



**STANDING COMMITTEE ON WATER RESOURCES
(2004-05)**

FOURTEENTH LOK SABHA

MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES

**DEMANDS FOR GRANTS
(2004-2005)**

**{Action Taken by the Government on the Recommendations/Observations
contained in the First Report (Fourteenth Lok Sabha) of the
Standing Committee on Water Resources}**

SECOND REPORT



LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

December, 2004/Pausa, 1926 (Saka)

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MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS
(2004-2005)

(Action taken by the Government on the Recommendations/Observations
contained in the First Report (Fourteenth Lok Sabha) of the
Standing Committee on Water Resources)

Presented to Lok Sabha on 23.12.04
Laid in Rajya Sabha on 23.12.04



LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

December, 2004/Pausa, 1926 (Saka)

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**COMPOSITION OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON WATER
RESOURCES (2004-05)**

Shri R. Sambasiva Rao - Chairman

**MEMBERS
LOK SABHA**

- 2. Shri Bhanwar Singh Dangawas**
- 3. Shri BikramKeshari Deo**
- 4. Shri Rajen Gohain**
- 5. Dr. M.Jagannath**
- 6. Smt.Preneet Kaur**
- 7. Shri Raghuv eer Singh Kaushal**
- 8. Smt. Manorama Madhavraj**
- 9. Shri Sushil Kumar Modi**
- 10. Shri Munshiram**
- 11. Shri Lonappan Nambadan**
- 12. Shri Prabodh Panda**
- 13. Shri Harilal. M. Patel**
- 14. Shri Laxmanrao Patil**
- 15. Shri Kamla Prasad Rawat**
- 16. Smt. Minati Sen**
- 17. Shri Arjun Charan Sethi**
- 18. Shri Chandra Bhushan Singh**
- *19. Shri Sita Ram Yadav**
- 20. Vacant**
- 21. Vacant**

RAJYA SABHA

- 22. Shri Indramoni Bora**
- **23. Shri Manoj Bhattacharya**
- 24. Shri Ajay Singh Chautala**
- 25. Smt. Sushree Devi**
- 26. Shri K. Karunakaran**
- 27. Dr. Gyan Prakash P ilania**
- 28. Shri Jaswant Singh**
- 29. Shri Sharad Yadav**
- ***30. Vacant**
- 31. Vacant**

*Nominated w.e.f. 16.11.2004

** Nominated w.e.f. 05.09.2004

*** Nomination of Shri Jesudasu Seelam, M.P., changed by Chairman, Rajya Sabha w.e.f. 31 August, 2004

SECRETARIAT

- | | | | |
|----|----------------------|---|----------------------|
| 1. | Shri John Joseph | - | Additional Secretary |
| 2. | Shri N.K. Sapra | - | Joint Secretary |
| 3. | Shri A.S. Chera | - | Deputy Secretary |
| 4. | Shri P.V.L.N. Murthy | - | Under Secretary |
| 5. | Shri Ramesh Lal | - | Committee Officer |

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairman of the Standing Committee on Water Resources (2004-05) having been authorised by the Committee to submit the Report on their behalf, present the Second Report on the Action Taken by Government on the recommendations/observations contained in the First Report (Fourteenth Lok Sabha) of the Standing Committee on Water Resources (2004-05) on Demands for Grants (2004-2005) of the Ministry of Water Resources.

2. The First Report was presented to Lok Sabha on 23 August, 2004. The replies of the Government to all the recommendations contained in the Report were received on 07 December, 2004.
3. The replies of the Government were examined and the Report was considered and adopted by the Committee at their sitting held on 20 December, 2004.
4. An analysis of the Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations/observations contained in the First Report (Fourteenth Lok Sabha) of the Committee is given in Appendix-V.

NEW DELHI;
21 December, 2004
30 Agrahayana, 1926 (Saka)

R. SAMBASIVA RAO,
Chairman,
Standing Committee on Water Resources

CHAPTER I

REPORT

This Report of the Standing Committee on Water Resources deals with the action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in their First Report on Demands for Grants(2004-05) of the Ministry of Water Resources which was presented to Lok Sabha on 23 August 2004.

2. Action taken notes were received from the Government in respect of all the 17 recommendations/observations of the Committee which have been categorised as follows:-

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

Para Nos. 2.9, 2.10, 2.18, 2.24, 3.18, 3.19, 5.7, 5.14, 5.19, 6.18 and 6.19
(Total – 11)

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

Para Nos. 5.24 and 5.31
(Total-2)

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

Para Nos. 1.15, 1.16 and 5.42
(Total-3)

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

Para No.4.10
(Total-1)

3. The Committee desire that final reply in respect of the recommendation/observation for which only interim reply has been given by the Government should be furnished to the Committee within three months of the presentation of the Report.

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

A. Inadequate Plan allocation for the Ministry of Water Resources for 2004-05
(Recommendation Para Nos.1.15 and 1.16)

5.The Committee were constrained to observe that though the Ministry had proposed a Plan allocation of Rs. 636.61 crore for the year 2004-2005, the Planning Commission allocated Rs. 580.00 crore which was Rs. 56.61 crore less than the proposed allocation. The allocations for the Ministry need to be stepped up in consonance with the commitment of the Government to give priority to water management.....The Committee had recommended the Ministry to take up the matter with the Planning Commission and the Ministry of Finance for enhancing the Plan allocation adequately at the Revised Estimates stage so that all ongoing schemes/projects were completed within the scheduled time-frame to avoid time and cost over-runs. They were of the considered view that while the schemes/programmes being implemented by the Government require huge allocations by the Planning Commission and the Ministry of Finance, it was also incumbent upon the Ministry to take urgent steps to address and overcome the problems of non-approvals of schemes, procedural delays and non-submission of utilization certificates by the States.

6. The Ministry have in their action taken reply stated that the Ministry of Water Resources deals with a subject matter in the State List sector and almost half of its annual budget allocation relate to Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS). Expenditure on those schemes depends on the utilization of grants already released and requirements projected by States. Public investments in the water resources sector are mainly in the State Sector – reflected in the plans of respective States. It has not been possible to upscale

expenditure and consequently annual budget allocations, in regard to CSS, because of lack of utilization and demand at State levels. In the North-East (Assam), some major works proposed to be undertaken by Brahmaputra Board directly as a Central Sector Scheme, the budget allocations could not be utilized mainly because of non-resolution of local issues which are in the domain of the State Government. Efforts are on, however, to work with the State Governments to ensure utilization of grants already released and to identify areas where central assistance could be channelized more fruitfully for better management of water resources issues.

