government to promote Rainwater Harvesting in the country including Jal Shakti Abhiyan (JSA) campaign since 2019, a flagship programme of the National Water Mission, the Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidari (JSJB) initiative, launched in 2024 driven by convergent and inclusive funding model, which integrates resources from government schemes such as MGNREGA, AMRUT, and PMKSY with contributions from the private sector, including Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) funds, philanthropic donations, individual donors, and crowdfunding flatforms. Further, the Committee also noted the other flagship initiatives viz. Atal Bhujal Yojana, Rejuvenation, Renovation and Restoration (RRR) component of the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY), AMRUT (Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation) Mission Amrit Sarovar (MAS) are contributing in Rainwater harvesting.

Regarding consideration for providing dedicated financial grants / supports to the States / UTs for Rainwater harvesting, as recommended by the Committee, the Ministry has stated that such initiative would not align with the spirit of JSA/JSJB and risk undermining the foundational spirit of the initiatives presently taken by the Ministry. However, here, the Committee find the action taken reply perplexing with no substantial ground for not accepting their said recommendation. Here, the Committee note that most of the initiatives for promotion of Rainwater harvesting are community-led and incentive-based which do not fix the compulsive responsibility of the participants. Further, the reply is also silent about the Repair & Maintenance (R&M) of the infrastructure being created for Rainwater harvesting under their various flagship schemes. Here, the Committee are of the view that the State / UTs governments having strong uphold on the manpower and resources, can play a pivotal role including maintaining and upgrading existing infrastructure which will significantly boost and enhance support rainwater harvesting initiatives as well as facilitate the effective implementation of all the programmes for the purpose, in totality. Hence, to further strengthen the present initiatives, the Committee reiterate that the Ministry positively consider providing dedicated financial grant / support to the States / UTs to promote rainwater harvesting, so that water scarcity can be mitigated, to some extent. The Committee would like to be apprised about the actions taken in this regard, within 3 months of the presentation of this Report.

E. Namami Gange Mission-II

Recommendation No. 17 & 18 (Para Nos.2.29, 2.30 & 2.31)

21. The Committee noted that the Government launched the Namami Gange Programme (NGP) in 2014-15 for the rejuvenation of river Ganga and its tributaries for five years, up to March 2021 and has been further extended to March, 2026. Under the Programme, a diverse and holistic set of interventions for cleaning and rejuvenation of river Ganga have been taken up, that included waste water treatment, solid waste

management, river front management (ghats and crematoria), ensuring e-flow, rural sanitation, afforestation, biodiversity conservation, public participation, etc.

The Committee observed that in the Committee/ Councils/ Bodies/ Organisations/ Societies established under Namami Gange Programme the Department informed that under present provisions, two elected representatives, one from the Municipalities and one from the Gram Panchayats of the District nominated as Members in the District Ganga Committee by the State Government. In the matter, the Committee felt that since, Namami Ganga Mission is a grand and ambitious programme for the rejuvenation of River Ganga and its tributaries effecting millions of people living in River Ganga Basin, the local Member of Parliament, Lok Sabha and a Member of Legislative Assembly can play a pivotal role in the effective and successful implementation of the Mission and its objectives. The Committee, therefore recommended the Ministry to make necessary provisions in their guidelines for inclusion of local MP/MLA in the bodies under NMCG in order to ensure more cohesive outcome under Nammi Ganga progarmme.

Further, the Committee also recommended that the Department make earnest endeavours to constitute a Committee comprising Members of Parliament / Members of Legislative Assembly from the districts in order to ensure effective participation of the elected representatives for better formulation, implementation and monitoring of work executed under Nammi Ganga Mission at ground level.

22. The Department in its action taken note has replied as follows:

" National Mission for Clean Ganga has taken a proactive approach towards the inclusion of local Lok Sabha MPs and local MLAs for better formulation, implementation and monitoring of work executed under Namami Gange Mission. It is pertinent to mention here that vide D.O. letter dated 11.02.2023, the Department of Rural Development was requested to include Namami Gange Program in the list of programs to be monitored by District Infrastructure Scheme

*Advisory (DISHA) Committees for better transparency, coordination and implementation (copy enclosed as **Annexure-II**).*

The DISHA Committees are headed by local Lok Sabha MPs and include local MLAs and other representatives of political parties. The list of districts where works under Namami Gange are being implemented was also provided to the Department of Rural Development.

*Consequently, DISHA Committees have been monitoring the Namami Gange Program, and the data for monitoring the Namami Gange Program is available on the DISHA portal (Copy of snapshot enclosed as **Annexure-III**).*

23. The Committee observe from the action taken reply that District Infrastructure Scheme Advisory (DISHA) Committees under Department of Rural Development have been monitoring the Namami Gange Program which are headed by local Lok Sabha MPs and include local MLAs and other representatives of political parties. However, the response of the Department remains silent on the inclusion of local MP/MLA in the District Ganga Committees / bodies under National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG). In this context, the Committee are of the view that, such bodies serve dedicated platforms where exclusive emphasis is given on the monitoring of implementation of various programmes under NMCG. Hence, being of the firm opinion that inclusion of elected representatives would help in better formulation, implementation and monitoring of NMCG at ground level, the Committee, urge the Ministry to make appropriate provisions in their guidelines for inclusion of local Member of Parliament, Lok Sabha / MLA in the bodies under NMCG including District Ganga Committees. The Committee would like to be apprised about the actions taken in this regard, within 3 months of the presentation of this Report.

F. National River Conservation Plan-Other Basins-(NRCP)

Recommendation No. 21 (Para Nos.2.35 & 2.36)

24. The Committee noted that NRCP is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for conservation of rivers excluding Ganga and its tributaries on cost sharing basis by providing assistance to States/UTs. The Committee further noted that a Condition assessment and Management Plans (CAMP) study for six river basins including Narmada, Mahanadi, Godavari, Krishna, Cauvery and Periyar has been taken up at a sanctioned cost of Rs.75.72 crore.

Regarding the budgetary allocation, the Committee observed that for the fiscal year 2025-26, an amount of Rs. 558.09 has been kept for NRCP- Other Basins Scheme. In this regard, while the Committee concerned about the coverage of the Scheme encompassing 57 Rivers in the 17 States with a huge task of conservation and abetment of pollution, the allocation found inadequate. During the oral evidence the Ministry also highlighted about having adequate funding for the Ganga Rejuvenation under Namami Ganga Programme, however, multiple polluted river- stretches across the country remain untouched due to insufficient funding. In this regard, the Committee were of the view that all the rivers in the Country have equal importance and require same attention and remedial measures for conservation and abetment of pollution. Since abetment of pollution from all the rivers across the Country requires joint efforts with holistic approach the Committee recommended that the Department take proactive steps in augmenting sufficient budgetary allocations for effective implementation of the Scheme.

25. The Department in its action taken note has replied as follows:

"The recommendations of the Committee have been noted for compliance. National River Conservation Directorate is taking all out efforts for augmenting the budgetary support for efficient implementation of the National River Conservation Plan. For the Fifteenth Finance Commission, Cabinet Committee

on Economic Affairs (CCEA) appraised the continuation of the scheme with an outlay of Rs.1252 crore. This budgetary support was later enhanced with an outlay upto Rs.2652 crore.

In addition, project for pollution abatement of river Nag at Nagpur with an estimated cost of Rs.1926.99 cr. (central share is R.1115.22 cr.) was approved by CCEA. For the 15th Finance Commission, Rs.415 crore has been allocated for this Externally Aided Project.

26. The Committee observe from the action taken reply that the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) appraised the continuation of the NRCP scheme with an outlay of Rs.1252 crore which was later enhanced with an outlay upto Rs.2652 crore. The Committee further observe that, a project for pollution abatement of the river 'Nag' at Nagpur with an estimated cost of Rs.1926.99 cr. (central share is R.1115.22 cr.) was approved by CCEA. Here the Committee note with satisfaction that in pursuance of their recommendation, the Ministry proactively got the budgetary support augmented for efficient implementation of the NRCP Scheme. Now, the Committee hope that with the enhanced budgetary support, the Department would be able to implement the Scheme more effectively. Further, the Committee expect that the issue of abatement of pollution with regard to other major rivers in the country will also be taken on priority. The Committee would like to be apprised of the progress in this regard within 3 months of the presentation of this Report.

G. Water Management in Forest Areas

Recommendation No. 25 (Para Nos.2.42 & 2.43)

27. With regard to water management in Forest Areas the Committee observed that National Water Policy (NWP) of India, first formulated in 1987 and revised in 2012, provides a comprehensive framework for the planning and management of the country's

water resources. It emphasizes the protection of watersheds, including those in forest areas, to conserve water and prevent soil erosion. Further, the Environment Protection Act, 1986, provides a legal framework for environmental protection, including water bodies in forests. Under section 3(v) of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and Rule 5, sub-rule (viii) and (x) of the environment (Protections) Rules, "lands falling within 10 kms of the boundaries of national parks and sanctuaries should be notified as eco-fragile zones".

The Committee noted that most of the major rivers transverse through various National Parks/ Sanctuaries en-route to their course. However, management of all the forest areas, Tiger Reserves and Sanctuaries in the Country broadly come under the preview of Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change. Further during the oral evidence, the Ministry of WR, RD & GR expressed its inability to access these areas and also lack of any coordination with the MoE,F&CC for River management and water bodies in such areas. In this regard, the Committee felt that Forest Areas, Tiger Reserves and Sanctuaries play a very pivotal role in maintaining the eco-system of the country and in view of the adverse effects of climate change, the proactive management of water resources in these areas are necessary. The Committee, therefore, urged the Ministry to coordinate with the MoE,F&CC and ensure its accessibility / active involvement in River management and other water bodies in forest areas, Tiger Reserves and Sanctuaries in the country and ensure sustainability of flora and fauna in these areas.

28. The Department in its action taken note has replied as follows:

*"It is to submit that Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) has been requested by Department of Water Resources vide letter dated. 02.06.2025(attached as **Annexure-IV),** submitted requesting them to intimate the areas of co-ordination between Ministry of Jal Shakti and MoEF&CC required to ensure effective management of water resources in these ecologically*

sensitive areas to facilitate integrated water resource management, conversation efforts and climate resilience.

29. The Committee observe from the action taken reply that the Ministry of Jal Shakti has sought effective co-ordination with the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) to ensure integrated water resources management in forest areas. The Committee note with satisfaction that the Ministry has acknowledged the importance of accessibility and active involvement in water management within forest areas, Tiger Reserves and Sanctuaries, as highlighted by the Committee in their recommendation and steps have been initiated to enhance co-ordination with the MoEF&CC in this regard. The Committee expect that this initiative will facilitate improved water management in forest areas, tiger reserves, and sanctuaries and ensure the active engagement of the Ministry. The Committee would like to be apprised of the progress in the matter within 3 months of the presentation of this Report.

CHAPTER II

OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE GOVERNMENT

Recommendation No. 1 (Para Nos. 2.1, 2.2 & 2.3)

Analysis of Demands for Grants

The Committee observed that for the fiscal year 2025-26, the total budgetary allocation for the Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation is Rs. 25,276.83 crore, out of which Rs. 24,720.49 crore has been allocated under the 'Revenue Section' and Rs. 556.34 crore has been allocated under the 'Capital Section'. The overall budgetary allocation for the Financial Year 2025-26 has witnessed a significant increase of Rs.3,953.73 crore, representing a growth of 18.54% over the Budget Estimate (BE) of Rs.21,323.10 crore for the Financial Year 2024-25.

The Committee further observed that under Central Sector Schemes Rs. 6,198.09 crore has been allocated for BE 2025-26 which is nearly Rs.375.64 crore less than the BE allocation for FY 2024-25 i.e. Rs. 6,573.73 crore. Regarding the Centrally Sponsored Schemes, a provision of Rs.17,643.94 has been made at BE level for FY 2025-26 which is nearly Rs.4,212.46 crore over and above against BE allocation for FY 2024-25 i.e. Rs. 13,431.48 crore. The major Schemes/Programmes in which the total budget allocation of the Department have been made include Polavaram Irrigation project, Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana- Har Khet Ko Pani (PMKSY-KKKP), Inter-linking of Rivers, National Ganga Plan (Namami Gange Mission-II) and Atal Bhujal Yojana (Atal Jal). The Committee also observed that some of the Schemes/Projects viz. River Basin Management, Ground Water Management & Regulation, Surface Minor Irrigation (SMI) and Repair, Renovation & Restoration (RRR) of Water Bodies have been allocated more funds in the current fiscal year 2025-26. However, DWRIS, National Hydrology Project, Special Package for Maharashtra, Command Area

Development & Water Management and Inter-linking of Rivers are some the Schemes/ Projects where allocation have been reduced in the FY 2025-26.

The Committee observed that the Department has been able to utilize only 60% of its budgetary allocation till the end of three quarters of the fiscal year 2024-25. In this regard the Department informed that generally, the expenditure picks up from the month of November onwards i.e. after Monsoon and it is expected that the Department will be able to spend the allocated RE for the FY 2024-25. As per the instructions of the Ministry of Finance, not more than 33% and 15% of Budget Estimate during a Financial Year is permissible in last quarter and last month of the Financial year, respectively. Here, the Committee expressed its concern about meagre utilisation of allocated budget during first three quarters of FY 2024-25 and that a considerable portion i.e almost 40% of the budget yet to be utilized within the last quarter of the FY 2024-25. However, the Committee hoped that the Department would be able to spend its all allocated fund within the stipulated time period and would ensure optimum utilization of available resources. The Committee would like to be apprised of the position in the matter within three months of presentation of this Report.

Reply of the Government

The concern shows by Hon'ble Committee noted. So far as Department of Water Resources is concerned, the expenditure picks up from the month of November onwards i.e. after Monsoon. Majority chunk of the budget allocated to this department is generally utilized in the 4th quarter of F.Y. The reason for this is that the flood management works are generally taken after monsoon period and accordingly Ministry received requests from State Govts. for release of central assistance at later stages of financial year.

It is further to submit that during the FY 2024-25, Department of Water Resources is able to spend Rs. 20054.97 Cr. which is 94.05% of BE allocation i.e. Rs.21323.10 Cr. and 92.67% of RE allocations i.e. Rs. 21640.88 Cr. The position of

actual expenditure for the FY- 2024-25 vis-à-vis BE allocation and RE allocation is annexed at **Annexure-I.**

Efforts are also made to ensure a more even pace in expenditure throughout the year and to avoid year end rush.

