

**TWENTY SEVENTH REPORT
STANDING COMMITTEE ON
AGRICULTURE
(1995-96)**

(TENTH LOK SABHA)

MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (1994-95)

*[Action Taken by Government on the Recommendations/Observations
contained in the Tenth Report of Standing Committee on Agriculture]*



*Presented to Lok Sabha on 16.5.1995
Laid in Rajya Sabha on 16.5.1995*

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CONTENTS

		PAGE
COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE		(iii)
COMPOSITION OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE 'D'		(v)
INTRODUCTION		(vii)
CHAPTER I	Report	1
CHAPTER II	Recommendations/Observations which have been accepted by Government	5
CHAPTER III	Recommendations/Observations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of Government's replies	11
CHAPTER IV	Recommendations/Observations in respect of which replies of Government have not been accepted by the Committee	16
CHAPTER V	Recommendations/Observations in respect of which final replies of Government are still awaited	18
APPENDICES		
I.	Minutes of the sittings of the Sub-Committee 'D' held on 3.5.1995 and Minutes of the sitting of the Committee held on 9.5.1995	21
II.	Analysis of Action Taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the Tenth Report of the Standing Committee on Agriculture (10th Lok Sabha)	24

**COMPOSITION OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON
AGRICULTURE
(1995-96)**

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INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairman of the Standing Committee on Agriculture (1995-96) having been authorised by the Committee to submit Report on their behalf, present this 27th Report on Action Taken by Government on the recommendations/observations contained in the 10th Report of the Standing Committee on Agriculture 1994-95 (Tenth Lok Sabha) on the Demands for Grants (1994-95) of the Ministry of Water Resources.

2. The Tenth Report of the Standing Committee on Agriculture (1994-95) on Demands for Grants (1994-95) of the Ministry of Water Resources was presented to Lok Sabha on 22nd April, 1994. The Ministry of Water Resources was requested to furnish action taken replies of the Government to recommendations contained in the Tenth Report by 21st October, 1994. The replies of the Government to all the recommendations contained in the Report were received on 6th September, 1994.

3. The Ministry was also requested to furnish the extent to which the Demands for Grants (1995-96) have been modified in the light of recommendations of the Committee contained in the Tenth Report on Demands for Grants (1994-95) of the Ministry of Water Resources. The replies in this regard were received on the 9th April, 1995.

4. The Sub-Committee 'D' of the Standing Committee on Agriculture considered these action taken replies and subsequent replies furnished by the Government in its sitting held on 3.5.1995 and approved the draft comments and decided to place the same before the whole Committee on 9th May, 1995, for final approval and adoption.

5. The Committee considered and adopted the 27th Report at their sitting held on 9.5.1995.

6. An analysis of the Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations/observations contained in the 10th Report (Tenth Lok Sabha) of the Committee is given in Appendix II.

NEW DELHI;
12th May, 1995
22 Vaisakha, 1917 (Saka)

NITISH KUMAR,
Chairman,
Standing Committee on Agriculture.

CHAPTER I

REPORT

1.1 This report of Standing Committee on Agriculture (1995-96) deals with the action taken by the Government on the recommendations/ observations contained in their Tenth Report (Tenth Lok Sabha) on the Demands for Grants (1994-95) of the Ministry of Water Resources. The Tenth Report was presented to Lok Sabha on 22nd April, 1994. It contained 15 recommendations/observations. Action taken notes have been received in respect of all the 15 recommendations/ observations. The Committee have categorised as under:

- (i) Recommendations/observations which have been accepted by Government: Para Nos. 2.6, 2.8, 2.15, 2.19, 2.37, 2.41, 2.42 and 2.43
(Total 8 included in Chapter II of the Report)
- (ii) Recommendations/observations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of Government's reply : Para Nos. 2.21 & 2.22, 2.28, 2.30 & 2.40
(Total 4 included in Chapter III of the Report)
- (iii) Recommendations/observations in respect of which final replies of Government have not been accepted by the Committee : Para No. 2.25
(Total 1 included in Chapter IV of the Report)
- (iv) Recommendations/observations in respect of which replies of Government are awaited : Para Nos. 2.10 & 2.44
(Total 2 included in Chapter V of the Report)

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

Recommendation Para (No. 2.25)

1.2 The Committee in its original Report (Tenth Report on Demands for Grants 1994-95 Ministry of Water Resources) observed that SYL Canal Project, a cent percent centrally funded by the Central Government was not being implemented properly. Till July, 1990 about 97% of earthwork, 95% of the lining work and 86% of the structures work were completed and since then almost five years have elapsed but nothing could be done to complete these very very negligible remaining works. Instead every year Central Government is making budgetary provision in the form of grants-in-aid under non plan expenditure and releasing the

same to the Punjab Government. Till today the cost of this project has been revised to Rs. 601.25 crores against the original estimate of Rs. 272 crores. This Committee, having taken into account the very negligible volume of remaining construction works of this project and undesired financial burden being met out by the Central Government through the budget of Ministry of Water Resources every year without any tangible output, constrained to recommend that the Central Ministry of Water Resources should pursue with the State Government of Punjab to expedite the completion of this SYL Project early. The Committee also recommended that the effective utilisation of the funds made in the form of grants-in-aid as non-plan expenditure should be closely monitored by the Ministry.