7. The Committee are not satisfied with the incomplete reply which only reveals what is a known fact that the Ministry deal with a subject which is in the domain of States under the scheme of distribution of legislative powers between the Union and the State under Article 246 of the Constitution of India. While it is stated by the Ministry that expenditure on the schemes depends on the utilization of grants already released and requirements projected by the States, the reply is silent on the steps taken by the Government on the requirement of additional funds at the RE stage as was felt by them in their First Report. The admission by the Ministry that it has not been possible to upscale expenditure and consequently annual budget allocations because of lack of utilization and demand at the State level reveals that the lesser Plan allocation at Rs. 580 crore in BE 2004-05 by the Planning Commission as against Rs. 636.61 crore proposed by the Ministry was justified on similar grounds. The Committee further note that the reply is silent on the steps taken or proposed to be taken to overcome the problems of non approvals of schemes, procedural delays and non-submission of utilization certificates by

States/UT Governments. They expect the replies to their recommendations/observations are complete and proper without overstating the obvious. The Committee, therefore, desire that a time-frame be evolved for utilization of grants, submission of utilization certificates and completion of on-going projects to ensure effective channelization of scarce resources fruitfully for managing the available water resources in the best possible manner. The Committee also desire to be apprised of the action taken in the matter at the earliest.

B. Major and Medium Irrigation Projects
(Recommendation Para Nos. 2.9 and 2.10)

8.The Committee were perturbed to note that some irrigation projects taken up during Second and Third Plans remained incomplete and desired the Government to identify all the completed projects which had not been declared as closed by the State Governments only with the intention of securing funds for maintenance of the completed portion of works for which the funds under this sector were not envisaged. This was all the more pertinent when viewed in the context of the submission of the Ministry that implementation of the major and medium projects was a State matter for which the States receive separate allocations under the State Plans in addition to the funds released by Ministry of Finance under AIBP.....

9. The Ministry has, in their action taken reply, stated that the projects taken up during the Second and Third Plans have already achieved about 90% or more of the envisaged potential. As the State Governments were not declaring the irrigation projects as completed for their own reasons, the Working Group on Major and Medium Irrigation Programmes for Tenth Five Year Plan has recommended that continuing old irrigation

projects which have already achieved 90% or more of the ultimate potential should be treated as completed. The Ministry/Central Water Commission is in the process of identifying such projects in consultation with the States.

Irrigation being a State subject, the responsibility for executing irrigation projects rests with the State Governments. The role of the Central Government is advisory in nature. However, the Central Water Commission brings out the bottlenecks faced in execution of the projects with suggestions for remedial action by the States in their monitoring reports.

10. The Committee note that though irrigation is a State subject and the responsibility for executing irrigation projects rests with the State/UT Governments and that the role of the Union Government is advisory in nature, it needs to be emphasized here that irrigation is an important sector and large sums out of public exchequer are being spent on this sector. It, therefore, becomes the onerous duty of all the concerned to ensure that optimum results are achieved by timely completion of projects within the approved cost and time schedules. The Committee further note that the Working Group on Major and Medium Irrigation Programmes for the Tenth Five Year Plan recommended that old irrigation projects which attained 90% or more of ultimate potential be treated as completed. Also, the Ministry of Water Resources/Central Water Commission is now in the process of identifying such projects in consultation with the States/UTs, though declaring an irrigation project as completed is within the purview of the State/UT Governments.

In view of the above recommendation of the Working Group on Major and Medium Irrigation Projects and as already recommended by the Committee in their

First Report on Demands for Grants (2004-05), the Committee desire the Ministry to take urgent steps to identify within three months all the projects which are likely to attain 90% or more of the ultimate potential. The Committee recommend all such projects to be treated as completed irrespective of an otherwise declaration by the State Governments. Further, the Planning Commission and the Ministry of Finance and Water Resources, as the case may be, stop further flow of funds to such projects. The Committee would like to be apprised of the steps taken in this regard within three months of the presentation of this Report.

C.Command Area Development (CAD) Programme
(Recommendation Para No.4.10)

11.The Committee noted that CAD programme had been restructured and renamed as CADWM scheme during 2004-07 for the remaining period of the Tenth Plan... Under the restructured programme, State Governments had been advised to submit fresh DPRs of all projects by the end of August 2004 indicating, inter-alia, time-frame, budget and the action plan etc. for completion of CAD works..... The Committee had further recommended that upon receipt of fresh DPRs, the Government should complete all other essential formalities in a time-bound manner so as to make the projects under CADWM workable to enable realisation of the targeted utilization of irrigation potential created as a result thereof.

12. In their action taken reply the Ministry has stated that all the State Governments implementing the Command Area Development and Water Management Programme have been reminded through a D.O. letter dated 30 September 2004 from Secretary, Ministry of Water Resources addressed to the Chief Secretaries of all State/UT

Governments to stick to the time frame for submission of DPRs. Further necessary action to chalk out the action plan for completing various CAD activities in the projects shall be taken as soon as DPRs of all the projects are received from all the States.

13. The Committee are unhappy with the reply as the Ministry is merely acting as a go-between the Committee and the implementing agencies, i.e. the State/UT Governments in simply reminding them after the expiry of the earlier deadline to stick to the time frame for submission of DPRs under CADWM without giving a new deadline would not suffice. Also, the reply of the Government does not indicate as to any of the States having submitted fresh DPRs of projects under CADWM. The Committee are of the opinion that Government needs to chalk out in advance the action plan for completion of various CAD activities so that as soon as the DPR of a project from a State is received in the Ministry/Central Water Commission, further action for implementing the project gets underway without any loss of time. The Committee, therefore, desire the Government to set a definite time-frame for submission of fresh DPRs of projects by States and in any case not later than end of March 2005 so that the projects could at least get implemented in the next fiscal year. The Committee would like to be informed of the advance planning by the Ministry in this regard at the earliest.

**D.Critical Anti-Erosion Works in Coastal and other than Ganga Basin States
(Recommendation Para No. 5.24)**

14. The Committee had noted that a scheme of critical anti-erosion works in coastal and other than Ganga basin States was cleared by the Planning Commission in February 2004 to be taken up in two parts on pilot basis at a cost of Rs. 20.64 crore. Approval for

the first part had come through. The second part of anti-river erosion works and raising embankments in States of Andhra Pradesh, Kerala and Orissa had not been approved so as to avoid proliferation of new Centrally Sponsored Schemes in Tenth Plan and it was suggested that they be taken up by the concerned States in their State Plan..... The Committee were dismayed to note that lack of uniformity, as certain States had been included under the Scheme to the exclusion of States like Andhra Pradesh, Goa and Gujarat on the pretext that these States could approach the Planning Commission directly for release of funds under additional Central assistance. The Committee had desired that the second part of the Scheme may also be got cleared by the Planning Commission at the earliest to avoid damages caused by river erosion in the States of Kerala, Andhra Pradesh and Orissa.....