[O.M. No. G-30013/2/2025-Budget Dated 12.06.2025]

Recommendation No. 4 (Para No. 2.9)

National Dam Safety Authority

The Committee observed that the NDSA established under Dam Safety Act, 2021 has mandate to implement policies, guidelines and standards made by the National Committee on Dam Safety. Similarly, State Committee on Dam Safety and State Dam Safety Organizations were constituted under the provision of the Act. However, the Committee felt that since the uses, functioning, safety and O&M of Dam Structures are very crucial public issues, it is imperative that a local public representative may be included in the bodies/organizations under NDSA, from the planning phase of any project, so that a seamless implementation process is ensured. This would facilitate bridging the gap between the local people and the Authority and also address the needs and concerns of local people of the area in an inclusive way. Therefore, the Committee recommended that necessary provision may be incorporated for inclusion of elected public representatives (Member of Parliament / Member of Legislative Assembly) in the bodies / organizations under NDSA by suitably amending Dam Safety Act, 2021 to further strengthen the NDSA.

Reply of the Government

As per the Dam Safety Act (DSA) 2021, NDSA is mandated, inter-alia, to formulate guidelines, provide technical assistance, knowledge sharing etc., with the

dam owners in the matters for the dam safety. Planning of the Project is done by the State Govts/PSU and NDSA does not play any role there. Since dam projects are conceptualized, planned, and executed by the respective State Governments, it may be appropriate that the matter may be taken up with the States to consider involving elected public representatives in the matter relating to dam safety.

[O.M. No. G-30013/2/2025-Budget Dated 12.06.2025]

Comment of the Committee
(Please see Para No. 14 of Chapter I of the Report)

Recommendation No. 5 (Para Nos.2.10, 2.11 & 2.12)

Brahmaputra Board

The Committee noted that the Brahmaputra Board (BB) was constituted in 1980 by an Act of Parliament, for the purpose of planning and integrated implementation of measures for the control of floods and riverbank erosion in the Brahmaputra valley and for matters connected therewith. The jurisdiction of Brahmaputra Board covers all the North Eastern States including Sikkim and North Bengal. The main functions of the Board are to carry out surveys and investigations and prepare Master Plan, Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) of multi-purpose projects, monitoring of FMBAP schemes and execution of anti-erosion and flood control schemes.

The Committee observed that out of the Master Plans and Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) prepared by the Board for multipurpose projects, 52 have been approved by the Government of India and submitted to the respective State Governments for implementation. However, the Committee noted that the Board lacks a mechanism to monitor the implementation of these approved plans. Furthermore, despite handing over 14 DPRs of major multipurpose projects to State Governments, none have been fully implemented. In this regard, the Board pointed out the reason that

water management falls under state jurisdiction, resulting in a lack of monitoring mechanisms.

The Committee while appreciated the efforts made by the Board in North Eastern States including Sikkim and North Bengal under its mandated objectives however, expressed apprehension on the desired outcome of the Masterplans due to lack of proper monitoring mechanism for their effective implementation by the State Government, despite the fact that preparation of Master plans/DPRs involves a lot of time, money and public resources and their improper implementation, defeated the Department's efforts in controlling floods and riverbank erosion in the mandated area which caused immense socio-economic and environmental damage, leading to widespread displacement and destruction. The Committee, therefore, recommended that the Ministry establish an effective monitoring mechanism, to ensure timely implementation of the recommendations outlined in the Master Plans / DPRs prepared by the Board for various projects for their effective outcome and successful planning and implementations.

Reply of the Government

The Brahmaputra Board is in continuous coordination with the State Governments to ensure the effective implementation of Master Plans and DPRs. The matter has also been discussed in the Board meeting, emphasizing the need for better monitoring.

To facilitate this, Google Sheets are shared among the basin states to assist them in sharing the status of implementation of master-plans.

[O.M. No. G-30013/2/2025-Budget Dated 12.06.2025]

Recommendation No.6 (Para No.2.13)

With regard to staff strength of the Board the Committee learned that against the total sanctioned strength of 415, only 206 personnel are presently in position. Consequently, approximately 50% of the sanctioned posts across all cadres, including technical and non-technical, are presently lying vacant. The Department attributed limited success in filling up the vacant posts through conventional methods of recruitment and a High- Powered Review Board has been entrusted to review the situation. In this context, the Committee were of the opinion that the current shortage of approximately 50% of the technical and non-technical cadre's strength, compromises the Board's work efficiency and hampers its functioning and leads to delay in achieving its objectives. Realizing the fact that the Board has a significant responsibility to control flood and erosion in the North East Region and to achieve this objective, the Board deploys various efforts, including the preparation of Master Plans and Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) for multipurpose projects, which necessitate specialized technical expertise and skills, the Committee strongly recommended that the Department must take prompt action to fill all the existing vacancies without delay, to enable the Board to execute its responsibilities efficiently and effectively.

Reply of the Government

After Restructuring of Brahmaputra Board on 10.01.2019 and due to retirement of existing employees, Brahmaputra Board is facing acute shortage of manpower. To fill up vacant posts, Brahmaputra Board initially approached EdCIL(India) Limited for recruitment of all Direct Recruitment vacant posts which could not be materialised. Thereafter, Brahmaputra Board entrusted the task of Direct Recruitment of all Group B & C posts to Staff Selection Commission through the Department of Water Resources, RD & GR, MoJS for the following posts till the vacancy year 2024,
as detailed below:

Junior Engineer – 46 posts
Junior Translator – 1 post

Personal Assistant – 2 posts

Junior Accountant – 14 posts

Lower Division Clerk – 36 posts

Driver (ordinary Grade) –7 posts

Multi-Tasking Staff – 33 posts

2. As recommended by SSC, following numbers of candidates joined in Brahmaputra Board post wise and later some of the newly recruited candidates resigned in pursuant of better opportunities which are detailed as below:

Name of post	Sanctioned Strength	Vacancy submitted to SSC	Received from SSC	Joined in Brahmaputra Board	Resigned	Remarks
Junior Engineer	75	46	46 posts	31	9	24 vacant
Junior Translator	01	01	1 post	1	1	Vacant
Personal Assistant	04	02	2 posts	0	0	2vacant (No. candidate attended DV)
Junior Accountant	14	11	Nil	0	0	Yet to be received
Lower Division Clerk	50	36	36 posts	21	0	29 vacant
Driver (ordinary Grade)	07	07	7 posts	0	0	07 Vacant (Recruitment under process)

Multi Tasking Staff	81	33	32 posts	23	2	32 vacant

3. Requisition for posts vacancy which have arisen on account of the above and retirement, are in the process of submission to SSC shortly.

4. Further, during 2022 Brahmaputra Board issued appointment letter to fill up 14 posts of Assistant Executive Engineer (Civil) from the list of candidates of public disclosure of willing non-recommended of Engineering Services Examination-2020 published by Union Public Service Commission but only 6 candidates joined in Brahmaputra Board. Later on, 02 candidates resigned from Brahmaputra Board in pursuit of better opportunity. Further, 06 vacant posts were attempted to be filled up from the list of candidates of public disclosure of willing non-recommended of Engineering Services Examination-2022 published by Union Public Service Commission on 14.12.2022. However, no candidate joined in Brahmaputra Board.

5. The High-Powered Review Board in its 13th Meeting held on 12.11.2024 approved the direct recruitment of AEE (Civil) from GATE Examination qualified candidates. The proposal is under consideration

6. To fill up various promotion post which are vacant due to non-availability of eligible candidate in feeder grade, efforts are made by Brahmaputra Board. The Vacancy circular was advertised in Brahmaputra Board's Website, Various Newspaper and Employment News. Latest advertisement has been issued on 19.03.2025 inviting application for filling up vacant promotional posts.

7. Chairman, Brahmaputra Board has also communicated with Chief Secretary/Special Chief Secretary of the North Eastern States including West Bengal to sponsor eligible and willing state government officers on deputation against the above vacancy circular dated 19.03.2025.

.To meet the shortage, Brahmaputra Board has also engaged a number of consultants and young professionals to build its HR infrastructure.

It is noteworthy that the Brahmaputra Board has established several cells/units, such as the Data Management Cell, Geographical Information System & Remote Sensing Cell, Climate Change Cell, Media & Communication Cell, and International Cooperation Cell, to support its transformation into a knowledge-based organization capable of providing enhanced technical assistance to the concerned basin states.

Furthermore, plans are underway to create additional cells/units, including the Tender Cell, Quality Control Unit, Capacity Building Unit, and Research and Development Unit, to aid in the transformation process of the Brahmaputra Board.

To carry out these specialized roles and responsibilities, the Brahmaputra Board is developing a plan to appoint more subject matter consultants and young professionals to fulfil its objectives and execute the envisioned vision.

[O.M. No. G-30013/2/2025-Budget Dated 12.06.2025]

Recommendation No.7 (Para No.2.14)

The Committee expressed grave concern regarding the recurring floods and riverbank erosion caused by the Brahmaputra River in the North East Region, particularly in the State of Assam. In this regard the Brahmaputra Board has listed out various efforts to combat these problems, which include Preparation of Master Plans, DPRs of Multipurpose Projects, monitoring of FMBAP schemes, execution of anti-erosion and flood control schemes in the identified region and execution of Drainage Development Schemes. While acknowledged the endeavours made by the Board to achieve its mandated objectives, the Committee believed that much needs to be done on ground to bring these cherished goals to reality. Realising that floods and land erosion are still responsible for humanitarian crisis displacing a huge population and pushing them into economic insecurity and landlessness in North East Region, the Committee recommended that a concerted time bound action plan needs to be

envisaged to address the issue comprehensively and effectively in the North East Region particularly in the State of Assam to safeguard land and livelihood in the region.

Reply of the Government

The Board has been actively engaged in preparing Master Plans, developing Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) for multipurpose projects, monitoring FMBAP schemes, and executing anti-erosion, flood control, and drainage development schemes. The Board recognizes the need for comprehensive and integrated approach involving the basin states along with the stake holders to address the problems of flood and erosion in the North East (NE) Region.

The Board is currently preparing and updating the master-plans for 15 river sub-basins using state-of-the-art technology. These includes-

Dikhow (Nagaland and Assam)
Jhanji (Nagaland and Assam)
Dikrong (Arunachal Pradesh and Assam)
Kolodyne (Mizoram)
Tuichang (Mizoram)
Bugi (Meghalaya)
Dareng (Meghalaya)
Kynshi (Meghalaya)
Umngi (Meghalaya)
Umiew (Meghalaya)
Umsohryngkew (Meghalaya)
Umngot (Meghalaya)
Myntdu (Meghalaya)
Lubha (Meghalaya)
Simsang (Meghalaya)

These masterplans will address the flood and erosion problem in the concern basins while catering to the water resources problem in a holistic way for proving a

sustainable solution. These masterplans will also take account of the environmental related aspects while maintaining the biodiversity and will be prepared with the latest state of the art technology in consultation with the basin states. The Board has started the mechanism formulating the Request for Proposal (RFP) in consultation with stakeholders and obtaining the suggestion and views during all the phases of preparation of these masterplans. Board has also formulated committee for preparing the roadmap for preparation of these masterplans which involve members from respective State Govt., Central Water Commission(CWC), North East Space Application Centre(NESAC), Survey of India(SoI),Geological Survey of India (GSI), Academia and other Institutions.

Further as decided by the HPRB and 84th Meeting of BB, and in addition to the above 15 master-plans, following major rivers in NE region has been identified for preparation/updation of the masterplans, utilizing state-of-the-art technology based on the latest data, tools, and technologies, in close coordination with the basin states in phased manner.

Sankosh-Raidak
Teesta
Ganol
Jinjiram
Umtru
Kopili Kollong
Dhansiri (North)
Tangani
Noanadi
Nanoi
Barnadi
Feni
Muhuri
Gumti

RFP documents have been prepared for these four packages (Package-2 to Package-5). A meeting will be convened soon to determine the scope and objectives of the master plans.

HPRB also agreed that Brahmaputra Board should focus on preparing state-of-the-art DPRs for the States and monitor their implementation by the states. It was further advised by HPRB that the Board should develop its institutional and technical capabilities so that it could provide high quality technical assistance to the states for addressing their specific challenges.

HPRB further agreed that other than regular/continuing works, the Board should also take up strategic pilot projects aimed at enhancing its own technical capacities and showcasing innovations and best practices to the states in such domains as scientific support to indigenous water management practices, nature-based solutions, springshed and watershed development, drainage development, urban flooding, irrigation solutions, research studies, data systems and institutional development etc.

HPRB also agreed that the states should take up anti-erosion and flood protection works under ongoing FMBAP scheme of Ministry. If necessary, they may seek the assistance of Brahmaputra Board for making holistic/ integrated DPRs for this purpose.

As advised by the HPRB, Brahmaputra Board is on the quest to transform into a knowledge-based River Basin Organization (RBO) capable of providing the best possible technical solution and assistance to the basin states in preparing holistic & integrated masterplans, DPRs of water resources projects, capacity building, etc and advice on matters related to the spectrum of water resources management.

The Brahmaputra Board will continue its coordination with State Governments and concerned agencies to ensure effective planning and implementation of flood management measures. Additionally, it will focus on scientific studies, capacity building, and stakeholder engagement to enhance the long-term resilience of the region against these recurring challenges.

The Board remains committed to working towards safeguarding land, livelihood, and communities in the region and will strive to strengthen its initiatives to achieve the desired outcomes.

[O.M. No. G-30013/2/2025-Budget Dated 12.06.2025]

Comment of the Committee
(Please see Para No. 17 of Chapter I of the Report)

Recommendation No. 8 (Para Nos.2.15 & 2.16)

Polavaram Irrigation Project

The Committee noted that Polavaram Irrigation Project is a multi-purpose reservoir project contemplated across the river Godavari near Ramayyapeta village, Polavaram Mandal in Eluru district (erstwhile West Godavari District) of Andhra Pradesh. The Committee further noted that the Project has been declared as a national project as per section 90 of Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2014 and Central Government is funding 100% of the remaining cost of the irrigation component only of the project, for the period starting from 01.04.2024.