1.3 The Government in their action taken reply have stated as under:-

“Sutlej Yamuna Link Canal in Punjab territory is being constructed by the Punjab Irrigation Department. However, as a special case, the Central Government is fully funding the project in the Central Sector under non-plan. In July, 1990, when 97% of the earthwork, 95% of the lining and 86% of the Structures had already been completed, the work came to a complete halt due to the tragic incident of the killing of the Chief Engineer and a Superintending Engineer of the Project.

State Government was advised from time to time to take necessary steps for completing the balance works. During July and August, 1992, Minister for Water Resources held meetings with Chief Ministers of Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan when a number of inter-state water related issues between the three States were discussed. Construction of Sutlej Yamuna Link Canal was one of the issues discussed in the above meetings. Recently, in another meeting between the Chief Minister, Punjab and Minister for Water Resources it was again emphasised that the agency and a time schedule for completion of the balance works of Sutlej Yamuna Link Canal may be fixed by the State Government immediately. Punjab Government has accepted its responsibility for completion of Sutlej Yamuna Link Canal through the State Irrigation Department but not time schedule for resumption and completion of the canal has been given.

Against the latest approved cost of Rs. 499.12 crores, the full amount has already been released. The State Government had made a demand for release of another Rs. 30 crores during 1993-94 which could not be released as the approved revised estimate was not available. The State Government was requested to formulate a revised estimate and obtain necessary approval from the Advisory Committee of the Ministry of Water Resources before any further funds could be released for this

Project. Subsequently, Government of Punjab submitted a revised estimate which was broadly examined in Central Water Commission and is being processed in the Ministry for approval."

1.4 In a subsequent reply the Ministry has stated as under:

"It is the view of the Punjab Government that till the inter-state Water disputes are settled amicably, it will not be possible or desirable to resume work on SYL Canal. Accordingly, no time schedule for resumption and completion of the Project has been given by the State Government. However, the stand taken by the State Government is not correct. SYL Canal was envisaged to carry the Haryana's share in the surplus Ravi-Beas waters and the inter-state agreement of 1981 on sharing of surplus Ravi-Beas waters amongst the State of Punjab, Haryana, Delhi, Rajasthan and J&K is a complete code of distribution of water. This agreement was signed by Chief Ministers of States of Haryana, Rajasthan and Punjab in presence of Prime Minister on 31.12.1981. However, Punjab subsequently raised this issue again and as a follow up action of the Rajiv Longowal Accord Ravi Beas Tribunal was constituted to look into the sharing of these waters. Though the Tribunal has submitted its report to the Government certain clarifications by the States have been sought from the Tribunal and the report of the Tribunal is not yet final.

The Government of Punjab submitted the latest revised estimate of the project for an amount of Rs. 601.25 crores to the Central Water Commission (CWC) in 1994. The major components of the estimate were the funds required for completion of the pending works like cross drainage works, bridges escapes and regulators, liabilities which include cost towards establishment, arbitration claims and enhanced land compensation through court awards and few new works comprising of cross drainage works and cost of repairing works damaged during floods of 1993.

The revised estimate of the project amounting to Rs. 601.25 crores was considered and approved by the Advisory Committee of Ministry of Water Resources in its 58th meeting held on 24th June, 1994."

1.5 The Committee after having considered the action taken replies in respect of the above recommendation of the Committee to expedite the completion of SYL Canal Project, are not satisfied with way the Ministry is pursuing with the Punjab State Government the matter of early resumption of construction works at the Project according to a time-bound-schedule Project. They think that the action taken reply and subsequent replies furnished by the Ministry in pursuance of the above recommendation are

vague, unconvincing and inadequate. They also note that the stance taken by the Punjab State Government that it will not be possible or desirable to resume work on the Project unless inter-state water disputes are settled amicably is not tenable. They also fail to understand as to how the Ministry of Water Resources without getting any firm assurance from the Punjab State Government to resume the construction works at the SYL Canal Project is making budgetary provisions for the last five years since July 1990. They express their serious apprehension about the huge cost and time overruns. Against the original cost estimate of Rs. 272 crores in 1985, the latest Fifth revised estimate is of the order Rs. 601.25 as submitted by the Punjab State Government and this has been approved by the Advisory Committee of the Ministry of Water Resources and till today around Rs. 500 crores have been incurred on the Project. The Committee could only conclude that the Ministry has not been sincere enough to pursue the cause of early completion of the SYL Canal Project and failed in its efforts to convince the Punjab State Government to start construction works on the remaining part of the project and complete the same within a specific time-schedule. Therefore, the Committee again urge upon the Ministry of Water Resources to put an additional efforts to convince the Punjab State Government to resume works on the SYL Canal Project to complete the same at the earliest possible without any further cost and time overruns. The Committee strongly recommend that Budgetary provisions earmarked for SYL Project during the current year 1995-96 should not be released unless work on the project is resumed.

Implementation of Recommendations

1.6 The Committee would like to emphasise that the greatest importance should be attached to the implementation of the recommendations by Government. They, therefore, expect that Government would implement such recommendations expeditiously. In case, it is not possible to implement any recommendation in letter and spirit for any reason, the matter should be reported to the Committee in time with reasons for non-implementation.

CHAPTER II

RECOMMENDATIONS/OBSERVATIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED BY GOVERNMENT

Recommendation (Para No. 2.6)

2.1 The Committee feel satisfied over the entire progress made in major and medium irrigation sector in terms of targets projected and achieved.

Reply of the Government

2.2 The observation of the Committee has been noted. The targets projected for 1994-95 are being monitored closely so as to achieve them fully.