15. The Ministry has in its action taken reply stated that the Planning Commission has been requested on 1 November 2004 to reconsider the new Centrally Sponsored Scheme, “Critical Anti River Erosion Works/Raising and Strengthening of embankments in other than Ganga Basin States” estimated to cost Rs.24.80 crore for approval by the Full Planning Commission for implementation in the Tenth Plan.

16. The Committee are happy to note that on their recommendation the Ministry has requested the Planning Commission to reconsider the new Centrally Sponsored Schemes ‘Critical Anti River Erosion Works/Raising and Strengthening of embankments in other than Ganga Basin States’ estimated to cost Rs. 24.80 crore for approval by the full Planning Commission for implementation in the Tenth Plan. The Committee are of the view that the Ministry need to impress upon the Planning Commission not only to clear the scheme early for implementation in the Tenth Plan

but also avoid applying different yardsticks for similar projects in different States so that all the affected States could be benefited under the Scheme.

E.Pagladiya Dam Project
(Recommendation Para No. 5.42)

17.The Committee were unhappy to note that the construction work on Pagladiya Dam Project had been delayed inordinately and while the Revised Cost Estimates worked out were awaiting approval of PIB and CCEA, the project cost had almost doubled from Rs. 542.90 crore to Rs. 1049.16 crore. The Committee had recommended the Government to pursue the matter vigorously for early clearance by PIB and CCEA and simultaneously make all out efforts to get the land for construction of the Dam Project from the Assam Government for Rehabilitation and Resettlement purposes at the earliest possible so that the Pagladiya Dam Project was constructed without any further time and cost over-run.

18. The Ministry in their action taken reply has stated that the Pagladiya Dam Project could not make much headway due to security related problems and non-handing over of the land by the State Government. The PIB meeting scheduled to be held on 22.09.2004 was postponed as the State Government is yet to carry out the Zirat Survey (property evaluation). Discussions are being held on regular basis with the Government of Assam on the Zirat Survey and other sensitive pending issues for implementation of Pagladiya Dam Project on which action is to be taken by the State Government.

19. It is disconcerting to observe the casual approach of the Ministry with regard to overcoming the problems being encountered in the construction of Pagladiya Dam Project as well as furnishing the same reply to the Committee as given at the

time of examination of Demands for Grants (2004-05) by the Ministry in August 2004. A perusal of the Government's reply reveals that nothing has moved as far as the project is concerned. The reply makes no mention of the progress made by the Water Resources Department of the Government of Assam after it was nominated as the nodal Department for coordination with other Departments in the State in respect of this project. Further, the Committee had recommended the Ministry to pursue the matter vigorously for early clearance of the project by PIB and CCEA on which the Ministry has preferred to mention only about a meeting scheduled for 22 September 2004 which was postponed. No new date for the same has been indicated in the reply. The Committee, therefore, advise the Ministry to be more careful while furnishing the replies to them, besides reiterating their earlier recommendation for expeditious completion of the Pagladiya Dam Project.

CHAPTER II

RECOMMENDATIONS/OBSERVATIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE GOVERNMENT

Recommendations/Observations (Para No.2.9 and 2.10)

The Committee observe that major and medium irrigation projects have been allocated huge quantum of funds year after year for the last many decades. They are distressed to note that as on date, there are 162 major and 221 medium ongoing irrigation projects pending completion in different States of the country. It is perturbing to note that 4 major Irrigation projects 2 in Karnataka and one each in Andhra Pradesh and Maharastra and 2 medium irrigation projects in Andhra Pradesh taken up during the Second Plan and the Third Plan respectively are still pending for completion. The Committee are unable to accept the plea of the Ministry that paucity of funds is the main constraint for delay in completion of these projects.

The Committee are seriously concerned to note the tardy pace of execution of irrigation projects, and recommend the Ministry to resolve expeditiously all causative factors for delay in completion as identified by them to ensure completion of all these projects within their scheduled time and cost limits so that the long awaited benefits reach the people.

They further desire the Government to identify all the completed projects which have not been declared as closed by the State Governments only with the intention of securing funds for maintenance of the completed portion of works for which the funds under this sector are not envisaged. This is all the more pertinent when viewed in the context of the submission of the Ministry that implementation of the major and medium projects is a State matter for which the States receive separate allocations under the State

Plans in addition to the funds released by Ministry of Finance under AIBP. The Committee desire to be apprised of the action taken in the matter.

Further, the Committee note that the targets set for irrigation potential created/utilized during the Ninth Plan under major and medium irrigation projects was 9.81 m. ha and 8.71 m. ha, while the achievement for the same was 4.10 m. ha. and 2.60 m. ha. which resulted in abysmal short fall of 58 % and 70 % respectively. Surprisingly, despite a shortfall of 58% and 70% in attaining the target set for creation/utilization of irrigation potential during the Ninth Plan, Government have set a higher target of 9.9 m. ha. for creation of irrigation potential during the Tenth Plan. Obviously, the target appears to be difficult if not unattainable proposition. The Committee would like to share the optimism of the Ministry for setting up such an ambitious target and the measures taken or contemplated to attain the target.

Reply of the Government

As reported by the State Governments, the status of major/medium irrigation projects started during second and third Five Year Plans is given in the table below:-

(%)

State	Sl.No.	Project	Category	When Started (Plan)	Progress	
					Financial	Physical
Andhra Pradesh	1.	Nagarjunasagar	Major	II	86	93
	2.	Thandava Reservoir	Medium	III	75	95
	3.	Kanupur Canal	Medium	III	70	93
Karnataka	4.	Malaprabha	Major	III	87	86
	5.	TBHLC(IS)	Major	II	100	90
Maharashtra	6.	Bhima	Major	III	64	84

It can be seen that these projects have already achieved near about 90% or more than 90% of the envisaged potential. As the State Governments were not declaring the irrigation projects as completed for their own reasons, the working Group on Major and Medium Irrigation Programme for Tenth Five Year Plan has recommended that continuing old irrigation projects which have already achieved 90% or more of the ultimate potential should be treated as completed. Hence the status of the above projects may be taken as completed based on the above recommendation.

Irrigation being a State subject, the responsibility for executing irrigation projects rests with the State Governments. The role of the Central Government is advisory in nature. The Ministry of Water Resources is extending all the possible help for expeditious resolution of issues namely inter-State matters, environmental clearance, financial assistance through AIBP, etc. However, issues like land acquisition, contractual problems, R & R Plan, court litigation, law and order problems, change in scope of project, etc are in the domain of the States and the role of Central Government is very much limited. However, the Central Water Commission brings out the bottlenecks faced in execution of the projects with suggestions for remedial action by the States in their monitoring reports. The progress of the projects and the problems faced by the States on completion as per schedule are reviewed in the meetings taken by the Ministry of Water Resources and Central Water Commission.