With regard to the present status of rehabilitation & resettlement of people displaced due to the Project, the Committee noted that only 38 Habitations have been shifted so far against the total 373 Habitations affected. Further, merely 26 R&R Colonies competed against 213. Moreover, against 1,06,006 PDFs only 12,797 have been rehabilitated so far. The Committee understood that although displacement of local communities may be an unavoidable during execution of such large scale development programmes, their rehabilitation & resettlement within a stipulate time frame is also paramount to address post displacement issues. The Committee also observed that the progress of rehabilitation and resettlement under various projects undertaken by the Ministry are very slow, resulting in jeopardizing the position of the displaced communities. Taking into cognizance, the importance of timely rehabilitation and resettlement, the Committee recommended that the Ministry expedite the

rehabilitation & resettlement of people displaced, with a sensitive approach by taking all appropriate measures with timely planning and implementation, as well as monitoring of displacement and rehabilitation of the affected communities to ensure their livelihoods and habitation with all necessary infrastructure.

Reply of the Government

It is submitted that Polavaram Irrigation Project is a multi-purpose Project being constructed across the river Godavari. Due to construction of this project, a total 1,06,006 PDFs covering in 8 Mandals are to be rehabilitated and are to be provided with R&R benefits. The project has been divided into 2 phases for administrative convenience i.e., Phase I (upto +41.15m) Phase II from+41.15mto+45.72m). Currently the R&R works are taking place in brisk manner with a tentative date of completion of Phase I, LA and R&R by Dec, 2026.

Progress of works under Phase I.

Initially, under Phase I, a total of 20,946 PDFs were identified as displaced in 123 habitations of erst while East & West Godavari Districts. During 2020floods, several villages were marooned and LIDAR survey was conducted. It was reported that 49 additional habitations, which are listed in Phase II, will be impacted at 41.15 M contour and were shifted to Phase I (Priority habitations) in the year 2022.

Hence, the Phase I works are divided into two parts i.e., Phase 1A (Initially identified 123 habitations) & Phase IB (priority 49habitations). A total of 172 habitations were identified as displaced under Phase I.

Phase IA:

For providing rehabilitation to the 20,946 PDFs of 123 habitations, a total of75 R&R colonies are proposed. Out of the 75 R&R colonies, construction of 26 R&R colonies are completed and 3780 PDFs are shifted in these completed colonies. For the balance PDFs, 49 R&R colonies are proposed and the Government have taken up construction of 13938 houses along with infrastructure as per Schedule III of the RFCT

LARR Act, 2013. The balance 3228 PDFs opted for self-construction / one time settlement.

Till date, out of 13938 houses, construction is completed in respect of 11692 houses and 9017 PDFs were shifted to the completed houses. 65 % of infrastructure works are completed in these 49R&R colonies and the balance are targeted to be completed by September, 2025.

The balance PDFs under Phase IA will be shifted to respective R&R colonies by December, 2025.

Phase IB:

Tentatively, a total of 17114 PDFs were identified as displaced in the 49 priority habitations which were identified in the year 2022. As per RFCT LARR Act, the SES in all these habitations is completed. Grama Sabhas are being conducted in these49 habitations.

- Gram Sabhas in the 49 habitations will be completed by April 30th 2025.
- Simultaneously, the identification of land for R&R colonies & land under land to land for tribal PDFs is also under progress and will be completed by 30th April, 2025.
- The publication of draft R&R schemes for these 49 habitations will be completed by 31st May, 2025 and final R&R scheme by 30th June 2025.
- After publication of final R&R schemes, the No.of R&R colonies to be constructed will be arrived and the tenders for R&R colonies will be finalized by 15th July 2025.
- The commencement of R&R colony works will start from September 2025 and is targeted to be completed by 31st December 2026.

Further necessary steps are being initiated to expedite the process of rehabilitation to the effected families to ensure their livelihood and infrastructure development.

[O.M. No. G-30013/2/2025-Budget Dated 12.06.2025]

Recommendation No. 9 (Para No. 2.17)

Further, the Committee observed that the Polavaram Project is scheduled to be completed by March 2026 with a water storage upto EL +41.15m with a provision for one more year of extension due to technical challenges. However, overall project progress as on 30 November 2024 upto EL +45.72m is only 53.46% having 76.79% and 22.58 % progress in construction and LA and R&R, respectively. Keeping in view the challenges and the present status of the progress of the project, the Committee strongly felt that the Authority needs to expedite its efforts in close coordination with all stakeholders in order and achieve its objectives by the stipulated deadline. To achieve its targeted goal, the Committee recommended that a greater emphasis need to be given on the issues of R&R, O&M, coordination with stakeholder States to resolve all major inter-state concerns and implementation of technical advice as provided by Panel of Experts to ensure safety of Dam.

Reply of the Government

It is submitted that the overall progress of the project up to EL +45.72m is 55.89% (Up to 31.03.2025) comprising 74.45% in works and 23.31% in LA and R&R.

To ensure implementation of the timelines, projects are monitored physically by a team from Central Water Commission (CWC), Polavaram Project Authority time to time. During the visit, thorough physical, financial and other issues related to the project are discussed in detail, and a report with specific recommendations is forwarded to the State Government as well as CWC.

Further, Regular review meetings at the level of Secretary, DoWR and Hon'ble MoJS are held In addition, Review meetings are also being conducted at State Government level starting from Hon'ble Chief Minister and Special Chief Secretary / Principal Secretary.

The Government of Andhra Pradesh (GoAP) has been giving utmost importance for providing the benefits to all the displaced families due to construction of the project.

The LA and R&R activities are continuously monitored Commissioner(R&R), Project Administrator and Special Collector.

In addition to the above, the PPA has engaged WAPCOS as Project Management coordination Consultancy at field level for better monitoring and Panel of Experts having international expertise to give strategic guidance on various technical challenges involved in project.

The O&M of the project will be carried out as per the suggestions of Central Water Commission duly following the directions stipulated in the GWDT award 1980 & Inter State Agreement dated 02.04.1980.

[O.M. No. G-30013/2/2025-Budget Dated 12.06.2025]

Recommendation No. 10 (Para No. 2.18)

The Standing Committee on Water Resources during its recent study visit to Puducherry, Mahabalipuram and Rajahmundry from 8 to 11 January, 2025 have observed that there are no permanent residential colonies near the Polavaram Project for monitoring the Project. The Committee were of the view that setting up of permanent colonies near the project sites for stationing the higher officers would go a long way in exercising better coordination and monitoring of the Projects resulting in timely completion of the same. They therefore recommended the Department to take necessary steps in this regard.

Reply of the Government

It is submitted that the Water Resources Department has constructed a residential colony in Polavaram at a distance of about 4 Km from the project site to accommodate 87 no’s of staff including One Superintending Engineer, 2 Executive Engineers, 6 no’s of Dy. Executive Engineers, 30 no’s of AEEs and 48 no’s of

Supervisors/non-technical staff. Remaining staff who could not find accommodation in the colony are residing in private houses at Polavaram.

For monitoring the works closely, the concerned Chief Engineer, is residing at Polavaram.

Thus, the Technical/Non-Technical staff, by residing in the colony or private houses near to the project site, have been monitoring the works continuously with better coordination.

Further, The Water Resources Department has proposed to construct a permanent two storied residential hostel building with 22 rooms including conference hall, dining hall etc., on right bank of spillway for employees and higher officials during their visits.

[O.M. No. G-30013/2/2025-Budget Dated 12.06.2025]

Recommendation No. 11 (Para No. 2.19)

Further, the Committee have found that Project is being executed as per the Inter-State Agreement dated 02.04.1980 between Andhra Pradesh, Odisha and Madhya Pradesh (now Chhattisgarh) and Godavari Water Disputes Tribunal Award (GWDT), 1980. However, The Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2014 declared the Polavaram Irrigation Project as a National Project. Observing the very long time being taken in completion of the Project, the Committee would like to be briefed about the timeline of submission of various aspects of the Project including design of GAP-I & GAP-II of the Polavaram Project. Further, taking cognizance of the fact that only one Workshop involving different stakeholders including international agencies has been held so far for reviewing the progress of the project, the Committee urged upon the Department to hold regular Workshops of such nature in order to ensure timely completion of the Project. In addition to this, the Committee further recommended the Department to hold quarterly review of the progress being made in the Project. The Committee would like to be

briefed about the specific timelines for completion of the Projects and the steps being taken to meet this timeline within three months from presentation of this Report.

Reply of the Government

The International experts visited the project site three times and conducted one work shop along with several virtual reviews. Further, one more workshop / Site visit is planning on Design of Main dams.

The suggestion of the committee is noted and will be planned to conduct a greater number of workshops in future involving different stakeholders including international agencies.

The progress of the project is being reviewed regularly by the higher authorities from WRD, PPA, CWC and MoJS in addition to the regular frequent site visit and review by the Chief Engineer, PIP, WRD and Chief Engineer, PPA.

The details are as follows.

- Weekly by the Special Chief Secretary to WRD, GoAP.
- Monthly by the Hon'ble Chief Minister, GoAP
- Monthly by the CEO, PPA
- Quarterly by CWC authorities and MoJS

In addition, The PPA has **Constituted the Project Monitoring and Coordination Group to review progress of PIP with the following persons**

1. Chief Engineer(P&D),PPA : Convener
2. Chief Engineer, PIP, WRD : Member
3. Project Manager, M/s WAPCOS : Member
4. Senior Representative from M/s MEIL : Member

The Terms of Reference (ToR) of the Group is as follows:

i. The Group shall monitor and review the progress and planning of various project activities on a weekly basis.

ii. The Group shall coordinate with the relevant stakeholders and promptly address emerging issues.
iii. The Group shall furnish a fortnightly progress report of activities of the projector PPA for onward transmission to MoJS.

[O.M. No. G-30013/2/2025-Budget Dated 12.06.2025]

Recommendation No. 12 (Para No. 2.20)

The Committee observed that dams have traditionally played a significant role in water management, hydroelectric power generation, irrigation and flood control. However, the Committee are of the view that the Polavaram Project can be additionally developed for eco-tourism/research purposes which can also benefit the local population and enhance regional development by attracting tourists and creating employment opportunities. Accordingly, the Committee recommended that an appropriate administrative setup be created, so that quality infrastructure be envisaged for development of eco-tourism spots and also benefit research institutions/students in hydro-geological-engineering studies.

Reply of the Government

Government of Andhra Pradesh (GoAP) is very keen to enhance the livelihood of locals by creating employment and enhancing their financial status by developing Tourism, Pisciculture etc. at the project location. With this purpose and lot of enthusiasm, GoAP has entrusted the job of developing Eco-Tourism at the project location to the specialized Government corporation i.e., Andhra Pradesh Tourism Development Corporation (APTDC). The APTDC is now planning to develop Eco-Tourism and build an impressive infrastructure hotel, transport facilities and amenities etc to create local employment.

The Department has been allowing Research Scholars, and giving permission to various Engineering Institutions spread across AP and India to visit the project and to

interact with the Engineers on Technical matters of specialized works Viz., Ground Improvement works of Vibro-compaction, Construction of Diaphragm wall etc., for their study and research purpose. Further, the common public who are interested in knowing about the project are also allowed to visit the project on public holidays, without causing any hindrance to the project works.

[O.M. No. G-30013/2/2025-Budget Dated 12.06.2025]

Recommendation No. 14 (Para Nos. 2.23, 2.24 & 2.25)

Command Area Development and water Management (CAD&WM)

The Committee noted that Command Area Development & Water Management (CADWM) Programme was launched in 1974-75 to enhance utilization of irrigation potential created and improve agriculture productivity and production on a sustainable basis. The Committee further noted that the Scheme was brought under the umbrella of PMKSY in 2016-17 and has been restricted to 99 prioritized AIBP projects.

The Committee noted a significant reduction in the Scheme's allocation, from Rs.1,400 crore at the Budget Estimate (BE) stage to Rs.100 crore at the Revised Estimate (RE) stage for the financial year 2024-25. In this regard, the Department informed the Committee that Rs.1,200 crore was allocated for the Modified CADWM, but since the Scheme wasn't approved, the allocation was reduced at the RE stage. Furthermore, the Committee observed a 40% reduction in fund allocation, as Rs.850 crore has been allocated in FY 2025-26 compared to FY 2024-25. The Department attributed this reduction to the lower-than-proposed allocation for the Modified CAD Scheme. In this regard, in its earlier DFG 2024-25 Report the Committee highlighted the underutilization of funds under the Scheme and urged the Department to ensure better and prudent utilization of budget allocation with the implementation of the Modified CAD in efficient manner. The Committee further observed that the newly approved Scheme has been allocated insufficient funds, which raises concerns about its effective

implementation. Furthermore, the Committee observe that the recurring underutilization of budget allocations and delays in approving the Modified Scheme requires a more proactive approach by the Department towards implementing the Scheme.

The Committee were of the view that CAD&WM is a crucial scheme of the Government for improving water management leading to increased agricultural productivity, higher farmer incomes, and socio-economic growth in rural areas and is directly connected with the Government's vision to double farmers' incomes. Continuous underutilization of budgetary allocation is hampering achievements and progress of the Scheme. Therefore, the Committee strongly recommended that the Department make every effort to fully and optimally utilize the budget allocated with a proactive approach in implementing the Modified CAD Scheme as well as in view of the importance of the Scheme take necessary steps to augment its budgetary allocation so that proper and effective implementation of the Scheme be ensured.

Reply of the Government

The Modernization of Command Area Development and Water Management (M-CADWM) scheme seeks to transform the existing CADWM component (Har Khet Ko Pani) of PMKSY to make it more integrated, efficient, sustainable and inclusive. As part of the revamped scheme, it is proposed to implement pilot M-CADWM projects across various agro-climatic zones in the country incorporating institutional, technical and management reforms and strategies in command area development and water management. Based on the learnings in design and structuring of these projects, National Plan for Command Area Development and Water Management will be designed.

The Union Cabinet approved the Modernization of Command Area Development and Water Management(M-CADWM) as a sub-scheme of Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana(PMKSY) for the period 2025-26 with an initial total outlay of Rs. 1600 crore (Central share Rs.1100 cr.).The initial approval is for taking up pilot projects

across various agroclimatic zones in the country by challenge funding to the states. Based on the learning's in design and structuring of these projects, National Plan for Command Area Development and Water Management will be launched starting from April, 2026 for the 16th Finance Commission period.