Recommendation (Para No. 2.8)

2.3 The Committee suggests that intensive use of remote sensing technology must be popularised and used. Necessary funds should be provided for the purpose.

Reply of the Government

2.4 Remote Sensing Technology is being used through the Remote Sensing Directorate of the Central Water Commission which is engaged in continuing the following studies with this technique:-

- (i) water body mapping of Mahi and Sabarmati basins;
- (ii) reservoir sedimentation studies of Tungabhadra Reservoir and Kadana Reservoir;
- (iii) river behaviour studies of river Ganga below Farakka and Kosi river;
- (iv) flood plain mapping of Sahibi;
- (v) land use studies of Hasdeo basin.

2.5 These studies are presently being carried out by the visual interpretation of imageries. In order that the digital analysis could be carried out, this Directorate had procured computer hardware through USAID assistance (under Water Resources Management & Training Project) and is in the process of procuring balance hardware and software under foreign assistance programme.

2.6 The Standing Committee on Water Resources under the aegis of National Natural Resources Management System constituted by the Planning Commission had recommended in its meeting held on September, 1990 that the Remote Sensing Directorate of Central Water Commission be upgraded on the lines of Regional

Remote Sensing Service Centre. Accordingly, a scheme estimated to cost Rs. 2.33 crores has been prepared during February, 1994. The scheme envisages acquisition of hardware and software required for full-fledged stand alone system for special data technology. Remote sensing technology is proposed in the fields of Flood Management, Command Area Water management, Basin Irrigation Assessment, Reservoir Sediment Monitoring, Environmental Studies, etc. Research is also proposed to be undertaken in the fields of river morphology, behaviour and efficacy of flood management structures, efficacy of irrigation and drainage projects, bank erosion modelling, snow melt and run-off modelling, flood inundation and surface water mapping. As the revised scheme was under consideration, only a token budget provision of Rs. 0.01 crore was provided during 1993-94. The scheme required revision due to review of staff component. This review could be done only in February, 1994 which did not give ample time during the year and as such the allocated funds could not be utilised. The revised scheme is now under process in the Ministry. During 1994-95 an allocation of Rs. 0.70 crores was proposed to the Planning Commission for 1994-95. However, no funds were agreed to by the Planning Commission in view of the general policy of not providing funds for new schemes due to financial constraints.

2.7 The matter has now again been taken up with the Planning Commission to provide adequate funds for this scheme during 1994-95. The scheme will be implemented subject to availability of funds.

Subsequent Reply of the Government

2.8 The Scheme of "Remote Sensing in Water Resources Development" has been approved and provided an allocation of Rs. 1.00 crore against the proposed requirement of Rs. 1.34 crores during 1995-96 under Major & Medium sub-sector.

Recommendation (Para No. 2.15)

2.9 The Committee note with concern the pace at which the Ministry is going about in implementing Artificial recharge of Ground Water scheme and recommend that speedy and timely execution of this scheme must be ensured.

Reply of the Government

2.10 Under the scheme, the Central Ground Water Board initiated investigation work in April, 1993, in the following areas:—

(A) Exploratory Studies

1. Gauribidanur and Mulbagal Talukas in Kolar district, Karnataka.
2. Orange and banana growing areas in Amravati and Jalgaon districts, Maharashtra.

(B) Pilot operation recharge studies

1. National Capital Territory of Delhi.
2. Union Territory of Chandigarh.

2.11 Under the exploratory studies, hydrogeological survey was carried out and tentative sites for percolation tanks and Nala bunding selected in identified watersheds in Amravati and Jalgaon districts of Maharashtra. A Project proposal was also formulated and forwarded to State Government for their collaboration in recharge studies. In Kolar district of Karnataka, hydrological, hydrogeological and geophysical studies were carried out in 5 watersheds in Mulbagal taluka.

2.12 Under the model operational recharge studies in Delhi State and Chandigarh Territory, the Preliminary Surveys were carried out. The surveys demarcated an area in Sukhana Choe region of Chandigarh for detailed studies. A proposal for artificial recharge at Zirakpur site in Sukhana Choe area was forwarded to Chandigarh Administration for making available land for construction of artificial recharge structures as well as for collaboration by Chandigarh U.T. authorities in recharge Project. Survey also identified Indira Gandhi National Open University Campus, Delhi for taking up construction of small artificial recharge structures.

2.13 Now the projects are at implementation stage and the State Governments with whose cooperation these projects will be implemented are being requested to furnish the cost estimates for implementation of these schemes.

Subsequent Reply of the Government

2.14 The work on the scheme on "Artificial Recharge of Ground Water", since taking up during 1994-95, is in progress in coordination with local agencies in the States/Union Territories. In addition to artificial recharge works, 30 sub-surface dykes will also be constructed for conserving the sub-surface ground water flow. For the Annual Plan (1995-96), against the proposed outlay of Rs. 1.00 crore, Rs. 1.00 crore has been allocated.

Recommendation (Para No. 2.19)

2.15 The Committee strongly recommend that more command areas with large scale water logging should be identified and approved for taking up studies on the conjunctive use of surface and ground water during the remaining years of VIII Plan. The Committee also recommend that the Ministry should also ensure the adequate allocation and emphasis for promoting this scheme by the States is close coordination with Planning Commission and States concerned.