As already stated the working Group on Major and Medium Irrigation Programme for the Tenth Five Year Plan recommended that continuing old projects which have already achieved 90% or more of the ultimate potential should be considered as completed projects. So, the Ministry of Water Resources/Central Water Commission is in

the process of identifying such projects in consultation with the States. However, declaring an irrigation project as completed is within the purview of the State Governments.

The working Group on Major and Medium irrigation Programme for the Tenth Five Year Plan recommended Rs. 1,07,327 crore as outlay required in the State Plan for Tenth Five Year Plan for creation of irrigation potential of 11.14 million hectare. Target of 11.14 million hectare was taken from the targets provided by the State Governments in their Plan proposals. As the Planning Commission agreed for reduced outlay of Rs.71213 crore for this sector during X plan, target for creation of irrigation potential was also reduced proportionately to 9.9 million hectare.

Comments of the Committee

(Please see Para No.10 of Chapter I of the Report)

Recommendations/Observations (Para No.2.18)

The Committee note that NWDA is engaged in conducting water balance and other related studies on a scientific basis for optimum utilization of available water resources in the country. They note that these studies are the pre-requisite for preparation of feasibility reports of water transfer links which in turn form the basis for preparation of DPRs of various projects. NWDA completed water balance studies of 137 basins/sub-basins, toposheet and storage capacity studies of the identified reservoirs, 36 water transfer links en route to preparation of pre-FRs of 31 link projects and 8 FRs of link projects under the peninsular and Himalayan Rivers development components of the

national perspective plan during 2003-04. During 2004-05, FRs of another 7 links under the above components is proposed to be completed by March, 2005.

The Committee further note that for preparation of DPR of Ken-Betwa link and Parbbti-Kalisindh-Chambal link projects, a provision of Rs.14 crore has been earmarked out of Rs.35 crore allocated for NWDA in BE 2004-05. However, the Committee are constrained to observe that though the FR of Ken-Betwa link was completed in November, 1996, the project is still in a nascent stage in that the basic MOU between the Governments of UP and MP for preparation of DPR still remains to be signed on the ground that UP state desires more water to be allocated. In their considered view, had the Ministry of Water Resources set a time frame for finalization of issues like signing of MOU, in respect of inter-state river projects, precious time of nearly 8 years would not have been lost and the said project might have been completed. The Committee, therefore, strongly recommended that the Government take firm steps and fix definitive time frame and lay down guidelines for each individual component viz completion of FRs, preparation of DPRs and completion of projects etc. so that the projects are completed and the benefits accrue within reasonable time and cost. They desire to be informed of the action taken in the matter.

Reply of the Government

National Water Development Agency has completed water balance studies of basins/sub-basins and at diversion points, toposheet studies of reservoirs and link alignments, storage capacity studies of reservoirs, pre-feasibility studies and feasibility studies towards the implementation of inter-linking of rivers in the country as follows (up to March, 2004):

S.No.	Item	Quantity
1.	Water balance studies of basins/sub-basins	137
2.	Water balance studies at diversion points	71
3.	Toposheet and storage capacity studies of reservoirs	74
4.	Toposheet studies of link alignments	37
5.	Prefeasibility reports of links	31
6.	Feasibility Reports	11

In regard to signing of MOU for Ken-Betwa link, the perspective plan for implementation of inter basin water transfer proposals was approved in the 39th meeting of Governing Body of NWDA on 06.12.2000 and envisages the implementation of Peninsular links by 2035 while that of Himalayan links by 2043. NWDA's mandate was to complete the feasibility reports of identified link projects and as per perspective plan these were scheduled for completion by 2008.

The Supreme Court of India in the Writ Petition No. 512 of 2002 regarding networking of rivers observed that "we do expect that the programme when drawn up would try and ensure that the link projects are completed within a reasonable time of not more than ten years". In pursuance of this judgement, the Government of India constituted a Task Force in December 2002 under the Chairmanship of Shri Suresh Prabhu, Member of Parliament indicating milestone dates for different tasks that include completion of FRs by 2005 and DPRs by 2006. The Task Force has stated that the peninsular links are the right component to begin with. The Task Force prioritized two links namely (i) Parbati-Kalisindh-Chambal link and (ii) Ken-Betwa link. It is in this context that the process has been accelerated and MOUs for taking up the DPR of these two links have been sent to concerned States in November 2003 for their concurrence. While M.P. has agreed for signing the General MOU in respect of Ken-Betwa link, U.P. has certain apprehensions,

which are being sorted out in the meetings of Consensus Group headed by Chairman, CWC, Chief Engineer, NWDA and Chief Engineer, CWC.

Further, the process of comprehensive assessment of feasibility of linking of rivers in the country starting from the southern rivers is in progress as envisaged in the National Common Minimum Programme.

Recommendations/Observations (Para No.2.24)

The Committee note that the Government have set up a Task Force on inter-linking of rivers in December, 2002 which has submitted Action Plan I and II and also finalized the Terms of Reference for preparation of Detailed Project Reports. Action Plan I submitted in April, 2003 envisages completion of 30 feasibility studies by NWDA by December, 2005. A study has been given to NCAER in March, 2004 for assessing the 'Economic impact of Inter-linking Rivers Programme' and, while doing so, NCAER has also to suggest an investment roll out plan, i.e., a practical implementation schedule for Inter Linking Rivers Programme. The report of NCAER is still awaited. The Action Plan II submitted in April, 2004, envisages mainly appraisal of individual projects in respect of economic viability, socio economic and environment impacts, preparation of resettlement plans and bringing speedy consensus among States etc. These two reports are reportedly under active consideration of the Government, Undoubtedly, ILR Programme is a gigantic challenge but a momentous one, before the Union Government, viewed in the context of the perennial drought situations faced by the southern/western parts and recurring floods in the northern plains of the Ganga and Brahmaputra basins. The Committee note that the task force has addressed in its reports the intricate issues of economic viability, environmental and socio-economic impacts etc. on which concern

was reflected the Committee on Agriculture (2003) in their 44th Report on Demands for Grants (2003-04). They urge the Government to get the study given to NCAER expedited which will expectedly suggest an investment roll out plan for the ILR Programme. The Committee further desire the Government to make earnest efforts to get going the interlinking of the Northern and Southern rivers under ILR Programme in a definite time schedule which, in their considered view, would save the nation from the devastating ravages of chronic droughts and floods.