[O.M. No. G-30013/2/2025-Budget Dated 12.06.2025]

Recommendation No. 15 (Para No. 2.26)

Further, the Committee felt that for better implementation and optimal outcome, the water distribution network developed under Command Area Development & Water Management Scheme need to be strengthened with adequate financial provisions. To achieve the objectives all the existing canal systems are required to be upgraded and revamped in order to effective utilization of water resources by preventing water pilferages through damaged canals. The Department may also focus on using underground pipelines water network system as envisaged in the Modified CAD Scheme.

Reply of the Government

The Cabinet has approved the Central Outlay of Rs 5566 crore for PMKSY-CADWM from 2021-26. The allocations of the funds under the PMKSY-CADWM is as under: -

Component	Total Amount (Rs. In crore)
PMKSY CADWM Outlay CS	5566
Transferred to SMI & RRR	900

Allocated for M-CADWM scheme	1100
Allocated for Ongoing CADWM	3566
Expenditure since April,2021 to April 2025	420
Balance in Hand	3146

Further, it is submitted that the cabinet in its meeting on 09th April, 2025 approved M-CADWM Scheme with initial total outlay of Rs. 1600 Cr. (Central share of Rs. 1100 Cr.) for the period 2025-26, as sub scheme of PMKSY-CADWM to make it more relevant in the current context of agricultural productivity and Water Use Efficiency. The scheme promotes smart irrigation with close monitoring of discharge of water. The existing command (whether rain fed or gravity based) will be transformed to a Pressurized Piped Irrigation Command (PPIC) by providing pressurized irrigation water through underground pipelines from Established source to Farm Gate below Minor (Tertiary) Level Network.

[O.M. No. G-30013/2/2025-Budget Dated 12.06.2025]

Recommendation No. 16 (Para Nos. 2.27 & 2.28)

Atal Bhujal Yojana (ATAL JAL)

The Committee noted that the Atal Bhujal Yojana (ATAL JAL) is a Central Sector Scheme with an objective to improve the management of groundwater resources in the water stressed areas of the selected States and under implementation in 8203 water stressed Gram Panchayats of 229 administrative blocks/ Talukas in 80 districts of seven States, viz. Haryana, Gujarat, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh for a period of five years from 01.04.2020 .The selected States account for about 37% of the total number of water-stressed (over-exploited, critical and

semi-critical) blocks in India. Further, the Scheme has been extended up to 31.03.2026 by the Department of Expenditure.

Regarding the contribution of Atal Bhujal Yojana in groundwater conservation and recharge and measurable improvement in groundwater levels in the areas covered by the Scheme the Committee observe that the Scheme is being implemented since April, 2020 in 8,213 water stressed Gram Panchayats and out of which only 1333 Gram Panchayats have shown an improvement / arrest in the declining ground water levels. In this regard, the Committee were of the view that this scheme has been running for the last 5 years on incentive basis having financial implication as well as resource utilization. The Committee, while appreciating the concept and objectivity of this Scheme, expressed concern on its execution at ground level on the basis of its target achievement as on date. Hence, intensified efforts are required to make the Scheme more effective. While acknowledge the Government's endeavors towards groundwater recharge the Committee urged the Ministry to intensify its efforts to implement the Scheme more effectively, thereby ensuring that the allocated resources are utilized optimally.

Reply of the Government

Government of India is implementing Atal Bhujal Yojana, a Central Sector Scheme, with a total outlay of Rs. 6,000 crores in 8,203 water stressed Gram Panchayats (GPs) of 229 administrative Blocks/Talukas in 80 districts of 7 States, viz., Haryana, Gujarat, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh for a period of 6 years from 01.04.2020.

Atal Bhujal Yojana faced challenges in its initial two years due to the impact of the COVID pandemic. Hence, the progress in early phases of the program was slower. However, despite of this, scheme has picked up in the later period and has shown significant progress in the achievement of various milestones.

The Scheme has had an unprecedented impact at grassroots level when it comes to awareness creation and capacity building. Under the IS &CB component of

the scheme around 1.2 lakh gram panchayat level trainings have been held under Atal Bhujal Yojana. Empowered with better knowledge, the communities have actively participated in preparation of GP level Water Budgets and Water Security Plans (WSPs) and so far, WSPs for all 8203 Atal Jal GPs have been prepared and updated regularly. With regard to more tangible impacts, it may be noted that, thus far under the Scheme, more than 68,000 artificial recharge / water conservation structures have been constructed which resulted in recharge of 2,359 MCM water, benefiting 3.0 crore people. Additionally, an area of around 6.7 lakh Hectares has been brought under efficient water use practices, including Drip, Sprinkler, Mulching, Crop Diversification etc. against the total target of 4.5 lakh Hectares.

Further, in 2023, a total of 813 Gram Panchayats (GPs) showed improvements or arrest in the declining groundwater levels in water-stressed areas as per the Program Guidelines and his progress was further sustained in 2024, with 1333 Gram Panchayats showing similar improvements.

Considering that Atal Bhujal Yojana is specifically focused on sustainable groundwater management in water stressed areas only, these positive outcomes serve as a good indicator of the scheme's effectiveness. With the momentum gained in last two years, it is expected that the scheme will continue to show improvement in the groundwater regime in the remaining year of the program. The Ministry is also committed to put in all out efforts to achieve the best possible outcome under the scheme in the remaining final phase of the scheme.

[O.M. No. G-30013/2/2025-Budget Dated 12.06.2025]

Recommendation No. 18 (Para Nos. 2.31)

Namami Gange Mission-II

The Committee recommended that the Department make earnest endeavours to constitute a Committee comprising Members of Parliament / Members of Legislative Assembly from the districts in order to ensure effective participation of the elected

representatives for better formulation, implementation and monitoring of work executed under Nmami Ganga Mission at ground level.

Reply of the Government

National Mission for Clean Ganga has taken a proactive approach towards the inclusion of local Lok Sabha MPs and local MLAs for better formulation, implementation and monitoring of work executed under Namami Gange Mission. It is pertinent to mention here that vide D.O. letter dated 11.02.2023, the Department of Rural Development was requested to include Namami Gange Program in the list of programs to be monitored by District Infrastructure Scheme Advisory (DISHA) Committees for better transparency, coordination and implementation (copy enclosed as **Annexure-II**).

The DISHA Committees are headed by local Lok Sabha MPs and include local MLAs and other representatives of political parties. The list of districts where works under Namami Gange are being implemented was also provided to the Department of Rural Development.

Consequently, DISHA Committees have been monitoring the Namami Gange Program, and the data for monitoring the Namami Gange Program is available on the DISHA portal (Copy of snapshot enclosed as **Annexure-III**)

[O.M. No. G-30013/2/2025-Budget Dated 12.06.2025]

Comment of the Committee
(Please see Para No. 23 of Chapter I of the Report)

Recommendation No. 19 (Para Nos. 2.32 & 2.33)

Flood Management and Border Areas Programme (FMBAP)

The Committee noted that the FMBAP comprises two key components including Flood Management Programme (FMP) Component and River Management and Border Areas (RMBA) Component. Under FMP component, the Government provides Grant-in-Aid to States/Union Territories for implementing structural measures aimed at flood management, anti-erosion, river management, and anti-sea erosion. Further, under RMBA component flood control and anti-erosion work on common border rivers with neighbouring countries, including hydrological observations and flood forecasting, and investigation & pre-construction activities of joint water resources projects (with neighbouring countries) on common border rivers are being taken up with 100% central assistance.

The Committee noted that an amount of Rs. 450 crore has been allocated for the Programme for the fiscal year 2025-26. The Committee also observed that during the last fiscal year in 2024-25 the budgetary allocation to the programme was Rs.449.57 at BE stage and same was reduced to Rs.400 at RE stage. However, actual expenditure till 31 December, 2024 was of just Rs.37.61 crore which is only 9.25% of RE. During the oral evidence, the Ministry apprised the Committee of the need for additional funding for the Programme due to overwhelming demands from flood-prone States. The Ministry expressed its inability to address these demands and sought enhancement in the allocation. In this regard, the Committee failed to understand the dichotomy that the Ministry during last fiscal year, could manage to utilize only 37.61 crore out of the allocated budget and then raise demand for Rs. 450 Crore for fiscal year 2025-26. The Committee felt that underutilization of fund on one hand not only hamper the implementation and execution of various activities under FMBAP but also raising concern on the prudent budgetary provisioning by the Ministry for this important Scheme. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Ministry carry out necessary consultations with all the States/UTs concerned well in advance to make a more realistic budgetary allocation for the Programme in order to avoid underutilization of allocated fund at later stage and to ensure optimum utilization of the available fund and

apprise of the steps taken in this regard within three months of presentation of this Report.

Reply of the Government

FMBAP is primarily aimed at providing Central Assistance to State Governments for undertaking critical flood control, anti-erosion, drainage development, and anti-sea erosion works. Flood management, including the formulation and implementation of schemes, falls within the purview of the respective State Governments.

The release of funds under the programme, is dependent on receiving technically sound and financially viable proposals from the State/UT Governments. Utilization is linked to the progress of works executed by the States and the subsequent submission of mandatory documents like Utilization Certificates, Audit certificates etc.

FMP guidelines stipulate a Single Nodal Agency (SNA) as a prerequisite for the release of central assistance (CA) for flood management projects. By designating a single nodal agency, the government aims to streamline the decision-making process, enhance coordination with project authority and optimize the utilization of financial resources.

Continuous coordination with State Governments is undertaken to facilitate the timely submission of proposals and ensure effective implementation of sanctioned projects. CWC endeavours with the anticipated requirements based on consultations and status of project proposals received from the States.

[O.M. No. G-30013/2/2025-Budget Dated 12.06.2025]

Recommendation No. 20 (Para Nos. 2.34)

The Committee observed that the recurring floods in various states, including Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, and Assam, are primarily attributed to rivers originating from

neighbouring countries. The Government of India has been deploying various efforts at the appropriate level to tackle this issue. This cross-border river issue necessitates a collaborative approach to address the problem effectively. Recognizing the complexity of the problem, the Committee acknowledge the involvement of Ministry of External Affairs in developing a policy framework hence, an integrated approach is essential for proper coordination between the Ministry of Jal Shakti and the Ministry of External Affairs to ensure effective management. Therefore, the Committee recommended that the Ministry of Jal Shakti, in coordination with Ministry of External Affairs undertake the Cross-Border Flooding Management as an independent initiative and develop a comprehensive strategy that mitigates the severity of floods in affected regions.

Reply of the Government

Several trans-boundary tributaries of Ganga basin system like Sarda, Ghaghra, Rapti, Gandak, Burhi Gandak, Bagmati, Kamla, Kosi, etc. originate from Nepal and bring heavy discharge from upper catchment areas located in Nepal resulting in floods in North Bihar and Uttar Pradesh. India has been consistently cooperating with Nepal for deriving mutual benefits like drinking water, power, irrigation and flood control from these rivers through various bilateral agreement on these trans boundary rivers. The management of floods due to these rivers has been a concern and the related issues are discussed in the existing Indo-Nepal bilateral mechanisms. The bilateral mechanism at various levels have been constituted to co-ordinate and deal with different aspects of cooperation on issues related to water resources development including flood control and management among the two countries. Details of important bilateral mechanism are as under-

Joint Ministerial Commission on Water Resources (JMCWR) is headed by Ministers of Water Resources (now Jal Shakti) of India and Nepal to address bilateral cooperation on water resources.

Joint Committee on Water Resources (JCWR) is headed by Secretary (WR) of the two countries to review the work of various technical/expert groups set up for planning and implementation of water resources project as well as the work of the Joint Standing Technical Committee.

Joint Standing Technical Committee (JSTC) is co-chaired by Chairman, GFCC, to coordinate all existing committees and subcommittees under the JCWR.

Joint Committee on Inundation of Flood Management (JCIFM) is co-chaired by Member (C), GFCC is an umbrella Committee to implement the decisions of JSTC in inundation and flood management issues. The JCIFM addresses the issues related to flood management and inundation in Nepal and border areas due to trans boundary rivers.

Joint Committee on Kosi Gandak Projects (JCKGP) is co-chaired by Principal Secretary/Secretary, Water Resources Department, Government of Bihar for operation and maintenance of Kosi and Gandak Projects.

Joint Team of Experts, specifically constituted for Sapta Kosi-Sun Kosi Projects to provide overall guidance, direction and monitoring of works for preparation of DPRs. It is led by Member (River Management), CWC from India side and Director General, Department of Electricity Development from Nepal.

Further, an understanding has been reached between Government of India (GoI) and Government of Nepal (GoN) to jointly prepare the 'Detailed Project Report (DPR) of Sapta Kosi Multipurpose Project' with objectives of flood control, irrigation and power generation. The preparation of DPR of Sun Kosi Kamla Diversion Multipurpose Project in Nepal is also being jointly taken up by both the Governments. The India-Nepal Joint Project Office (JPO) started functioning in August 2004 with the mandate of carrying out jointly field investigations and preparation of DPR for Sapta Kosi High Dam Multi-purpose Project (SKHDMP) and Sun Kosi Storage-cum- Diversion Scheme (SSDS).

The Pancheshwar Multipurpose Project (PMP) has been envisaged on Mahakali River (known as Sarada in India), where the river forms the international boundary between India and Nepal. A 300 m high rock fill dam across the Mahakali River, with two power houses - each having six units of 400 MW units, is proposed at 2.5 km

downstream of Pancheshwar temple. A 95 m high concrete gravity re-regulating dam has also been proposed at 27 km downstream to store the releases from Pancheshwar power houses during peak hours and regulate them to meet irrigation water demand in the downstream.

A joint entity of India and Nepal namely, Pancheshwar Development Authority (PDA) has been set up with approval of both the Governments in September, 2014 for the Project. DPR of Pancheshwar Multipurpose Project has been prepared and efforts are being made to arrive at mutual consensus on project parameters/benefits/cost apportionment through a joint Team of Officials/ Experts (ToE) constituted by both the countries.

Also, Government is having continuous dialogue with neighbouring countries on exchange of hydro-meteorological data as briefly mentioned below:

Indo-Bhutan Cooperation: Under bilateral Indo-Bhutan arrangements, the hydro-meteorological data of sites located in Bhutan on rivers flowing into India is being provided by Bhutan to India for use in flood forecasting.

Indo- China Cooperation – The hydrological information for 3 stations on river Brahmaputra and one station on river Sutlej is shared during monsoon season by China to India; which is made use in issue of advisory flood forecasts to downstream areas on Indian side.