Reply of the Government

2.16 The following additional command areas are proposed to be taken up under the schemes on the conjunctive use of surface & ground water during the remaining years of VIII Plan :-

1. Nagarjun Sagar Canal Command Area, Andhra Pradesh.
2. Indira Gandhi Nahar Pariyojna, Stage II, Rajasthan.
3. Gandak Canal Command Area, Uttar Pradesh.
4. Kosi Command, Bihar.

2.17 In the light of the recommendations of the Committee, Planning Commission and the concerned State Governments will be urged to provide adequate funds for promoting this scheme.

Subsequent Reply of the Government

2.18 Over application of surface water for irrigated agriculture in command areas has given rise to problems of water logging in upper reaches; whereas in the tail regions the water-supplies fall far short of requirements. Detailed studies on coordinated use of surface and ground water for optimum development of resource have been approved in six basins viz. Sarda Sahayak Command Areas, Uttar Pradesh; Indira Gandhi Nahar Pariyojna, Rajasthan; Mahi Kadana Canal Command, Gujarat; Hirakund Command, Orissa; Tungabhadra Command, Andhra Pradesh and Ghataprabha Command, Karnataka. The studies in these commands are likely to be completed by March, 1995. Schemes in 4 new areas viz. Stage II, IGN, Kosi & Gandak and Nagarjuna Sagar commands in the States of Rajasthan, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh respectively are proposed to be taken up in 1995-96. A provision of Rs. 0.02 crore has been made for this purpose during 1995-96.

Recommendation (Para No. 2.37)

2.19 The Committee, having taken note of the entire perspective of this programme, express its serious concern over the progress and performance made under this programme. The Committee is happy to know that the Planning Commission has stressed the need for comprehensive evaluation of this programme and that action has already been taken. But at the same time, the Committee recommend that the Ministry should ensure timely and smooth release of grants to the concerned States and Union Territories and monitor the implementation of this programme through more coordinated efforts with the implementing agency. The Committee also recommend that the review of this programme in each State may be undertaken to make it a more effective instrument for ensuring optimum use of water.

Reply of the Government

2.20 It is true that the physical achievements under the scheme in the past have not kept pace with the financial achievements. This is mainly due to escalation of labour and material cost.

2.21 Various suggestions given by the Planning Commission have been taken care of in the revised memorandum for Expenditure Finance Committee prepared for the Centrally Sponsored CAD Programme during the VIII Plan. The release of funds to the States have also been streamlined and the releases in future are expected to be smoother. For improving the implementation of the programme, an Advisory Committee has been constituted with the Union Minister of Water Resources as the Chairman and other State Ministers, Members of Parliament, Officials and Non-Officials as Members. The first meeting of the Advisory Body has been held on 25th June, 1994. The Committee made certain recommendations, two main recommendations of which are:-

- (i) Command Area Development Council to be constituted at the State level which will be an Advisory Body;
- (ii) Command Area Development Board to be set up at the Command Area Development Authority (CADA) level which would be a Statutory Body, created through legislation in the Assemblies.

2.22 The need for an indepth project by project analysis to arrive at the status of achievement of the objectives as well as status of implementation of the programme and suggest remedial steps and prioritise the same has also been considered necessary. With this objective in view, evaluation studies have been entrusted to 18 independent Consultants by dividing the country into 18 agro-climatic zones. The work of the studies is at an advanced stage and is likely to be completed by the end of 1994-95.

Subsequent Reply of the Government

2.23 During 1995-96, the CAD Programme has been allocated Rs. 140 crores which, besides others includes Rs. 135.40 crores for Central assistance to State Governments for Command Area Development Programme and Rs. 1.00 crore for evaluation studies of CAD Projects.

Recommendations (Para Nos. 2.41 to 2.43)

2.24 One of the most important points which emerged during the evidence of the representative of the Ministry is that the Ministry formulated some new schemes to be launched during the current year 1994-95 under Minor Irrigation and Flood Control Sectors and the same were sent to the Planning Commission for

necessary approval and budget allocation. But it is very unfortunate that the Commission turned down these schemes with the sole plea that the Ministry cannot take up new schemes unless the ongoing schemes are completed.

2.25 The Committee, in this regard, would like to emphasise that since minor irrigation and flood control have been accorded top priority in the Eighth Plan and, therefore, more thrust is needed for the optimum development of minor irrigation and flood control systems. The Committee does not see any valid reason which inspires the Planning Commission not to clear any new schemes under Minor Irrigation and Flood Control Sectors which have been termed as priority areas.

2.26 The Committee strongly recommend that the Ministry must accord top priority for schemes under minor irrigation and flood control and accordingly the process of necessary approval for these new schemes with the Planning Commission must be expedited. The Committee also recommend that the Ministry should ensure adequate allocation for these schemes.

Reply of the Government

2.27 In accordance with the above recommendations the Ministry has taken up the matter with Planning Commission for provision of funds for new schemes. The Ministry is according top priority in processing the new schemes under Minor Irrigation & Flood Control.

Subsequent Reply of the Government

2.28 The outlay for Flood Control Sector for 1995-96 has been enhanced by about 20% (Rs. 58.50 crores against Rs. 48.81 crores). The enhancement is primarily due to the provision of Rs. 7.67 crores for National Hydrology Project which is proposed to be implemented with the World Bank assistance. Under Minor Irrigation Sector also, the increase in round 20% in real terms because for the import of equipment under Japan Aid the provision is Rs. 11.00 crores against the requirement of Rs. 25.00 crores (provision during 1994-95 was Rs. 25.00 crores). However, the Planning Commission have indicated to provide additional funds for externally aided schemes after signing of the agreement with the funding agency.