Reply of the Government

Task Force has received the report of NCAER and it is under their examination. The Government is already pursuing the Interlinking of Rivers Projects as per the studies conducted by NWDA. As far as Northern Rivers are concerned, keeping in view the international dimensions with neighbouring countries in general and Bangladesh in particular, the issues involved will have to be resolved in consultation with Ministry of External Affairs at the appropriate time. For Southern Rivers, the Government as per NCMP will make a comprehensive assessment. The success of the project depends upon the acceptance and agreement/consensus between the States for various link projects.

Recommendations/Observations (Para No.3.18 and 3.19)

The Committee observe that the Ministry of Water Resources is responsible for policy formulation in the minor irrigation at the national level though the works of minor irrigation are taken up by the States. They, however, find that at the State level there are several agencies/ departments, panchayats, co-operatives and even individual farmers involved in this sector. Minor irrigation schemes pertain to both ground water and surface water schemes having Culturable Command Area (CCA) of 2000 ha. individually. They note that during the Ninth Plan, total additional irrigation potential created and utilized was 5792.26 th. ha and 4606 th. ha. respectively, while for the Tenth

Plan the target fixed for the same is 5.23 m.ha. The CGWB is the apex agency involved with all aspects of ground water development, dissemination of technologies and monitoring and implementation of policies. The outlay envisaged for this sector at Rs.117.70 crore in BE 2004-05 shows an increase of Rs.10.48 crore over the BE figures of 2003-04.

Further, the Committee note that the ground water level is declining very rapidly in most parts of the country. The analysis of the trend by CGWB for the years 1994-2003 indicates decline in ground water levels of more than 4 meters in certain districts of the country. In order to arrest the further decline of ground water level, the Ministry submitted for clearance a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for artificial recharge of ground water on the advice of the Planning Commission and Ministry of Finance.

The Committee are surprised to find that the Scheme 'Artificial Recharge of Ground Water', prepared on the advice of the Planning Commission, remains to be cleared by them as yet. Considering the laudable objective of the Artificial Recharge of Ground Water Scheme and the fact that the scheme has been prepared on the advice of the Planning Commission, the Committee are anguished over the delay in launching the Scheme. The Committee, therefore, reiterate the recommendation of the Committee on Agriculture contained in their 44th and 50th Reports during the 13th Lok Sabha and desire that the Scheme be launched without further delay.

The Committee note that as a part of the measures to arrest further decline in ground Water levels in the country, a model Bill for regulation and control of ground water Development was revised and recirculated to the States in 1992 and again in 1996. So far, the Government of Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Goa, Kerala, Lakshadweep and Pondicherry have enacted legislations on the subject. 16 other States have initiated some action for enactment of such a legislation. Furthermore, the CGWB circulated a manual and guide on artificial recharge to ground water to States to enable them to formulate area specific artificial recharge Schemes to check declining ground water levels. The Committee are happy to note that in pursuance of the efforts of CGWB, several States

have taken steps to formulate area specific schemes and the remaining States are also taking steps to promote rain water harvesting and artificial recharge in problem areas.

Taking note of the fact that these vital issues were also discussed at the recent Conference of Chief Secretaries, Principal Secretaries(I&WR) and Command Area Authorities of States/UTs, the Committee recommend that the Ministry should persuade the States and consider giving certain incentives to States badly affected by the problem of declining ground water level or where the ground water is the only source for irrigation or drinking to enable them to take immediate measures for improvement of the situation. The Committee would like to be apprised of the developments in this regard.

Reply of the Government

The views of the Parliamentary Standing Committee have since been conveyed to the Planning Commission, who have been requested to expedite the approval of the centrally sponsored scheme on “Artificial Recharge to Ground Water and Rainwater Harvesting’. A copy of letter No. 18/35/2002-GW.II dated 02.09.2004 from Additional Secretary, Ministry of Water Resources to Advisor (WR), Planning Commission is at **Appendix- I**. The matter is being further pursued with the Planning Commission vigorously.

The Ministry is also persuading the States to take steps/measures to tackle the problem of declining ground water level. Hon’ble Minister of Water Resources has written a d.o. letter on 21.08.2004 to Chief Ministers of States in this regard. Further, with a view to persuade the States to take steps/measures to arrest further decline in the ground water levels in the country, the scheme on Artificial Recharge of Groundwater has been proposed which is under consideration of the Planning Commission. Under this

scheme, Government may consider to give priority to such States who take steps in this direction.

Recommendation (Para No. 5.7)

The Committee note that the Ministry of Water Resources have been providing central loan assistance /grants for flood control works apart from overall planning and coordination of flood management activities. The Tenth Plan also envisages for centrally sponsored scheme for improvement of drainage in critical areas of the country. The Committee further observe that this sector has been allocated the maximum of Rs. 183.87 crore out of the total Plan allocation of Rs. 580.00 crore in BE 2004-2005 comprising more than 30 per cent of plan allocation of the Ministry. Taking note of the huge allocations made for this sector year after year, the Committee are perturbed to note that while the Working Group set up by Planning Commission has assessed the area prone to floods at 45.64 m. ha. the area benefited from flood protection measures till March, 2003 is 16.45 m. ha cumulatively for all the Nine Five Year Plans put together which amounts to less than 40 per cent in area assessed as flood prone. This when viewed in the context of the huge allocations reveals a sad and grim picture of the flood control scenario in the country. The Committee, therefore, desire the Government to take urgent and sustained steps to strengthen the flood control mechanism in tune with the high level of allocations made to this sector. The Committee desire to be apprised of the action taken in the matter.

Reply of the Government

Rashtriya Barh Ayog has assessed 40.00 m.ha. as flood prone area in the country by summing up the maximum flooded area in any one year during 1953-58. Some states

reported higher flood prone area to the Working Group set up by the Planning Commission for the X Five Year Plan. The Working Group has compiled this figures as 45.64 m.ha. with a remark that these figures require revaluation from the States.

Rashtriya Barh Ayog in its report had observed that out of 40 m.ha. area in the country only 80% area (32.00 m.ha.) can be provided with a reasonable degree of protection. Since beginning of planning era upto 2003, 16.45 m.ha. area had been provided with reasonable degree of protection.

The Ministry of Water Resources, Government of India has recently constituted a Task Force for Flood Management/Erosion control under the Chairmanship of Chairman, CWC to examine the problem of recurring floods and erosion in Assam and neighbouring states as well as West Bengal, Bihar and Eastern Uttar Pradesh, review measures undertaken so far and suggest short and long term measures for management of floods and erosion including their international dimensions, institutional arrangements, sources of funds etc. The Task Force has been asked to submit its report by 31st December, 2004.