Despite numerous efforts and initiatives by the Ministry to mitigate floods, several states continue to face severe flooding challenges due to combination of various challenges. These are unpredictable weather patterns, coupled with the increasing frequency and intensity of extreme precipitation events, cloud burst etc., Inadequate urban drainage systems and the rampant encroachment on natural waterways exacerbate the situation, as floodplains—originally designed to absorb excess water—are compromised by unregulated construction activities and inadequate carrying capacity of river.

The flood control measures have undoubtedly played a role in mitigating the severity of floods, the effectiveness of these measures is often undermined by the

aforementioned challenges, which further makes it difficult to forecast despite advancements in flood prediction technologies.

[O.M. No. G-30013/2/2025-Budget Dated 12.06.2025]

Recommendation No. 21 (Para Nos. 2.35 & 2.36)

National River Conservation Plan (NRCP)- Other Basins

The Committee noted that NRCP is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for conservation of rivers excluding Ganga and its tributaries on cost sharing basis by providing assistance to States/UTs. The Committee further noted that a Condition assessment and Management Plans (CAMP) study for six river basins including Narmada, Mahanadi, Godavari, Krishna, Cauvery and Periyar has been taken up at a sanctioned cost of Rs.75.72 crore.

Regarding the budgetary allocation, the Committee observed that for the fiscal year 2025-26, an amount of Rs. 558.09 has been kept for NRCP- Other Basins Scheme. In this regard, while the Committee concerned about the coverage of the Scheme encompassing 57 Rivers in the 17 States with a huge task of conservation and abetment of pollution, the allocation found inadequate. During the oral evidence the Ministry also highlighted about having adequate funding for the Ganga Rejuvenation under Namami Ganga Programme, however, multiple polluted river- stretches across the country remain untouched due to insufficient funding. In this regard, the Committee were of the view that all the rivers in the Country have equal importance and require same attention and remedial measures for conservation and abetment of pollution. Since abetment of pollution from all the rivers across the Country requires joint efforts with holistic approach the Committee recommended that the Department take proactive steps in augmenting sufficient budgetary allocations for effective implementation of the Scheme.

Reply of the Government

The recommendations of the Committee have been noted for compliance. National River Conservation Directorate is taking all out efforts for augmenting the budgetary support for efficient implementation of the National River Conservation Plan. For the Fifteenth Finance Commission, Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) appraised the continuation of the scheme with an outlay of Rs.1252 crore. This budgetary support was later enhanced with an outlay upto Rs.2652 crore.

In addition, project for pollution abatement of river Nag at Nagpur with an estimated cost of Rs.1926.99 cr. (central share is R.1115.22 cr.) was approved by CCEA. For the 15th Finance Commission, Rs.415 crore has been allocated for this Externally Aided Project.

[O.M. No. G-30013/2/2025-Budget Dated 12.06.2025]

Comment of the Committee

(Please see Para No. 26 of Chapter I of the Report)

Recommendation No. 22 (Para No. 2.37)

Regarding the abatement of pollution from rivers, the Committee noted that the National Mission for Clean Ganga has authority under Section 5 of the Environment Protection Act, similar to the Central Pollution Control Board, but only for the Ganga and its tributaries. For management of water pollution in other rivers, the Ministry of Water Resources, RD, GR relies on the Central Pollution Control Board which is under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change. The Committee observed that although Ministry of WR, RD & GR is the nodal Ministry for River Development & Management and allocated funds under budgetary provision by Govt. of India, abetment of river pollution, one of the major components of River Management is under the mandate of Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change. The Committee, in

order to implement holistic management of Rivers in the Country, recommended that the Ministry establish a robust coordination mechanism with other Ministries of Government of India or expand its mandate to ensure comprehensive management, regulation, monitoring of all rivers in the country.

Reply of the Government

The Central Government, vide Notification No.1763 dated 14th June, 2019, further amending the Government of India (Allocation of Business) Rules, 1961, transferred NRCD including NRCP from Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) to the Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation (DoWR, RD&GR) under newly constituted Ministry of Jal Shakti for implementation of mandate for NRCP in regard to pollution abatement of rivers others than Ganga and its tributaries. However, Control of Pollution Division remained with MoEF&CC.

NRCD is regularly coordinating and working in synergy with MoEF&CC and Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB).

[O.M. No. G-30013/2/2025-Budget Dated 12.06.2025]

Recommendation No. 23 (Para Nos. 2.38 & 2.39)

Special Package for the State of Maharashtra

The Committee noted that In July 2018, Govt. of India approved a Special Package to provide Central Assistance up to Rs.3,831.41 crore to complete 83 Surface Minor Irrigation (SMI) projects and 8 Major / Medium Irrigation (MMI) Projects in suicide prone districts in Vidarbha and Marathwada and rest of Maharashtra region of the state of Maharashtra envisages creation of additional 3.77 lakh hectare of potential. The Committee further noted that 53 Surface Minor Irrigation projects and 02 Major/ Medium

Irrigation projects have been reported completed which are responsible for creation of irrigation potential of 1,66,532 hectare through all these projects during 2018-19 to 2023-24 and Central Assistance of Rs.2962.36 crore has been released so far.

In this regard, the Committee observed that no budgetary allocation for the Scheme has been made for the FY 2025-26. In this regard the Department apprised the Committee that the Scheme was extended till March, 2025 and since the same expires on 31.03.2025 no allocation has been proposed for the FY 2025-26 however, in this regard, based on the request of State Govt., proposal for continuation of the Scheme beyond time period, is being examined. In this regard, the Committee observed that the Scheme is far behind from its target set for completion. Only 53 out of 83 SMI Projects and 2 out of 8 MMI projects have been completed so far and less than half of total irrigation potential envisaged in the Scheme, has been achieved. In this context, the Committee were of the opinion that the Scheme is meant for drought-prone and water-stressed regions which are still facing severe groundwater depletion and irrigation challenges and to improve the condition of these areas, central assistance is still needed. Therefore, the Committee urged the Ministry to consider the request of the State favourably and make necessary provision of allotment of fund to complete that remaining projects so that benefits envisaged with the Scheme are fully realized.

Reply of the Government

Noted, please. The continuation of the Special Package for Mahararastra Scheme in 16th FC is under examination of this Department.

[O.M. No. G-30013/2/2025-Budget Dated 12.06.2025]

Recommendation No. 24 (Para Nos. 2.40 & 2.41)

India- Water Resource Information System (WRIS)

The Committee noted that under the Ministry of Jal Shakti India- Water Resource Information System (WRIS) is a repository of nation-wide water resources data, providing a 'Single Window' source of updated data on water resources including available water bodies in the country like ponds, tanks, lakes etc. This portal enables stakeholders to easily access, analyse, manage and share relevant data and helps in assessment, monitoring, planning and development of water resources for Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) by utilizing advanced technologies like Geographic Information System (GIS) and Remote Sensing.

Further, during the oral evidence, the Committee took cognizance of cases where schemes were formulated for the water bodies on the basis of mapping available on the portal however the same were reported to be scrapped due to discrepancies between the mapped data and the actual physical conditions. In this connection, the Committee are of the opinion that information available on the Water Resources Information System portal must be accurate and up-to-date to enable States / UTs and other stakeholders to utilize the same purposefully and effectively. Further, the Committee also took note of NAKSHA programme recently launched by Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India and the advance technology being used for mapping the information in the said programme. Keeping in view the importance of accurate and updated reliable data on Water Resources that needs to be maintained at National Level, the Committee urged the Ministry to upgrade its present technology of mapping of water bodies in the country to ensure authenticity of the data compiled for effective utilization by all stakeholders/users.

Reply of the Government

Mapping of water bodies on India WRIS portal is being done, using advance remote sensing technologies. This will ensure that information available on the Water Resources Information System portal is accurate and up-to-date so as to enable States / UTs and other stakeholders to utilize the water data purposefully and effectively.

[O.M. No. G-30013/2/2025-Budget Dated 12.06.2025]

Recommendation No. 25 (Para Nos. 2.32 & 2.33)

Water Management in Forest Areas

With regard to water management in Forest Areas the Committee observed that National Water Policy (NWP) of India, first formulated in 1987 and revised in 2012, provides a comprehensive framework for the planning and management of the country's water resources. It emphasizes the protection of watersheds, including those in forest areas, to conserve water and prevent soil erosion. Further, the Environment Protection Act, 1986, provides a legal framework for environmental protection, including water bodies in forests. Under section 3(v) of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and Rule 5, sub-rule (viii) and (x) of the environment (Protections) Rules, "lands falling within 10 kms of the boundaries of national parks and sanctuaries should be notified as eco-fragile zones".

The Committee noted that most of the major rivers transverse through various National Parks/ Sanctuaries en-route to their course. However, management of all the forest areas, Tiger Reserves and Sanctuaries in the Country broadly come under the preview of Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change. Further during the oral evidence, the Ministry of WR, RD & GR expressed its inability to access these areas and also lack of any coordination with the MoE,F&CC for River management and water bodies in such areas. In this regard, the Committee felt that Forest Areas, Tiger Reserves and Sanctuaries play a very pivotal role in maintaining the eco-system of the country and in view of the adverse effects of climate change, the proactive management of water resources in these areas are necessary. The Committee, therefore, urged the Ministry to coordinate with the MoE,F&CC and ensure its accessibility / active involvement in River management and other water bodies in forest areas, Tiger Reserves and Sanctuaries in the country and ensure sustainability of flora and fauna in these areas.

Reply of the Government

It is to submit that Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) has been requested by Department of Water Resources vide letter dated. 02.06.2025(attached as **Annexure-IV),** submitted requesting them to intimate the areas of co-ordination between Ministry of Jal Shakti and Ministry and MoEF&CC required to ensure effective management of water resources in these ecologically sensitive areas to facilitate integrated water resource management, conversation efforts and climate resilience.

[O.M. No. G-30013/2/2025-Budget Dated 12.06.2025]

Comment of the Committee

(Please see Para No. 29 of Chapter I of the Report)

Recommendation No. 26 (Para Nos. 2.44, 2.45, 2.46 & 2.47)

Management of Glacial Lake Outburst Flood (GLOFs)/ Cloudburst Flood in North-East Region/ Himalayan Regions

The incidents of Glacier Lake Outburst Flood (GLOFs), Cloudburst flood, avalanches caused due to glacier outburst in North Eastern Region and Himalayan regions in India has seen substantial hike in recent past. Climate Change is the main factor for these natural calamities. The impact of warming due to climate changes has been observed in every part of the world, especially over the Himalayan cryosphere, where glaciers are receding at a greater pace, resulting in the formation and evolution of glacier lakes, many of which have become a potentially hazardous lake. Most of these glacier lakes in the Himalyans region are known to have formed within the last half-century. The rapid evolution of these lakes and continuously changing climatic conditions has led to the increase threat of Glacier Lake Outburst Floods (GLOFs) and other associated hazards.

The Committee observed that Ministry of Jal Shakti, Dept of WR, RD and GR, has taken various initiatives including carrying out study on Glacier risk assessment of glacier lakes in the Himalayan Regions of Indian River Basins through National Remote Sensing Centre, one of the Central Implementing Agency under National Hydrology Project. The Glacier lakes database thus compiled has been used to prepare Glacier Atlases of Indus, Ganga, Brahmaputra and combined Indian Himalayan River basins and shared online on NRSC portal. Further, CWC has formulated and published 'Criteria for Risk Indexing of Glacier Lakes in Indian Himalayan Region' in September 2024. NDMA and SDMA's with consultation from several organizations from different Ministries including NIH, NRSC, GSI, C-DAC, WIHG, etc are involved in field observations for the assessment of vulnerable glacial lakes identified bases on the criteria established by CWC.

The Committee noted that in the recent past, GLOF event in Sikkim due to bursting of South Lhonak Lake in October 2023 resulted severe flooding of the Teesta River valley causing severe damage to the buildings, highways and impacted life in many small villages in the valley. More recently, a Glacier burst has caused massive avalanche in Chamoli district in Uttrakhand causing severe loss of life and property.

The Committee while taking cognizance of various measures/technical interventions being taken by the Ministry and other agencies concerned in regard to Weather forecasting has observed that the incidents of Glacier Lake Outburst Flood (GLOFs), Cloudburst flood, avalanches caused due to glacier burst become more frequent in vulnerable basins in North Eastern Regions and Himalayan Regions causing severe loss of life and material. The Committee, therefore, recommended that a more pro-active, comprehensive and integrated approach has to be taken by the Ministry with all the agencies concerned using latest technological interventions including use of Artificial Intelligence and Data Analytics for early warning system on forecasting for effective risk management in all vulnerable areas.

Reply of the Government

There are large number of stakeholders working in the field of Glacier related studies in their respective capacities. To bring these institutions under a single umbrella, a steering committee under the chairmanship of Secretary, DoWR, RD & GR, MoJS has been constituted for Monitoring of Glaciers. Members from various national agencies such as National Institute of Hydrology (NIH), National Remote Sensing Centre, Indian Institute of Remote Sensing, Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology, Geological Survey of India, Defence Geo-informatics Research Establishment, Ministry of Earth Science, Himachal Pradesh Council for Science, Tech. & Env., Govind Ballabh Pant National Institute of Himalayan Environment, Department of Science & Technology- Sikkim, Central Ground Water Board, Central Water Commission are included in the committee. The Terms of Reference of the committee are as follow:

- To initiate systematic mapping of glaciers/glacial lakes, monitoring glacial changes/melting and glacial lake outburst floods.
- To consolidate the glacier and glacial lake information collected by different agencies of the Government and make it available on GIS based web-portal.
- To develop a coordination mechanism among various ministries (viz., Ministries of Jal Shakti; Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Department of Space, Ministry of Earth Sciences, Ministry of Mines and Department of Science and Technology etc.) for efficient mobilization of resources for glacier related studies.
- To help building bridges among other research groups and academia for studies on glaciers.
- To develop trends and predictions for behaviour of Himalayan glaciers in the context of climate change and their likely impact on hydrology.
- To develop capacity through workshops, awareness and trainings programs on snow and glacier aspects.

Total three meeting of the committee held so far. Last meeting of the committee was held on January 20, 2025.

A Centre for Cryosphere and Climate Change Studies has been established at NIH Roorkee to look after various studies related to snow/glacier and to coordinate and collaborate with other organizations working in the field of snow/glacier.