CHAPTER III

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

Recommendations (Para Nos. 2.21 & 2.22)

3.1 The Committee is dismayed over the fact that the Ministry over estimated the budget under Sub-Head E1(1)(8)-Survey and Investigation of Kosi High Dam for conducting survey and investigation of Kosi High Dam for the last two years. The Committee is seriously concerned that although budget provisions of Rs. 60 lakhs (plan) were kept during the year 1992-93 nothing could be utilized.

3.2 The Committee recommend that adequate and necessary steps/measures should be taken by the Ministry to ensure justifiable allocations and effective utilisation under this sub-head.

Reply of the Government

3.3 The Kosi High Dam Multipurpose Project is envisaged at Barakshetra across river Kosi in Nepal. The work on the project is feasible to be taken up only with bilateral co-operation.

3.4 The importance of the Kosi High Dam Project was recognised by both India and Nepal as early as in 1954 by signing the Kosi Agreement. In 1981, the feasibility report of Kosi High Dam, as prepared by Government of India was furnished to Government of Nepal. It was also suggested that surveys and investigations could be taken up to prepare a detailed project report which was followed up with discussions held at different levels from time to time. Subsequently, during the visit of the Prime Minister of Nepal in December, 1991 and the visit of our Prime Minister to Kathmandu in October, 1992 it was mutually agreed that Nepal would complete the Inception Report and their team would visit India in November, 1992 to finalise the modalities and details of investigations and also establishment of Joint Project Office by December, 1992. The Inception Report of Sapta Kosi High Dam was also made available by HMG Nepal. The modalities and details of investigations and also establishment of Project Office by December, 1992 could not however, materialise as the Nepalese team did not visit India inspite of repeated invitations. Minister for Water Resources visited Nepal in December, 1993 and during the talks, an action plan was finalised to expedite the various activities concerning Indo-Nepal Water Resources Development agreed during the visits of Prime Minister of India and Nepal. As per the agreed action plan, a

Joint Project Office for the investigation of the Projects is to be established in Nepal by June, 1994, after finalising the Inception Report and modalities of investigations.

3.5 According to the latest estimate, survey and investigations of Kosi High Dam could be completed in about three years time at an estimated cost of Rs. 20.00 crores. In pursuance of the understanding reached at Prime Ministers' level, budget provision was made in the year 1992-93 to take up the investigations by December, 1992. This amount could not be utilised due to the reasons brought out above.

3.6 It is envisaged that the amounts could be utilised subject to Nepal taking up the investigations as per the latest understanding.

3.7 During 1994-95, a provision of Rs. 1.00 crore has been made for conducting survey and investigation of Kosi High Dam as a token provision keeping in view the International commitment. It may be added here that because of the International commitments, provision made is only indicative in nature. This provision would, however, be adequately enhanced and would be effectively utilised keeping in view the requirements.

Subsequent Reply of the Government

3.8 The Project site is in Nepal. Therefore, the progress shall depend in the Cooperation that would be forthcoming from Nepal. During 1995-96, against the proposed requirement of Rs. 1.00 crore, only Rs. 0.25 crore has been allocated against this background.

Recommendation (Para No. 2.28)

3.9 The Committee, having taken note of the budgetary trends sanctioned to implement the Flood Proofing Programmes in North Bihar, conclude that the Ministry is not serious about the timely and effective implementation of this programme. The Committee deplore this lackadaisical attitude on the part of the Ministry and recommend that proper, speedy and effective implementation of this Flood Proofing Programme in North Bihar be ensured.

Reply of the Government

3.10 Planning, Investigation and Execution of the Flood Control Schemes are the responsibility of the State Governments to be undertaken in accordance with their own priorities and out of their own plan funds. However, based on the suggestions of the Prime Minister and recommendations of the Committee of Secretaries an amount of Rs. 40 crores was provided in the 8th Plan for the flood proofing schemes in North Bihar and other Ganga Basin States.

3.11 In the 8th Five Year Plan an amount of Rs. 15.00 crores has been allocated for the Ministry of Water Resources for undertaking Flood Proofing Programme

so as to give relief to the populations chronically suffering from floods in areas such as East Champaran, West Champaran, Sitamarhi, Madhubani, Supaul. The Steering Committee set up for monitoring the programme of flood proofing had recommended an amount of Rs. 20 lakhs to be released to Government of Bihar for taking up these schemes in 1991-92. However, in spite of consistent efforts with the State Government it was noticed in March, 1994 that "Water Resources Department of the Government of Bihar" had spent only Rs. 5.00 lakhs on construction of raised platform. In fact, even Rs. 20.00 lakhs released by Government of India was not made available to the concerned Department by Government of Bihar. The representative of Government of Bihar, who attended the meeting of the Steering Committee in March, 1994 informed that the proposal for the release of funds during 1993-94 would be submitted by Government of Bihar within 15 days. Similarly, it was also informed that complete proposal for taking up the flood proofing schemes in Bihar will be submitted within a period of 3 months so that funds available during the 8th Plan could be utilised. So far no proposals have been received from the Government of Bihar. Thus, it would be observed that in spite of the best efforts of the Ministry of Water Resources, the State Administration has not been responsive to the programme and the observations of the Committee in the Para hence requires modification.

3.12 The Ministry would like to assure that it is actively pursuing with the Government of Bihar for speedy and effective implementation of this Programme.