Recommendation (Para No. 5.14)

The Committee note that the area north of the Ganga are chronically flood affected regions of UP and Bihar. The worst affected areas lies in North Bihar. The flood proofing programme is one of the majors measures considered to be more cost effective. The Scheme of Flood Proofing Programme in North Bihar taken up during the Eighth Plan is still continuing in the Tenth Plan. An amount of Rs. 1.25 crore was released during 2003-2004 for the purpose. The Committee note that the Ministry have decided to enlarge the scope of the Scheme to include the States of Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Assam, Orrisa and Andhra Pradesh for implementation during the year 2004-07.

However, the Planning Commission, while examining the EFC for in principle approval, advised that before expanding the programme to other States, the utility of some completed structures be tested. Further, funding for new structures (in Bihar) under the programme during current financial year has been stopped to avoid creation of liabilities. The Brahmaputra Board and GFCC have reportedly initiated measures for current performance evaluation studies as advised by the Planning Commission. The Committee, therefore, desire that performance evaluation studies be conducted through independent consultants so that the drawbacks/deficiencies detected in the structure are rectified before enlarging the scope of the scheme to other States. The Committee would like to be apprised of the results of the evaluation studies at the earliest.

Reply of the Government

It was decided that the Performance Evaluation Studies in respect of the completed Flood Proofing schemes in Bihar would be carried out through Ganga Flood Control Commission (GFCC), Patna whereas Brahmaputra Board would be responsible for the studies in respect of schemes completed in Assam.

The matter regarding entrusting the Performance Evaluation Studies was first taken up by GFCC with the Water & Land Management Institutes (WALMIS) in Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Assam, Orissa and Hyderabad. In the absence of response from the WALMIS, Water & Power Consultancy Services (India) Ltd. (WAPCOS) was requested by GFCC to take up the above works. WAPCOS have now submitted their proposal which is under examination in GFCC.

As regards the Performance Evaluation Studies in respect of 3 schemes completed by Brahmaputra Board, the said studies are being carried out through an independent

agency North Eastern Regional Institute for Water and Land Management (NERIWALM). The Committee would be appraised of the results on completion of the studies.

Recommendation (Para No. 5.19)

The Committee observe that India and Nepal decided to raise, strengthen and extend embankments on Lalbakeya, Kamla, Bagmati and Khando rivers to prevent spillage of flood waters from Nepal to Bihar side. The works are to be executed through funds of Ministry of External Affairs in the Nepalese territory while on the Indian side they are to be carried out under a Centrally Sponsored Scheme. The funds are released on the recommendation of GFCC. It is further observed that a sum of Rs.5.00 crore could not be utilized due to non-submission of Utilisation Certificates by State Government of Bihar. The Minister had reportedly reviewed the progress of the scheme with State Government on 23 June, 2004 . A programme for revised DPR for construction of embankments on River Bagmati was given for approval by the State and the matter is also being followed by the State with GFCC and the Ministry. Further, negotiations with Nepal are on for construction of multipurpose storage dams on rivers Kamla and Bagmati. Reportedly, Nepal Government is of the opinion that these projects are not feasible and pose serious social and environmental issues on their side. The Committee, therefore, desire the Ministry to impress upon the Nepal Government through appropriate channels for early resolution of the differences so that the project construction takes off smoothly and the areas affected by floods due to spillage of water from rivers, in Nepal are minimized, if not completely eliminated. The

Committee also desire the Government to take steps to improve utilization of allocated funds.

Reply of the Government

The matter regarding Kamla & Bagmati Multipurpose Projects was raised by the Indian side in the recently held 2nd meeting of the India-Nepal Joint Committee on Water Resources held at New Delhi on 7-8th October, 2004, which is headed by the respective Water Resources Secretaries of both the countries. The Nepalese side pointed out social and environmental problems exist in implementation of these projects due to the presence of large settlements in the reservoir areas. It was however agreed to take up feasibility studies of Kamla (as a part of the study for Sapta Kosi – Sun Kosi Projects) and preliminary study for Bagmati Multipurpose Project to be carried out by Joint Project Office, Sapta Kosi & Sun Kosi Investigations (JPO-SKSKI) already setup in Nepal to ascertain likely constraints in implementation of these projects so that the same could be appropriately addressed.

As regards the utilization of allocated funds in respect of the Centrally Sponsored Scheme “Raising and Strengthening of Embankments on Lalbakeya, Bagmati, Khando and Kamla rivers”, which is linked with the firming up the hydrological design parameters, the matter is being followed up with the State Government.

Recommendation (Para No.6.18 and 6.19)

The Committee note that the Government have launched the Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme(AIBP) during 1996-97 for accelerating implementation of on going multi-purpose projects on which substantial progress has been made and which are beyond the resources capability of the State Governments and for other

major and medium irrigation projects which are in advanced stage of construction and could yield irrigation benefits in next four agricultural seasons. The Government have so far included 181 major/medium and 3810 surface minor irrigation schemes and an amount of Rs. 14670.00 crore has already been released as Central Loan Assistance, but, it is a matter of great concern that only 29 major/medium projects have been completed so far. The Committee are not satisfied with this slow progress for completion of the projects and are still in doubt whether the Ministry would be able to complete 37 and 46 projects as targeted by them during 2004-2005 and beyond 2004-2005 in Tenth Plan respectively.

According to the Ministry, the reasons for slow progress in completion of these projects are contractual problems, natural calamities, delay in transferring the funds to the projects by the States, diversion/parking of funds, environmental/forests clearance, matching funds not provided by the States, land acquisition problems and delay due to court cases.

Further, the Committee note that the Ministry is not dissatisfied with the present arrangement of release of funds directly by Ministry of Finance and monitoring of projects by Ministry of Water Resources. The Committee desire that the causative factors for the slow progress of the projects be sorted out at the earliest possible and all out efforts be made to accelerate the momentum required to complete all the projects under Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme within their scheduled time limit and cost estimates.

While taking note that 3810 minor irrigation projects (from special category States) have been brought under AIBP, the Committee desire that steps be taken by the

Ministry to draw a definite time table for completion of these projects in a period of 5 or 6 years so that the intended benefit of irrigation do not continue to elude. The Committee would like to be apprised of the achievements made in this regards at an early date.

Reply of the Government

Irrigation being a state subject, the responsibility of execution of projects rests with the State Governments. There are various factors for slow progress in completion of Major and Medium irrigation projects viz. the balance cost (after March,2004) of Projects/Project components included under AIBP, the level of expenditure being incurred by the respective Project Authorities during the past year(s), outlays proposed by the State Governments for the remaining years of Tenth Five Year Plan, constraints being encountered in Project execution by the Project Authorities/State Governments etc. The constraints like forest clearance, land acquisition, R&R Problems involve protracted procedures which are quite time consuming and they are also not under the direct jurisdiction of the Irrigation/Water Resources Departments of the State Governments. For example, for land acquisition and R&R, State Revenue Department at District Level is involved. The delay occurs because the State Revenue Department does not attach the same priority to the irrigation projects as planned by the State Irrigation/Water Resources Departments. During monitoring visits of the Central Water Commission (CWC) officers, this aspect is looked into and they suggest/insist for deployment of an independent “Land Acquisition Officer” in the Revenue Department where such problem of land acquisition is being faced by the Project Authorities. Similarly, the process of implementation of R&R Plan suffers

for want of adequate staff with the State Revenue Department. Hence, the delay in the project execution according to the planned schedule. Nevertheless concerted efforts are being made/continued to be made by the monitoring teams through continuous interaction with the State Government officers/visits to the projects to ensure that slippages are minimized.