CWC monitors 902 Glacial Lakes and Water Bodies (GL&WBs) of size greater than 10 Ha included from Glacial Lake Inventory 2011 prepared by NRSC, in the Himalayan Region of Indian River Basins, for the period June to October every year, using remote sensing techniques. High resolution multi-spectral and microwave (SAR) images of Sentinel Satellite at 10 m resolution are processed and analysed in open-source cloud computing platform using automatic algorithm developed in-house. The monthly monitoring report enables detection of relative change in water spread area of GLs &WBs as well as identifying the GLs &WBs which have expanded substantially during the monitoring month, from a disaster perspective. The monitoring reports are shared with all stakeholders and e-published on CWC website for any time access by the concerned.

CWC carried out trend analysis on water spread area of 100 Glacial Lakes located in India of size greater than 10 Ha, using the available monthly monitoring data since 2011 with a view to prioritize lakes. The Glacial Lakes depicting increasing trend, no change trend and decreasing trend has been identified state-wise. The state-wise flow path of these 100 Glacial Lakes has been prepared, and projects & CWC Hydrological Observation stations en-route have been mapped, to facilitate visualization of the potential impact in the event of GLOF.

Further, CWC has finalized the Criteria for Risk Indexing of Glacial Lakes offering a structured approach for identifying and ranking Glacial Lakes based on their likelihood of failure and the potential damage they could cause in the event of GLOF. This has been done by evaluating key factors such as the Glacial Lake's Size, Change in Size of

GL, Stability of Side Slope, Proximity to other Glacial Lakes as well as considering Downstream vulnerabilities like Habitation, Infrastructures like Dams, Bridges etc.

Participation of CWC in various committees functioning under NDMA:

Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction (CoDRR), chaired by the HoD of National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), includes representatives from agencies such as CWC, NRSC, GSI, C-DAC, NIH, DGRE, six IHR States/UTs etc conducts meeting regularly to address various issues related to Glacial Lakes. NDMA, in collaboration with SDMAs and various agencies, has planned expedition to vulnerable Glacial lakes in all the six States/UTs (Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh) in the Indian Himalayan Region. Total eight meeting of the committee held so far.

National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) constituted a Project Monitoring Committee (PMC) on 27.08.2024 including members from various agencies such as CWC, NIH, GSI, NRSC, ITBP, NCPOR, CEA etc. The PMC has engaged the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC), Pune, to develop an indigenous GLOF-Early Warning System. This system will feature a comprehensive Glacial Lake Database, Spatial Decision Support System (DSS), GLOF simulation model, Indigenous Sensors, and an alert dissemination Web Application.

National GLOF Risk Mitigation Program (NGRMP) has been created with an outlay of 150 Cr, for the period from 2021-22 to 2025-26, for GLOF Risk mitigation in four Himalayan states i.e. Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Uttrakhand and Himachal Pradesh. A Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) constituted under Member (Mitigation), NDMA for regular monitoring and implementation of the program with members from various national agencies viz NESAC, NIH, NRSC, NCPOR, DGRE, IMD, CWC, GSI, C-DAC, NHPC etc.

Actions by Central Electricity Authority (CEA): A total of 47 hydroelectric projects (HEPs) operated by NHPC, UJVNL, AHPC, HPPCL etc have been identified by the Central Electricity Authority as vulnerable to GLOF. GLOF assessment for 15 projects

has been completed (Jammu & Kashmir-4, Uttrakhand-3, Himachal Pradesh-3, Ladakh-1, Sikkim-2, Arunachal Pradesh-2)

[O.M. No. G-30013/2/2025-Budget Dated 12.06.2025]

Recommendation No. 27 (Para No. 2.48)

The Committee while recognizing that only risk prevention measures are not sufficient to mitigate challenges posed by such natural calamities also recommended that all factors such as climate changes, global warming, deforestation etc. responsible for their trigger needs to be identified and addressed promptly by proper planning, and coordination by all stakeholders at every level.

Reply of the Government

CWC has finalized the Criteria for Risk Indexing of Glacial Lakes offering a structured approach for identifying and ranking Glacial Lakes based on their likelihood of failure and the potential damage they could cause in the event of GLOF. This has been done by evaluating key factors such as the Glacial Lake's Size, Change in Size of GL, Stability of Side Slope, Proximity to other Glacial Lakes as well as considering Downstream vulnerabilities like Habitation, Infrastructures like Dams, Bridges etc.

A steering committee under the chairmanship of Secretary, DoWR, RD & GR, MoJS has been constituted for Monitoring of Glaciers on 09-03-2023 having members from various national agencies such as National Institute of Hydrology(NIH), National Remote Sensing Centre, Indian Institute of Remote Sensing, Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology, Geological Survey of India, Defence Geo-informatics Research Establishment, Ministry of Earth Science, Himachal Pradesh Council for Science, Tech. & Env., Govind Ballabh Pant National Institute of Himalayan Environment, Department of Science & Technology- Sikkim, Central Ground Water Board, Central Water Commission. The Terms of Reference of the committee are as follow:

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- To consolidate the glacier and glacial lake information collected by different agencies of the Government and make it available on GIS based web-portal.
- To develop a coordination mechanism among various ministries (viz., Ministries of Jal Shakti; Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Department of Space, Ministry of Earth Sciences, Ministry of Mines and Department of Science and Technology etc.) for efficient mobilization of resources for glacier related studies.
- To help building bridges among other research groups and academia for studies on glaciers.
- To develop trends and predictions for behaviour of Himalayan glaciers in the context of climate change and their likely impact on hydrology.
- To develop capacity through workshops, awareness and trainings programs on snow and glacier aspects.

Moreover, a Centre for Cryosphere and Climate Change Studies has been established at NIH Roorkee to look after various studies related to snow/glacier and to coordinate and collaborate with other organizations working in the field of snow/glacier.

[O.M. No. G-30013/2/2025-Budget Dated 12.06.2025]

Recommendation No. 28 (Para No. 2.49)

Salinity of Groundwater due to Seawater Ingress in Costal Regions

The Standing Committee on Water Resources during its recent study visit to Puducherry, Mahabalipuram and Rajahmundry from 8 to 11 January, 2025 have found that Yanam taluk/region of UT of Puducherry has been categorized as “Saline” during the last 10 years. The salinity in groundwater in the region is due to the inland salinity originated by the depositional environment in the geological past. Further, they have also found out that of the 1202 assessment units (Firkas) in Tamil Nadu, 34 units have been categorized as saline based on the Annual Assessment of Dynamic Ground Water

Resources of Tamil Nadu. The Committee observed that saline water intrusion poses challenges to freshwater availability and agricultural activities. In view of this, the Committee urged upon the Department to take remedial measures to address the problem of salinity of groundwater due to seawater ingress in costal regions of the country.

Reply of the Government

Salinity intrusion has been observed in some coastal regions of the country due to seawater encroachment as well as inherent geological conditions like marine sedimentation. Excessive and unsustainable groundwater extraction clubbed with recent shifts in rainfall patterns and changes in groundwater recharge rates have also contributed to salinity intrusion.

Since Water is a State subject, the responsibility of effective and sustainable management of ground water resources, including tackling of salinity issues, lies primarily with the State governments. However, realizing the importance of effectively monitoring the affected/likely to be affected areas and understanding the behaviour of the freshwater-seawater interface in such areas, the Central government has taken several important initiatives.

To identify and monitor saline water intrusion zones, Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) has been conducting regular ground water level and quality monitoring. Further, under the National Aquifer Mapping and Management Programme (NAQUIM), CGWB has conducted aquifer mapping for all coastal districts, and the reports have been shared with state governments for the implementation of management plans. Based on the recommendations, state authorities have undertaken measures such as constructing tidal regulators, embankments, sea walls, check dams, recharge reservoirs, and recharge tanks—initiatives that are reportedly functioning effectively. Additionally, under the National Hydrology Project, CGWB has established a network of 60 piezometers and installed digital water level recorders equipped with water quality probes along coastal aquifers in Tamil Nadu and the Union Territory of Puducherry to

assess the potential risk of saline water intrusion. Furthermore, the National Institute of Hydrology (NIH), Roorkee has carried out research studies to explore various aspects of salinity ingress in coastal aquifers across different regions.

Additionally, the state governments of Tamil Nadu and Puducherry have also informed to have taken various important steps to counter salinity intrusion and to provide adequate fresh water to the population.

Reportedly, 33 firkas out of 34 saline firkas of Tamil Nadu and the Karaikal taluk of Puducherry are having salinity due to geological conditions and intervention measures have limited scope. However, State Ground and Surface Water Resources Data Centre, Tamil Nadu and State Groundwater & Soil Conservation Unit, Puducherry are conducting seawater intrusion studies in the coastal districts of Tamil Nadu & Puducherry by periodically monitoring water quality and water levels.

Further, the following measures have also been taken to improve ground water recharge and water storage in the area.

- Establishing rainwater harvesting structures in every household.
- Constructing check dams across rivers along with recharge wells.
- Creating recharge wells in tanks.
- Identifying aquifer zones and recharging rainwater into them.
- Desilting ponds for rainwater storage.
- Constructing percolation ponds to help improve groundwater levels.

Furthermore, arrangements have been made to meet the entire water requirement of Yanam and Mahe regions of Puducherry through Godavari River and Anjrakandi Dam, respectively.

[O.M. No. G-30013/2/2025-Budget Dated 12.06.2025]

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 BYTHE COMMITTEE

Recommendation No. 3 (Para Nos. 2.4, 2.5 & 2.6)

National Water Policy

The Committee noted that at present the National Water Policy-2012 is in effect with the objective to assess the existing situation and to propose a framework for a plan of action with a unified national perspective and to achieve this objective of the Policy, a number of recommendations have been made therein for conservation, development and improved management of water resources of the country.

The Committee observed that to address current challenges in the Water Sector, revision of National Water Policy has been envisaged and the drafting committee constituted to revise the National Water Policy has submitted its draft report with contrary and non-coherent views from some of the key Members of this Committee and the same is under consideration of the Ministry. In this context, the Committee were of the opinion that as enumerated by the Department various challenges in the water sector including reduction of per capita availability of water due to increasing population, deterioration in quality, overexploitation of ground water resources leading to decline in ground water level and relatively lower efficiency of the facilities for water utilization are multiplying in magnitude over time period. Hence, to mitigate these challenges a robust and collective approach is essential.

Therefore, the Committee urged the Ministry to take necessary decisions in the matter on urgent basis and ensure the implementation of the New National Water Policy on priority so that necessary systems be prepared to confront the current challenges in the Water Sector.

Reply of the Government

To ensure implementation of New Water Policy on priority, sincere efforts are being taken by DoWR, RD & GR. New Draft National Water Policy (NWP) is under consideration of the Department.

[O.M. No. G-30013/2/2025-Budget Dated 12.06.2025]

Comment of the Committee

(Please see Para No. 8 of Chapter I of the Report)

Recommendation No. 3 (Para Nos. 2.7 & 2.8)

National Dam Safety Authority

The Committee noted that the National Dam Safety Authority (NDSA) was established in February 2022 to implement policies, guidelines, and standards made by the National Committee on Dam Safety (NCDS). Maintaining standards of dam safety and prevention of dam failure related disasters, discharging such functions as related to implementation of the policies made by the National Committee including making regulations on the recommendations of the National Committee are some the functions of the Authority.

The Committee noted that all dam owning States have constituted the Sate Committees on Dam Safety (SCDS) and State Dam Safety Organizations (SDSO), in accordance with the provisions of the Dam Safety Act. Further, with regard to availability of adequate personnel, as per the information provided, the Committee observed an acute shortage in SCDSs and SDSOs in most of the States/UTs. In this regard, the Committee were of the view that to facilitate the effective implementation of the Dam Safety Act, it is imperative that all organizations involved in Dam Safety work, commit to it with full capacity. This can only be achieved if all organizations are adequately staffed as insufficient staffing will inevitably compromise their efficiency, thereby hindering the fulfilment of the Act's objectives. Therefore, the Committee

recommended that the Department take necessary measures to address this issue and ensure that all organizations are sufficiently staffed and equipped to implement the Act effectively.

Reply of the Government

Many meetings have been held with the Heads of Water Resource Department of the State of Chhattisgarh, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh on dam safety issues including incumbency in SDSOs by NDSA. The issue of shortage of staff was highlighted in these meetings. NDSA has consistently highlighted staffing shortages as a key agenda item in its regional review meetings with all dam-owning States/UTs. So far, 16 regional review meetings have been held with dam-owning States/UTs. During these consultations, States have been informed about the shortage of staff in SDSOs. Furthermore, NDSA has issued official communications to the concerned States/UTs highlighting the need to address these staffing issues on a priority basis.

[O.M. No. G-30013/2/2025-Budget Dated 12.06.2025]

Comment of the Committee
(Please see Para No. 11 of Chapter I of the Report)

Recommendation No. 13 (Para Nos. 2.21 & 2.22)

Rain Water Harvesting

The Committee noted that Rainwater harvesting (RWH) has emerged as a very viable and crucial strategy to address India's escalating water scarcity, ensuring sustainable water management, and mitigating the reliance on conventional water sources. By collecting and storing rainwater, RWH can significantly alleviate water scarcity issues, providing a reliable alternative to traditional water sources that are often inadequate or unpredictable. Furthermore, RWH contributes to improved groundwater

recharge, rendering it a vital and viable solution in regions where aquifers have been depleted.

The Committee observed that for promoting rain water harvesting in the country, no dedicated financial support to States/UTs has been provided by National Water Mission (NWM). On this issue, the Department apprised the Committee about the various efforts deployed by NWM in this regard including the Jal Shakti Abhiyan: "Catch the Rain campaign", which is a convergence of various Central Government schemes and funds like MGNREGS, Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT), Per Drop More Crop Repair, Renovation and Restoration Components under the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana (PMKSY) , Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority(CAMPA), Finance Commission Grants, State Government schemes, Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) funds etc. While acknowledging these efforts of the Government, the Committee believed that rainwater harvesting can be a versatile and effective solution to tackle water scarcity, manage storm water runoff, and support sustainable water management. Use of available rainwater harvesting techniques is vital in enhancing groundwater recharge, improving agricultural productivity and reduce dependence on traditional water sources and provision of dedicated financial support to States/UTs will definitely motivate them to make serious efforts to promote rainwater harvesting measures and ensure the participation of communities in masses. Keeping in view the fact that rainwater harvesting is increasingly recognized as a vital strategy to address water scarcity and ensure sustainable water management, the Committee recommended that the Ministry consider providing dedicated financial grant / support to the States / UTs to promote use of rainwater harvesting through available techniques so that problem of water scarcity in the country may be mitigated to some extent.