3.13 In view of the above, the Committee may like to kindly drop this recommendation.

Subsequent Reply of the Government

3.14 There is a provision of Rs. 40 crores under 8th Plan for flood proofing measures in North Bihar and Ganga Basin States. An amount of Rs. 20 lakhs was released to Government of Bihar in 1991-92 which has not been utilised by them so far. Also, the State Governments did not submit the flood proofing schemes in spite of many reminders at different levels and, therefore, no fund could be released during the last three years.

Recommendation (Para No. 2.30)

3.15 The Committee, having gone into all the facts and details of Flood Proofing in other Ganga Basin States Programme, is of the firm opinion that the Ministry is not geared towards speedy implementation of this programme. The Committee is again dismayed over the fact that during the ensuing year i.e. 1994-95 nothing has been sanctioned to go ahead with the Programme in Other Ganga Basin States. In this regard, the Committee would like the Ministry to review this programme and, if necessary, sufficient budget allocation be sanctioned during this year to implement this programme in other Ganga Basin States.

Reply of the Government

3.16 The Flood Proofing programme in other Ganga Basin States is to be implemented by the State Governments of Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. The provision made during 1992-93 and 1993-94 for this scheme could not be utilised for want of proposal from concerned State Governments in accordance with the approved guidelines. No funds have been provided during 1994-95 for the scheme. The Ministry has taken up the matter with Planning Commission for provision of funds during 1994-95, to the extent of Rs. 4.50 crores for the scheme of Flood Proofing Programme in other Ganga Basin States, as was earlier requested by this Ministry.

Subsequent Reply of the Government

3.17 The matter was taken up with the Planning Commission. Schemes have to be received from the State Governments, who have to make suitable provisions in their respective budgets for this purpose. The matter is being pursued vigorously with them. In this background, against the proposed requirement of Rs. 2.00 crores, Rs. 0.50 crore has been allocated during 1995-96.

Recommendation (Para No. 2.40)

3.18 The Committee note with concern the non-utilisation of funds under the Central Plan *i.e.* Rationalisation of Minor Irrigation Statistics by the Union Territory Governments during 1992-93 and recommend that the Ministry should release these grants-in-aid immediately for speedy implementation and execution of this Central Plan *viz.* Rationalisation of Minor Irrigation Statistics.

Reply of the Government

3.19 Release of funds for the scheme is dependent on receipt of proposals from State Governments/Union Territories. The release could not be made during 1993-94 because of the non-receipt of proposal from the Union Territories. However, during this year action has already been initiated to get the required proposals from them and it is expected that the available fund of Rs. 50.00 lakhs will be utilised during 1994-95.

Subsequent Reply of the Government

3.20 This is a continuing scheme from 7th Plan for which the 8th Plan allocation was Rs. 19.94 crores. During first two years of the 8th Plan Rs. 1.2 crores were utilised and there is an allocation of Rs. 3 crores for 1994-95 with anticipated expenditure of Rs. 4.50 crores. Under this scheme, second census of Minor Irrigation is proposed to be taken up during 1994-95 which is a major component of the scheme. The scheme could not be taken up during the first two years of the

plan by all the State Governments due to the late sanction of the scheme in December, 1993. During 1995-96 Rs. 10.10 crores is being proposed for completing the second census of Minor Irrigation in all the States & creation of Statistical cells and all the States for compilation of Minor Irrigation Statistics in its totality.

CHAPTER IV

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

Recommendation (Para No. 2.25)

4.1 The Committee, having taken into account the negligible volume of remaining construction work of link canal and the financial burden met by the Ministry of Water Resources every year without any tangible output, recommend that the Ministry should pursue with the Government of Punjab to expedite the completion of this project early. The Committee also recommend that timely release and effective utilisation of the grants-in-aid for this project should closely be monitored by the Ministry.

Reply of the Government

4.2 Sutlej Yamuna Link Canal in Punjab territory is being constructed by the Punjab Irrigation Department. However, as a special case, the Central Government is fully funding the project in the Central Sector under non-plan. In July, 1990, when 97% of the earthwork, 95% of the lining and 86% of the structures had already been completed, the work came to a complete halt due to the tragic incident of the killing of the Chief Engineer and a Superintending Engineer of the Project.

4.3 State Government was advised from time to time to take necessary steps for completing the balance works. During July and August, 1992, Minister for Water Resources held meetings with the Chief Ministers of Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan when a number of inter-State water related issues between the three States were discussed. Construction of Sutlej Yamuna Link Canal was one of the issues discussed in the above meetings. Recently, in another meeting between the Chief Minister, Punjab and Minister for Water Resources, it was again emphasised that the agency and a time schedule for completion of the balance works of Sutlej Yamuna Link Canal may be fixed by the State Government immediately. Punjab Government has accepted its responsibility for completion of Sutlej Yamuna Link Canal through the State Irrigation Department but no time schedule for resumption and completion of the canal has been given.

4.4 Against the latest approved cost of Rs. 499.12 crores, the full amount has already been released. The State Government had made a demand for release of another Rs. 30 crores during 1993-94 which could not be released as the approved

revised estimate was not available. The State Government was requested to formulate a revised estimate and obtain necessary approval from the Advisory Committee of the Ministry of Water Resources before any further funds could be released for this Project. Subsequently, Government of Punjab submitted a revised estimate which was broadly examined in Central Water Commission and is being processed in the Ministry for approval.