The Chief Engineers and Directors of the Monitoring Directorates of the Regional Offices of CWC have been informed to critically review the progress of the projects which are anticipated for completion during 2004-05 and beyond 2004-05 in Tenth Five Year Plan. In this connection, it is further mentioned that one of the recommendations made during the Conference of the State Chief Secretaries/State Principal Secretaries/Secretaries of Water Resources/Irrigation Department held on 2-3rd August,2004 at New Delhi was that there is a need to supplement the existing monitoring system of the States by including C.W.C. Officers. Further, the major/medium projects to be included under AIBP, henceforth, must be free from land acquisition problems, R&R Plan, forest clearance, court cases, etc. so that the projects can be completed as per schedule.

As per the revised AIBP guidelines effective from 1.4.2004, the State Governments are required to furnish a Memorandum of Understanding alongwith the Central Loan Assistance (CLA) proposals for each project stating therein latest balance cost of the project after March, 2004 and the completion date as well. This is a step to ensure that the State Governments adhere to the given schedule of project completion at the cost indicated in the Memorandum of Understanding.

As per the existing guidelines of AIBP, surface minor irrigation schemes are to be completed in a period of two years. However, in view of the law and order problem of

the North Eastern Region and other difficulties being faced by the States, these schemes could not be completed as per the schedule. Out of 3778 schemes included under the programme, 2488 have already been completed upto July, 2004 to create an irrigation potential of 94.7 thousand hectare against the target potential of 190.81 thousand hectare. The States are being pursued vigorously for early completion of the remaining schemes.

CHAPTER III

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

Recommendation (Para No. 5.24)

5.24 The Committee note that a scheme of critical anti-erosion works in coastal and other than Ganga basin States was cleared by the Planning Commission in February, 2004 to be taken up in two parts on pilot basis at a cost of Rs. 20.64 crore. Approval for the first part has come through. The second part of anti-river erosion works and raising embankments in States of Andhra Pradesh, Kerala and Orissa has not been approved so as to avoid proliferation of new Centrally Sponsored Schemes in Tenth Plan and it was suggested that they be taken up by the concerned States in their State plan. It is further noted that States have to give concurrence to meet the matching share of expenditure. Four out of six States have agreed to meet the matching share of expenditure. The Committee are dismayed to note lack of uniformity, as certain States have been included under the Scheme to the exclusion of States like Andhra Pradesh, Goa and Gujarat on the pretext that these States could approach the Planning Commission directly for release of funds under additional Central assistance. The Committee, therefore, desire that the second part of the Scheme may also be got cleared by the Planning Commission at the earliest to avoid damages caused by river erosion in the States of Kerala, Andhra Pradesh and Orissa. The Committee may be informed of the progress made in this direction.

Reply of the Government

Planning Commission has been requested vide this Ministry's letter No. 2/5/2004-ER/4067 dated 01.11.2004 (**Appendix-III**) to reconsider the new Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Critical Anti River Erosion Works/ Raising and Strengthening of embankments

in other than Ganga Basin States” estimated to cost Rs. 24.80 crore for approval by the Full Planning Commission for implementation in the 10th Plan.

Comments of the Committee

(Please see Para No.16 of Chapter I of the Report)

Recommendation (Para No. 5.31)

The Committee note that Assam has been extended with CLA outside the State Plan for execution of flood control schemes in Brahmaputra basin since 1974-75. A sum of Rs.390.94 crore as CLA and Rs.10.09 crore as grant in aid was released upto March 2000. During the Ninth Plan, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme ‘Flood Control Scheme in Brahmaputra and Barak Valley’ was framed to include North Eastern States including West Bengal (North Bengal) with an investment of Rs.55.56 crore. The scheme, however, was not approved by the Planning Commission. The Committee note that the Centrally Sponsored Scheme amounting to Rs.166.68 crore, with Rs.150.00 crore as Central share, was formulated by Brahmaputra Board in consultation with the Ministry of Water Resources. The Committee are distressed to note that such an important scheme proposed to be completed during the Tenth plan period is still awaiting approval while the provisions made for the scheme are being surrendered for want of approval. When quizzed, the Secretary, Ministry of Water Resources testified before the Committee that the scheme “could not be cleared due to the announcement of election and now, it again has to restart its entire journey upwards”. He further stated that the Ministry of Finance want this scheme now be undertaken in the State Sector. Having regard to the recurring onslaught of devastating floods in the Brahmaputra and Barak Valley and the irretrievable loss of life and property, the Committee cannot accept the view of the

Ministry of Finance and, therefore, reiterate that the Scheme should be implemented as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme as formulated without further loss of time.

Reply of the Government

The Ministry of Finance have reiterated their earlier stand that the proposed scheme may be implemented in a projectised mode like AIBP/APDRP in the State Sector, for which approval may be obtained from CCEA. That Ministry is of the view that the proposal to initiate a new Centrally Sponsored Scheme is not considered advisable in view of the NCMP objectives.

CHAPTER IV

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

Recommendation (Para No. 1.15 and 1.16)

The scrutiny of Demands for Grants 2004-2005 of the Ministry of Water Resources shows that the outlay at Rs. 854.36 crore for 2004-2005 shows an overall hike of Rs. 61.18 crore over the BE of the previous year. There is an overall hike of 4.5 per cent in the plan outlay for 2004-2005 which stands at Rs. 592.00 crore over the BE of Rs. 566.00 crore in 2003-2004. While there is an increase of Rs. 27.33 crore on the Revenue side (plan), the capital section (plan) shows a decline of 3 per cent. On the other hand, the non-plan allocation both on the Revenue and Capital sections shows an increase of 15.88 per cent (at Rs. 243.56 crore) and 11 per cent (at Rs. 18.80 crore) respectively over the BE 2003-2004 figures. Further, the Committee observe that the outlays for the CAD has declined by Rs. 20.50 crore from Rs. 202.00 crore (BE 2003-2004) to Rs. 181.50 crore (BE 2004-2005). The Committee are constrained to observe that though the Ministry had proposed a Plan allocation of Rs. 636.61 crore for the year 2004-2005, the Planning Commission has allocated Rs. 580.00 crore which is Rs. 56.61 crore less than the proposed allocation by the Ministry. Apparently, the allocations for the Ministry need to be stepped up in consonance with the commitment of the Government to give priority to water management. The reductions in allocation by Planning Commission are of Rs. 11.75 crore for Major and Medium Irrigation, Rs. 18.50 crore for Command Area Development Programme and Rs. 25.06 crore for Flood Control sector against the proposals of the Ministry for 2004-2005. The Committee fail