Reply of the Government

Rainwater harvesting (RWH) is increasingly recognized as a vital strategy to address India's growing water scarcity and ensure sustainable water management.

Rainwater harvesting offers a solution to the challenges posed by the over exploitation of water resources, erratic rainfall, and a rapidly increasing population. By collecting and storing rainwater, this practice can significantly alleviate water scarcity issues, offering a reliable alternative to conventional water sources, which are often insufficient or unreliable. It also helps improve groundwater recharge, making it a key solution in regions where aquifers have been depleted.

The Hon'ble Prime Minister's vision for water security embraces a **Whole of Government and Whole of Society approach** to address India's diverse water needs—rural and urban, domestic and industrial. The Ministry of Jal Shakti has been implementing the Jal Shakti Abhiyan (JSA) campaign since 2019, a flagship programme of the National Water Mission, Ministry of Jal Shakti with the tagline from 2021 "Catch the Rain: Where it Falls, When it Falls". Institutionalized as an annual intervention, JSA:CTR is anchored in the principles of decentralization and public participation, with a strong emphasis on the community-driven construction, revival, and maintenance of rainwater harvesting and groundwater recharge structures. By engaging citizens at the grassroots level, the campaign fosters collective ownership and long-term stewardship of water resources across the country.

The sixth edition of the Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain (JSA: CTR) 2025 was launched in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) The campaign focuses on awareness generation around water conservation, while driving five key intervention areas each year. Intervention-wise progress (completed as well as ongoing works) as on 02.06.2025 includes (i) Water Conservation & Rainwater Harvesting Structures: 58,06,024; (ii) Renovation of Traditional Water Bodies: 12,43,752; (iii) Reuse and Recharge Structures: 31,00,664; (iv) Watershed Development: 73,64,755; (v) Afforestation: 1,39,98,27,636.

The Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidari (JSJB) initiative, launched in 2024, has rapidly accelerated local groundwater recharge efforts across India through an innovative, community-driven approach. The initiative focuses on the construction of **low-cost artificial recharge structures** with focus on roof top rainwater harvesting structures, recharging of defunct bore wells and recharge pits. With an ambitious target of

constructing **over one million recharge structures** by May 2025, the initiative has already exceeded expectations, with more than **27 lakh recharge structures uploaded** on JSJB portal as on 2nd June 2025. The success of JSJB **does not rely on central funding but is driven by convergent** and inclusive funding model, which integrates resources from government schemes such as MGNREGA, AMRUT, and PMKSY with contributions from the private sector, including Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) funds, philanthropic donations, individual donors, and crowdfunding platforms. This integrated financial approach not only facilitates broad-based participation but also fosters community ownership and ensures the long-term sustainability of groundwater conservation efforts.

Across the country, youth groups, women collectives, self-help groups, NGOs, farmers, and students are taking small, localised steps—creating a large national movement. Community ownership of water resources has been the backbone of this movement, fostering sustained engagement, accountability, and the ongoing upkeep of the assets created. This is the true spirit of **Jan Bhagidari** is that citizens not merely as beneficiaries, but as active agents of change. The JSJB initiative aligns with the Hon'ble Prime Minister's vision of a **"Whole-of-Government, Whole-of-Society" approach**, underscoring the importance of both community involvement and governmental coordination in effective water management.

Under JSJB, several innovative community-driven models have emerged to promote sustainable groundwater conservation. The **Karmbhoomi se Matribhoomi Model** enables individuals working in Gujarat to fund borewell recharge projects in their state of birth, thereby fostering strong emotional and ecological ties. The **Alwar School Building Model**, developed integrates rooftop rainwater harvesting and sanitation facilities into schools, turning infrastructure into educational tools. In Raipur, the **CREDAI-Hydrologist Model** brings together builders and hydrologists to develop low-cost recharge structures at just ₹1,500 per unit, exemplifying cost-effective collaboration. Meanwhile, the **Gir Ganga Trust NGO Model** unites NGOs, philanthropists, and local communities, with shared responsibilities in construction and resource support. These models exemplify cost-effective, participatory, and scientifically

sound approaches to water conservation, reinforcing India's grassroots-led water security efforts.

An incentive mechanism has been developed by the **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA)** to reward Municipal Corporations (MCs) and Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) demonstrating exemplary performance in water conservation and rainwater harvesting efforts. This mechanism is based on measurable indicators and is designed to promote equitable competition and balanced representation across urban areas. By recognizing successful models and practices at the city and town level, MoHUA aims to encourage urban stakeholders to proactively engage in the Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidari initiative under the Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain campaign.

Separately, the **Ministry of Jal Shakti (MoJS)** has proposed an incentive mechanism for recognizing outstanding contributions by Industry Associations, NGOs, Philanthropists, District Administrations, and other non-governmental actors. This incentive scheme also relies on measurable performance indicators and seeks to enhance private sector, civil society, and district-level participation in water conservation efforts. The approach reinforces decentralized, community-driven models by encouraging innovation and local leadership, in alignment with the core spirit of the Jal Shakti Abhiyan and Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidari initiatives.

As per the Dynamic Ground Water Resources Assessment Report, 2024, there has been a total increase of **11.36 billion cubic meters (BCM) in 2024 with respect to 2017** through recharge by Tanks, Ponds and Water Conservation Structures, surpassing even the live storage capacity of **9.75 BCM of the Indira Sagar Dam.**

Apart from the Jal Shakti Abhiyan (JSA), several other flagship initiatives are also contributing significantly towards augmenting water supply, particularly through rainwater harvesting. Notable among these are the Atal Bhujal Yojana, which focuses on community-led groundwater management, and the Rejuvenation, Renovation, and Restoration (RRR) component of the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana

(PMKSY), which emphasizes the revival of traditional water bodies to enhance water availability and sustainability.

The **Repair, Renovation, and Restoration** (RRR) component under the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY), a **Centrally Sponsored Scheme**, focuses on restoring traditional water bodies such as tanks, ponds, and lakes to improve their water storage capacity and ecological functionality.

Furthermore, the **Atal Bhujal Yojana**, **Central Sector Scheme,** supported by World Bank, promotes sustainable groundwater management through community participation, encouraging the formation of water budgets and preparation and implementation of Gram Panchayat-wise water security plans. These plans are locally relevant, grounded in scientific assessment of groundwater availability and usage, and foster judicious water use through informed decision-making and collective action at the grassroots level.

The Department of Land Resources under Ministry of Rural Development is implementing **Watershed Development Component of Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana Scheme**, which is a **Central Sector Scheme**. The scheme aims to develop degraded and rainfed areas of the country, by undertaking watershed development projects in an integrated approach. The activities undertaken, interalia, include ridge area treatment, drainage line treatment, soil and moisture conservation, rainwater harvesting, nursery raising, pasture development, livelihoods for asset-less persons etc.

AMRUT (Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation) 2.0 is a flagship initiative of the Government of India aimed at improving urban infrastructure with a strong focus on water sustainability. The mission emphasizes rainwater harvesting through effective stormwater drainage into clean water bodies, developing aquifer management plans to enhance groundwater recharge, and spreading awareness through IEC campaigns. The key components include improving urban water supply and sewerage systems, developing green spaces, and rejuvenating water bodies. Complementing national efforts like the Jal Shakti Abhiyan, Catch the Rain,JSJB, AMRUT 2.0 plays a vital role in ensuring water security and promoting

efficient water use in urban areas. Under AMRUT, the **Shallow Aquifer Management component**, which is part of Urban Aquifer Management initiatives, addresses the city-wise groundwater recharge. It focuses on mapping city aquifers, preparing Aquifer Management Plans, and implementing recharge measures like rainwater harvesting and recharge wells. This helps improve groundwater availability and supports sustainable urban water management.

It is important to acknowledge the pivotal role played by flagship government schemes like **MGNREGA and the Mission Amrit Sarovar (MAS**) in advancing the objectives of water conservation and community participation. Under MGNREGA alone, more than **₹1.17 lakh crore** have been spent over the past five years on the creation and rejuvenation of water-related assets across rural India, significantly enhancing groundwater recharge, drought resilience, and irrigation potential. Complementing this, the **Mission Amrit Sarovar** has led to the creation of over **68,000 water bodies** since its launch, serving not just as water conservation structures but also as symbols of Jan Bhagidari and environmental stewardship. These initiatives reflect the convergence of livelihood generation with sustainable water management.

Rainwater harvesting and groundwater recharge are central to India's water security strategy. Flagship initiatives like JSA:CTR and JSJB, supported by schemes such as PMKSY, Atal Bhujal Yojana, DoLR's watershed programmes, and MoHUA's urban water initiatives, highlight the power of community-led, convergent, and decentralized action. Together, they are driving a nationwide movement to restore the hydrological balance and build a resilient, water-secure future'.

The ongoing efforts by the Central Government, State Governments, Urban and Rural Local Bodies, along with meaningful private sector participation, have collectively demonstrated encouraging progress in advancing the objectives of the **Jal Shakti Abhiyan (JSA)** and **Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidari (JSJB).** The **core spirit** of JSJB lies in **community-led water conservation efforts**, where local ownership, public participation, and collective responsibility drive impactful outcomes.

Introducing a dedicated financial or administrative vertical beyond the current incentive-based, mission-mode approach may not align the spirit of JSA/ JSJB. Such a

move risks undermining the **foundational spirit** of these initiatives, which is rooted in fostering intensified community engagement and strengthening decentralized, state-led implementation.

This view is reinforced by the findings of the **Dynamic Ground Water Resources Assessment Report 2024** released by the Central Ground Water Board (CGWB), which highlights that significant improvements in groundwater levels and recharge potential were most visible in regions where integrated, community-led interventions under JSA/ JSJB were effectively implemented—without reliance on a rigid vertical structure.

[O.M. No. G-30013/2/2025-Budget Dated 12.06.2025]

Comment of the Committee
(Please see Para No. 20 of Chapter I of the Report)

Recommendation No. 17 (Para Nos. 2.29 & 2.30)

Namami Gange Mission-II

The Committee noted that the Government launched the Namami Gange Programme (NGP) in 2014-15 for the rejuvenation of river Ganga and its tributaries for five years, up to March 2021 and has been further extended to March, 2026. Under the Programme, a diverse and holistic set of interventions for cleaning and rejuvenation of river Ganga have been taken up, that included waste water treatment, solid waste management, river front management (ghats and crematoria), ensuring e-flow, rural sanitation, afforestation, biodiversity conservation, public participation, etc

The Committee observed that in the Committee/ Councils/ Bodies/ Organisations/ Societies established under Namami Gange Programme the Department informed that under present provisions, two elected representatives, one from the Municipalities and one from the Gram Panchayats of the District nominated as Members in the District Ganga Committee by the State Government. In the matter, the Committee felt that since, Namami Ganga Mission is a grand and ambitious programme for the

rejuvenation of River Ganga and its tributaries effecting millions of people living in River Ganga Basin, the local Member of Parliament, Lok Sabha and a Member of Legislative Assembly can play a pivotal role in the effective and successful implementation of the Mission and its objectives. The Committee, therefore recommended the Ministry to make necessary provisions in their guidelines for inclusion of local MP/MLA in the bodies under NMCG in order to ensure more cohesive outcome under Nmami Ganga progarmme.

Reply of the Government

National Mission for Clean Ganga has taken a proactive approach towards the inclusion of local Lok Sabha MPs and local MLAs for better formulation, implementation and monitoring of work executed under Namami Gange Mission. It is pertinent to mention here that vide D.O. letter dated 11.02.2023, the Department of Rural Development was requested to include Namami Gange Program in the list of programs to be monitored by District Infrastructure Scheme Advisory (DISHA) Committees for better transparency, coordination and implementation (copy enclosed as **Annexure-II**).

The DISHA Committees are headed by local Lok Sabha MPs and include local MLAs and other representatives of political parties. The list of districts where works under Namami Gange are being implemented was also provided to the Department of Rural Development.

Consequently, DISHA Committees have been monitoring the Namami Gange Program, and the data for monitoring the Namami Gange Program is available on the DISHA portal (Copy of snapshot enclosed as **Annexure-III**)

[O.M. No. G-30013/2/2025-Budget Dated 12.06.2025]

Comment of the Committee

(Please see Para No. 23 of Chapter I of the Report)

CHAPTER V

OBSERVATION/RECOMMENDATION IN REPSECT OF WHICH FINAL REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT IS STILL AWAITED

NIL

NEW DELHI
08 August, 2025
17 Sravana, 1947(Saka)

Shri Rajiv Pratap Rudy
Chairperson,
Standing Committee on Water Resources

Annexure-I

Budget Allocation and Actual Expenditure for FY 2024-25

(Rs. in Crores)

Central Sector Schemes				
Sl. No.	**Scheme**	**BE 2024-25**	**RE 2024-25**	**Actual Expenditure 2024-25**
1.	Farakka Barrage Project	127.00	129.00	125.60
	a. Recovery	47.00	70.00	100.79
	b. Farakka Barrage Project (NET)	80.00	59.00	24.81
2.	Dam Rehab & Improv Project (DRIP)	46.98	42.28	41.19
3.	National Ganga Plan	3345.70	3000.00	2595.11
4.	River Basin Management	154.79	143.00	131.12
5.	Dev of Water Resources Info System	115.00	170.00	165.62
6.	Ground Water Management & Regulation	325.00	240.00	232.11
7.	National Hydrology Project	661.20	492.80	372.95
8.	Research & Development and NWM	67.06	45.00	42.11
	a. Research & Development	38.00	26.50	26.56
	b. National Water Mission	29.06	18.50	15.55
9.	Atal Bhujal Yojana (ATAL JAL)	1778.00	600.00	594.08
10.	**Total Central Sector Schemes**	**6573.73**	**4792.08**	**4199.10**

(Rs. in Crores)