Subsequent Reply of the Government

4.5 It is the view of the Punjab Government that till the inter-State Water disputes are settled amicably, it will not be possible or desirable to resume work on SYL Canal. Accordingly, no time schedule for resumption and completion of the project has been given by the State Government. However, the stand taken by the State Government is not correct. SYL Canal was envisaged to carry the Haryana's share in the surplus Ravi-Beas waters and the interstate agreement of 1981 on sharing of surplus Ravi-Beas waters amongst the States of Punjab, Haryana, Delhi, Rajasthan and J&K is a complete Code of distribution of water. This agreement was signed by Chief Ministers of States of Haryana, Rajasthan and Punjab in presence of Prime Minister of 31.12.1981. However, Punjab subsequently raised this issue again and as a follow up action of the Rajiv Longowal Accord Ravi Beas Tribunal was constituted to look into the sharing of these waters. Though the Tribunal has submitted its report to the Government certain clarifications by the States have been sought from the Tribunal and the report of the Tribunal is not yet final.

4.6 The Government of Punjab submitted the latest revised estimate of the project for an amount of Rs. 601.25 crores to the Central Water Commission (CWC) in 1994. The major components of the estimate were the funds required for completion of the pending works like cross drainage works, bridges, escapes and regulators, liabilities which include cost towards establishment, arbitration claims and enhanced land compensation through court awards and few new works comprising of cross drainage works and cost of repairing works damaged during floods of 1993.

4.7 The revised estimate of the project amounting to Rs. 601.25 crores was considered and approved by the Advisory Committee of Ministry of Water Resources in its 58th meeting held on 24th June, 1994.

4.8 The revised estimate of Rs. 601.25 crores was submitted by Government of Punjab after detailed discussion with Central Water Commission. The increase in the cost of the Project by Rs. 102.13 crores includes the increase due to escalation of the price and repairs of damages due to flood of 1993.

CHAPTER V

RECOMMENDATIONS/OBSERVATIONS IN RESPECT OF WHICH REPLIES OF THE GOVERNMENT ARE AWAITED

Recommendation (Para No. 2.10)

5.1 The Committee is of the view that the Rashtriya Pariyojana Nirman Limited should be revamped and revitalised.

Reply of the Government

5.2 A comprehensive plan for revival of the Rashtriya Pariyojana Nirman Niram Limited (RPNNL) was formulated in August, 1992 which was reviewed in an Inter-Ministerial meeting held in August, 1992. However, the Ministry of Finance has not agreed to the implementation since that Ministry is of the view that even after implementation of the revival package, return on investment will be extremely low and the Undertaking will not be viable. Finance Ministry, has accordingly suggested phasing out of the Company over a period of 4-5 years. This suggestion is still under consideration.

5.3 The recommendation of the Standing Committee on Agriculture on revamping and revitalising the Rashtriya Pariyojana Nirman Niram Limited (RPNNL) will be processed in consultation with the Ministry of Finance, since the revamping of the Company will involve substantial financial outlay.

Subsequent Reply of the Government

5.4 The Planning Commission did not agree to the provision of any amount for providing budgetary support to Rashtriya Pariyojana Nirman Niram Limited during the VIII Plan. However, during 1992-93, an allocation of Rs. 8.00 crores was made towards budgetary support for Rashtriya Pariyojana Nirman Niram Ltd. Against this an amount of Rs. 5.00 crores was released as loan and Rs. 3.00 crores was released as equity. During the year 1993-94, an amount of Rs. 10 crores was allocated by the Planning Commission and the same was released to Rashtriya Pariyojana Nirman Niram Limited. In addition Rs. 10 crores in 1992-93 and Rs. 6 crores in 1993-94 were released as Grants from National Renewal Fund for implementation of Voluntary Retirement Scheme against budget allocations of NIL and Rs. 12 crores respectively.

5.5 For the year 1994-95 an amount of Rs. 12 crores was requested for towards budgetary support as loan to Rashtriya Pariyojana Nirman Niram Limited.

However, Planning Commission did not agree to allocate any funds for the Rashtriya Pariyojna Nirman Nigam Limited. The anticipated expenditure has been estimated at Rs. 10.80 crores.

5.6 The revival plan of the Rashtriya Pariyojna Nirman Nigam Limited was not agreed to by the Ministry of Finance and they suggested phased liquidation of the Company within a period of 4-5 years. However, the Standing Committee on Agriculture has recommended revitalisation and revamping of the Company. A note for submission to the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs for obtaining directions in this regard is being finalised.

5.7 During 1994-95 against the requirement of Rs. 12.00 crores, the Nigam was not provided any outlay. However, the anticipated expenditure has been estimated at Rs. 10.80 crores. The Nigam at present is faced with the problem of financial constraints. In order to come out from the vicious circle of financial crisis, the Nigam is badly in need of budgetary support from the Government of India. For the Annual Plan 1995-96, the Nigam has sought budgetary support of Rs. 30.00 crores for the purposes of repayment of loan to ONGC and NMDC and also for salary payable to the surplus staff of the Nigam. This amount does not include additional requirement of Rs. 20 crores for Voluntary Retirement Schemes (VRS) to be reimbursed from National Relief Fund (NRF).

Recommendation (Para No. 2.44)

5.8 The Committee strongly recommend that 100% Centrally financed scheme for the development of ground water resources and minor irrigation in the Eastern States of the country, as recommended by S.R. Sen Committee must be implemented with all vigour.