Centrally Sponsored Schemes

Sl. No.	Scheme	BE 2024-25	RE 2024-25	Actual Expenditure 2024-25
1.	**Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana (PMKSY) - Har Khet Ko Pani**	**4349.80**	**4480.85**	**4398.58**
	a. Debt Servicing to NABARD	3749.80	3880.85	3809.06
	b. Surface Minor Irrigation & Repair, Renovation and Restoration of Water Bodies	600.00	598.87	588.39
2.	**PMKSY**-Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme and National/Special Projects	2500.00	2040.00	1557.71
3.	**PMKSY**-Command Area Development and Water Management	1400.00	100.00	62.04
4.	Polavaram Irrigation Project (PIP)	0.00	5512.50	5512.40
5.	Flood Management & Border Areas Program	449.57	400.00	386.95
6.	Irrigation Census	40.00	20.00	18.89
7.	Special Package for Maharashtra	600.00	400.00	185.94
8.	National River Conservation Plan - Other Basins	592.11	591.12	589.19
9.	Interlinking of Rivers	4000.00	2000.00	1954.86
10.	**Total CSS**	**13431.48**	**15544.47**	**14666.56**
11.	**SCHEME TOTAL**	**20005.21**	**20336.55**	**18865.66**

List of Program where Namami Gange Operational

State Name	District Name
UTTRAKHAND (13)	Almora, Bageshwar, Chamoli, Champawat, Dehradun, Haridwar, Pauri Garhwal, Nainital, Pithoragarh, Rudraprayag, Tehri, Udham Singh Nagar. Uttarkashi
UTTAR PARDESH (75)	Amethi, Agra,Aligarh Allahabad, Ambedkar Nagar,Amroha, Auraiya, Ayodhya, Azamgarh, Badaun,Baghpat,,Bahraich, Ballia, Balrampur Banda, Barabanki, Bareilly, Basti, Bijnor,Bulandshahr, Chadauli, Chitrakoot, Deoria, Etah, Etawah, Farrukhabad, Fathehpur, Firozabad, Gautam Budh Nagar (NOIDA), Ghaziabad, Ghazipur, Gonda, Gorakhpur, Hamirpur, Hapur, Hardoi, Hathras, Jalaun, Jaunpur, Jhansi, Kannauj, Kanpur (City), Kanpur (Dehat), Kanshiram Nagar (Kasganj), Kaushambi, Kheri, Kushinagar,, Lalitpur, Lucknow, Maharajganj, Mahoba, Mainpuri, Mathura, Mau,Meerut, Mirzapur,Moradabad,Muzaffarnagar, Pilibhit, Pratapgarh, Raebareli, Rampur, Saharanpur, Sambhal, Sant Kabir Nagar, Sant Ravidas Nagar (Bhadohi), Shahjahnpur Shamli, Shravasti, Sidharthnagar, Sitapur, Sonbhadra, Sultanpur, Unnao,Varanasi, Araria,Arwal, Aurangabad, Banka, Begusarai, ,Bettiah, Bhagalpur, Bhojpur, Buxur, Darbhanga, Gaya, Gopalganj,Jahanabad, Jamui, Kaimur, Katihar, Khagaria
BIHAR (38)	Araria, Arwal, ,Aurangabad, Banka, Begusarai, Bettiah, Bhagalpur, Bhojpur, Buxur, Darbhanga, Gaya, Gopalganj, Jahanabad, Jamui, Kaimur, Katihar, Khagaria, Kishanganj, Lakhisarai, Madhepura, Madhubani, Motihari, Munger ,Muzaffarpur, Nalanda, Nawada, Patna ,Purnia, Rohtas, Saharsa, Samastipur, Saran, Shekhpura, Sheohar, Sitamarhi, Siwan, Supaul, Vaishali
JHARKHAND (4)	Bokaro, Dhanbad, Ramgarh, Sahibganj
WEST BENGAL (9)	24 Parganas (North), Hoogly, Howrah, Malda, Murshidabad, Nadia, Purba Bardhaman, Purba Medinipur, South 24 Parganas

Annexure-II

Annexure - III

NAMAMI GANGE

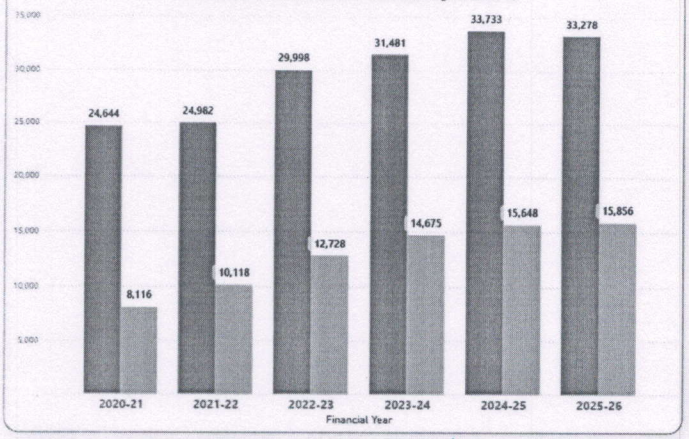
State/UT: All | District: All | Financial Year: All | Clear All

Namami Gange / Ministry of Jal Shakti

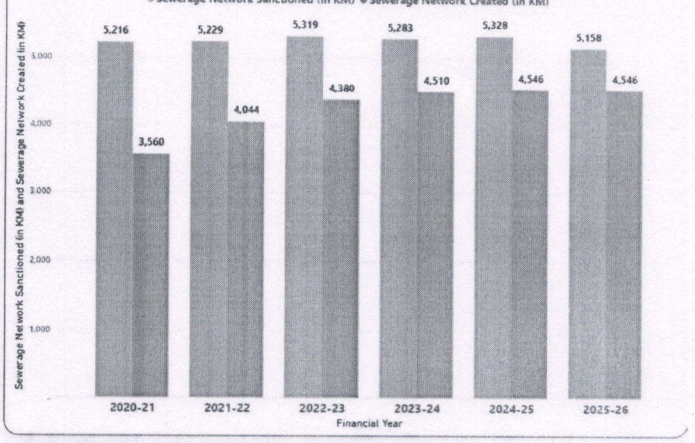
****Data is available for 9 states only****

Sewerage Network Created (in KM)	STP Capacity Created (in MLD)	Total Sanctioned Amount (Rs in Cr)	Financial Progress (Rs in Cr)
4,546	3,722	33,278	15,856

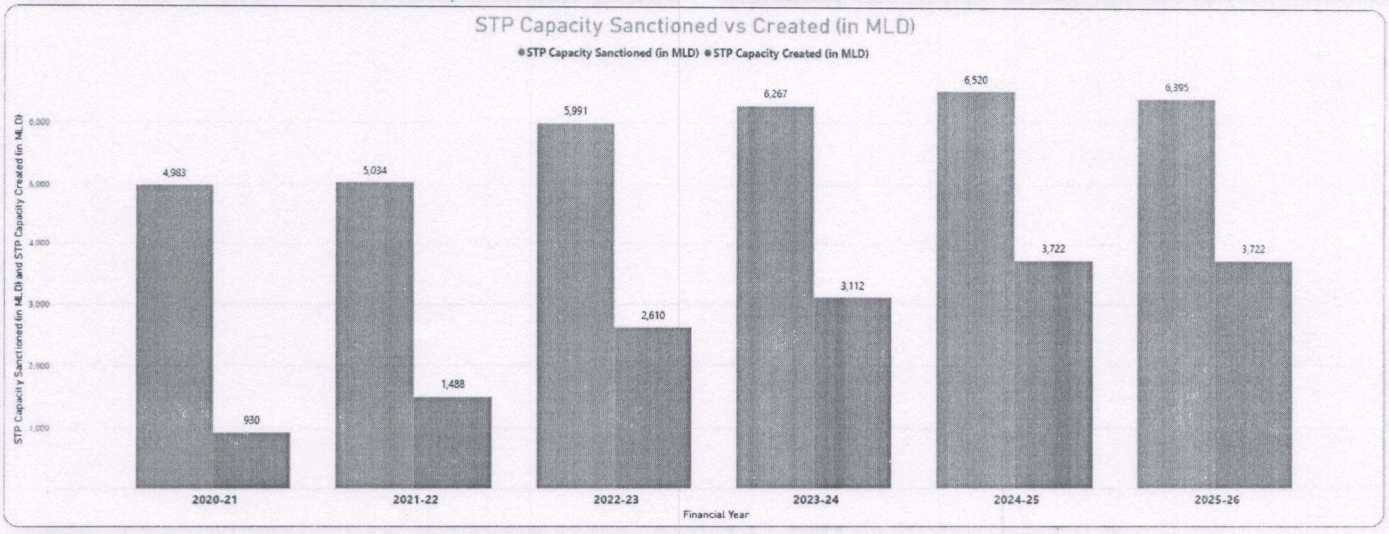
Financial Progress (Rs in Cr)



Sewage Network Sanctioned vs Created (in KM)



STP Capacity Sanctioned vs Created (in MLD)



State	Total Sanctioned Amount (Rs in Cr)	Financial Progress (Rs in Cr)	Sewerage Network Sanctioned (in KM)	Sewerage Network Created (in KM)	STP Capacity Sanctioned (in MLD)	STP Capacity Created (in MLD)
Bihar	7,231	4,469	1,656	1,381	838	393
Delhi	1,951	1,899	37	36	1,268	1,268
Haryana	218	218	41	52	145	145
Himachal Pradesh	12	4			2	2
Jharkhand	1,310	272	151	88	262	16
Madhya Pradesh	670		29		237	
Rajasthan	258	182	146	141	36	36
Uttar Pradesh	15,387	6,025	1,909	1,808	2,596	1,213
Uttarakhand	1,743	897	208	175	244	185
Total	**33,278**	**15,856**	**5,158**	**4,546**	**6,395**	**3,722**

Abbreviations:

STP: Sewage Treatment Plant **MLD**: Megaliters Per Day

Annexure-IV

No. H-11011/2/2022-RC DTE

Government of India
Central Water Commission
River Conservation Directorate

First Floor, West Block-2,
R.K.Puram, New Delhi-66
E-mail: rcddte-cwc@nic.in
Ph: 011-29583390
Date : 02-06-2025

To,

Secretary,
Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change,
Jor Bagh Rd, Lodi Colony, New Delhi-110003

Sub: Inter-Ministerial coordination in matters of river management-reg

Sir,

Please find attached a copy of the fourth report of the Demand for Grants (2025-26) of the Ministry of Jal Shakti - Department of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation.

2. Your kind attention is invited to Paragraph 2.43 of the report on 'Water Management of Forest Areas' (page no. 54), which highlights specific findings regarding rivers traversing through National Parks and Sanctuaries. As these areas fall under the purview of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC), MoJS has not been able to access these regions directly for river management and water conservation efforts. Accordingly, the Committee has proposed enhanced coordination between MoJS and MoEF&CC in matters of river management and conservation of waterbodies within National Parks and Sanctuaries. Given the importance of these protected areas in maintaining ecological balance and mitigating climate change impacts, a cohesive approach to water resource management is essential.

3. In this regard, it is requested to kindly provide guidance on the mechanism through which the efforts of Ministry of Jal Shakti (MoJS) can be coordinated/ integrated with MoEF&CC to ensure effective management of water resources in these ecologically sensitive areas to facilitate integrated water resource management, conservation efforts and climate resilience. Towards this end, a meeting among concerned officials can be organized to establish modalities and ensure effective implementation these strategies. CWC is committed to provide any assistance, in this regard and undertake activities on ground, as deemed appropriate by MoEF&CC.

It is requested to kindly look into the matter and communicate to this office for further necessary action.

Yours faithfully,

Director,
River Conservation

Confidential

MINUTES OF THE SIXTEENTH SITTING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON WATER RESOURCES (2024-25) HELD ON 08 AUGUST, 2025.

The Committee sat on Friday, the 08 August, 2025 from 1000 hours to 1100 hours in Committee Room '2', Parliament House Annexe Extension, New Delhi.

PRESENT

Shri Rajiv Pratap Rudy - Chairperson

MEMBERS

LOK SABHA

2. Shri Narayandas Ahirwar
3. Shri Isha Khan Choudhury
4. Shri Sher Singh Ghubaya
5. Shri Bapi Haldar
6. Md. Rakibul Hussain
7. Shri Rodmal Nagar
8. Shri Dhaval Laxmanbhai Patel
9. Shri Vishaldada Prakashbapu Patil
10. Shri Mohite Patil Dhairyasheel Rajsinh
11. Shri Pratap Chandra Sarangi
12. Shri Dushyant Singh
13. Thiru. Tamilselvan Thanga

RAJYA SABHA

14. Shri Khiru Mahto
15. Smt. Mausam Noor
16. Shri Balyogi Umeshnath
17. Shri Dhairyashil Mohan Patil

SECRETARIAT

1. Shri Chander Mohan - Additional Secretary
2. Shri Ajay Kumar Sood - Director
3. Shri Umesh Bist - Under Secretary

2. At the outset, the Chairperson welcomed the Members to the sitting of the Committee. Thereafter, the Committee took up for consideration following four Draft Reports:

(i) Sixth Report on 'Action Taken by the Government on the Observations / Recommendations contained in the First Report (18th Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants (2024-25) of the Ministry of Jal Shakti - Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation'.

(ii) Seventh Report on 'Action Taken by the Government on the Observations / Recommendations contained in the Second Report (18th Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants (2024-25) of the Ministry of Jal Shakti - Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation'.

(iii) Eighth Report on 'Action Taken by the Government on the Observations / Recommendations contained in the Third Report (18th Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants (2025-26) of the Ministry of Jal Shakti - Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation'.

(iv) Ninth Report on 'Action Taken by the Government on the Observations / Recommendations contained in the Fourth Report (18th Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants (2025-26) of the Ministry of Jal Shakti - Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation'.

3. After some deliberation, the Committee adopted the aforesaid four draft Reports, without any modification. The Committee then authorized the Chairperson to present the Reports on their behalf to both the Houses of Parliament in the current Session.

The Committee then adjourned

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APPENDICES – II

[Vide Para 4 of the Introduction]

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

(i)	Total number of Recommendations/Observations	28
(ii)	Recommendation/Observations which have been accepted by the Government Recommendation Nos. 1, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12,14, 15, 16, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27 and 28	Total – 24 Percentage– 85.71 %
(iii)	Recommendations/Observations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of the Government's replies Recommendation Nos. NIL	Total – 00 Percentage – Nil
(iv)	Recommendations/Observations in respect of which replies of the Government have not been accepted by the Committee Recommendation Nos. 2, 3, 13 & 17	Total – 4 Percentage – 14.29%
(v)	Recommendation/Observation in respect of which final reply of the Government is still awaited Para Nos. NIL	Total – 00 Percentage – Nil