Reply of the Government

5.9 Based on the recommendations made by Dr. S.R. Sen Committee, the Central Ground Water Board have prepared a scheme for providing assured sustainable irrigation facilities to small and marginal farmers in the eastern States of Bihar, Orissa, Eastern Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal in the first instance. Under this scheme, 90% financial assistance to be shared in the ratio of 50% and 40% between Centre and States respectively, is proposed to be provided for construction and energisation of ground water structures to serve the small and marginal land holdings. The total cost of the scheme is 67.75 crores.

5.10 Under the scheme, it has been proposed to construct 5,000 dugwells and 35,000 shallow tubewells. The Planning Commission had desired that the scheme be discussed by the Board with concerned States before submitting it for expenditure Finance Committee. Discussions were held with the States in the month of August, 1993 and a revised scheme envisaging construction of 9070

medium depth tubewells was submitted for consideration of Expenditure Finance Committee. The structures are proposed to be handed over to farmers cooperatives/ Panchayat's for Operation and Maintenance.

5.11 The revised scheme was considered by the EFC on 25.3.94, wherein it was desired that approval of full Planning Commission may first be obtained.

5.12 The scheme is now again being recast on the basis of the recommendation of the Committee and the decision taken in the EFC meeting so that the scheme could be got approved during the current financial year.

Subsequent Reply of the Government

5.13 For the scheme of Development of Ground Water Resources in Eastern States, an amount of Rs. 0.50 crores has been provided during 1995-96.

NEW DELHI;
12th May, 1995

22nd Vaisakha, 1917 (Saka)

NITISH KUMAR,
Chairman,
Standing Committee on Agriculture.

APPENDIX I

MINUTES OF THE 80TH SITTING OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE 'D' ON MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES ON 3RD MAY, 1995 IN ROOM NO. 118 FIRST FLOOR, PARLIAMENT HOUSE ANNEXE, NEW DELHI.

The Sub-Committee sat from 1615 hrs. to 1645 hrs.

PRESENT

1. Shri S.K.T. Ramachandran – *Alternate Convenor*

MEMBERS

2. Shri David Ledger
3. Shri Birbal
4. Shri Maheshwar Singh

The Sub-Committee considered the memorandum, the Action Taken Replies and unanimously agreed with the categorization of the replies of the Government as prepared by the Secretariat.

The Sub-Committee decided to place Chapter I of the Report before the whole Committee in its meeting scheduled to be held on Tuesday 9th May, 1995 for consideration & adoption.

The meeting then adjourned.

MINUTES OF THE EIGHTY FIRST SITTING OF THE STANDING
COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE HELD ON TUESDAY, THE 9TH MAY,
1995 AT 15.30 HRS. IN COMMITTEE ROOM 'C', PARLIAMENT HOUSE
ANNEXE, NEW DELHI

The Committee sat from 15.30 hrs. to 17.40 hrs.

PRESENT

Shri Nitish Kumar – *Chairman*

MEMBERS

Lok Sabha

2. Shri Birbal
3. Shri Nathuram Mirdha
4. Shri G. Ganga Reddy
5. Shri Govindrao Nikam
6. Shri Tara Singh
7. Shri Uttamrao Deorao Patil
8. Shri Rajvir Singh
9. Dr. Gunawant Rambhau Sarode
10. Shri Zainal Abedin
11. Shri Upendra Nath Verma

Rajya Sabha

12. Shri Govindrao Adik
13. Shri H. Hanumanthappa
14. Shri David Ledger
15. Shri Bhupinder Singh Mann
16. Shri N. Thangaraj Pandian
17. Dr. Ranveer Singh
18. Shri Som Pal

SECRETARIAT

1. Shri S.N. Mishra	– <i>Additional Secretary</i>
2. Smt. Roli Srivastava	– <i>Joint Secretary</i>
3. Shri P.D.T. Acharya	– <i>Director</i>

At the outset Chairman (AC) welcomed the Members to the sitting of the Committee and requested them to take up the adoption of the Draft Action Taken Reports on the Demands for Grants for 1994-95 in respect of all five Department/Ministries.

2. Members drew the attention of Chairman (AC) to the shortage of staff in the Agriculture Committee Branch and expressed the hope that the shortage will be fulfilled without any further delay failing which they would address the Hon'ble Speaker in the matter.

3. The Draft Reports were considered one by one and adopted with certain modifications. The Members of the Committee, thereafter, authorised the Chairman to present the Action Taken Reports on Demands for Grants 1994-95 in respect of Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Agricultural Research & Education), Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying), Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Agriculture & Cooperation), Ministry of Water Resources and Ministry of Food Processing Industries to the House on a date convenient to him.

The meeting then adjourned.

APPENDIX II

(*Vide* Introduction of the Report)

ANALYSIS OF ACTION TAKEN BY GOVERNMENT ON THE 10TH REPORT OF AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE (10TH LOK SABHA)

I.	Total number of Recommendations	15
II.	Recommendations/Observations which have been accepted by Government : Para Nos. 2.6, 2.8, 2.15, 2.19, 2.37, 2.41, 2.42 & 2.43	
	Total	8
	Percentage	53.33
III.	Recommendations/Observations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of Government's reply : Para Nos. 2.21 & 2.22, 2.28, 2.30 & 2.40	
	Total	4
	Percentage	26.66
IV.	Recommendations/Observations in respect of which final replies of Government have not been accepted by the Committee : Para No. 2.25	
	Total	1
	Percentage	6.66
V.	Recommendations/Observations in respect of which replies of Government are awaited : Para Nos. 2.10 & 2.44	
	Total	2
	Percentage	13.33