to understand the rationale of the Planning Commission in reducing the proposed allocation for the above mentioned three important sectors which in their opinion, would adversely affect the progress and pace of implementation of all the on-going vital projects. The Committee note that at present, there are 162 Major and 221 Medium Irrigation Projects pending for completion in different States. They further note that the Command Area Development Programme has been restructured and renamed as Command Area Development and Water Management and that the proposed targets under restructured programme are envisaged for accomplishment during the remaining 3 years of the Tenth Plan i.e. by 2006-07. Alarming, the Planning Commission has to reduced allocation for an important programme like Flood Control despite the scourge of recurring floods in certain parts of the country resulting in colossal loss of life and property.

The Committee, therefore, strongly recommend that the Ministry take up the matter with the Planning Commission and the Ministry of Finance for enhancing the Plan allocation adequately for the above mentioned three sectors at the Revised Estimates stage so that all on going schemes/projects under these sectors are completed within the scheduled time-frame to avoid time and cost over-runs. The Committee are of the considered view that while the schemes/programmes being implemented by the Government require huge allocations by the Planning Commission and Ministry of Finance, it is also incumbent upon the Ministry to take urgent steps to address and overcome the problems of non-approvals of schemes, procedural delays and non-submission of utilization certificates by the States. The Committee desire that they be apprised of the steps taken in this direction.

Reply of the Government

The Ministry of Water Resources deals with a subject matter in the state list sector and almost half of its annual budget allocation relate to centrally sponsored schemes

(CSS). Expenditure on those schemes depends on the utilization of grants already released and requirements projected by states. Public investments in the water resources sector are mainly in the state sector – reflected in the plans of respective states. It has not been possible to upscale expenditure and consequently annual budget allocations, in regard to CSS, because of lack of utilization and demand at state levels. In North East (Assam), some major works proposed to be undertaken by Brahmaputra Board directly as a central sector scheme, budget allocations could not be utilized mainly because of non-resolution of local issues which are in the domain of the state government. Efforts are on, however, to work with the state governments to ensure utilization of grants already released and to identify areas where central assistance could be channelized more fruitfully for better management of water resources issues.

Comments of the Committee

(Please see Para No. 7 of Chapter I of the Report)

Recommendation (Para No. 5.42)

The Committee are unhappy to note that the out of Plan Budget allocation of Rs. 45.00 crore for Pagladiya Dam Project for the year 2003-2004 only Rs. 3.66 crore could be utilized for the project due to the State Government not being able to make available land for construction of the project and rehabilitation and Resettlement purposes. An allocation of Rs.40.00 crore has been earmarked for the year 2004-2005. The Committee are dismayed to note that the construction work on Pagladiya Dam Project has been delayed inordinately and while the Revised Cost Estimates worked out are awaiting approval of PIB and CCEA, the project cost has almost doubled from Rs. 542.90 crore to Rs. 1049.16 crore. The Committee, therefore, strongly recommend to Government to pursue the matter vigorously for early clearance by PIB and CCEA and simultaneously make all out efforts to get the land for construction of Dam Project from the Assam Government for Rehabilitation and Resettlement purposes at the earliest possible so that the Pagladiya Dam Project is constructed without further time and cost over-run.

Reply of the Government

The Pagladiya Dam Project could not make much headway due to security related problems and non-handing over of the land by the State Government. The PIB meeting for the revised cost scheduled to be held on 22.09.04 was postponed as the State Government is yet to carry out the Zirat Survey (property evaluation). Discussions are being held on regular basis with the Government of Assam on the Zirat Survey and other sensitive pending issues for implementation of Pagladiya Dam Project on which action is to be taken by the State Government.

Comments of the Committee

(Please see Para No. 19 of Chapter I of the Report)

CHAPTER V

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

Recommendation (Para No.4.10)

The Committee observe that the Ministry of Water Resources is implementing CAD programme since 1974-75 as a centrally sponsored programme with the objective of ensuring efficient utilisation of IPC for optimal agricultural production. Till April, 2003, 236 projects were covered with CCA of about 30 m. ha. spread over the entire country and at the end of 2003-2004, 133 CAD projects were receiving Central Assistance. They further note that CAD programme has been restructured and renamed as CADWM scheme during 2004-07 for the remaining period of the Tenth Plan. The revised CAD aims at continuation of components found to be beneficial with 10 per cent contribution from farmers for selected activities, inclusion of some new components essential for rectifying the deficiencies in irrigation systems and distribution of components which lost their utility value over time.

It is disconcerting to find that though the Planning Commission and Ministry of Finance favoured funding the CAD programme on the Ninth Plan pattern during 2002-03 and 2003-04, the Ministry of Finance did not allow the Ministry to disburse funds during 2003-04 on the Ninth Plan pattern. The restructured Scheme was approved by the Cabinet in January, 2004. Reportedly, the Ministry of Finance did not permit disbursement on old pattern on the ground that the new scheme was not approved by the appropriate authority. Under the restructured programme, State Governments have been advised to submit fresh DPRs of all projects by the end of August, 2004 indicating, inter-alia, time-frame, budget and the action plan etc. for completion of CAD works. The Committee hope all the States stick to the deadline for submission of fresh DPRs. The Committee further recommend that upon receipt of fresh DPRs, Government should complete all other essential formalities in a time bound manner so as to make the projects

under CADWM workable to enable realisation of the targeted utilization of irrigation potential created as a result thereof.

Reply of the Government

All the State Governments implementing the Command Area Development and Water Management programme have been reminded through a D.O. letter dated 30th September, 2004 from Secretary (Water Resources) to the Chief Secretaries (**Appendix -II**) to stick to the time frame for submission of DPRs. Further necessary action to chalk out the action plan for completing various CAD activities in the projects shall be taken as soon as DPRs of all the projects are received from all the States.

Comments of the Committee

(Please see Para No. 13 of Chapter I of the Report)

NEW DELHI
23 January, 2004
02 Pausa, 1926(Saka)

R. SAMBASIVA RAO,
Chairman
Standing Committee on Water Resource

APPENDIX I



Sushma Singh

Additional Secretary
Government of India
Ministry of Water Resources
Shram Shakti Bhawan
Tel No. 23710619 Fax No.: 23725477

D.O.No. 18/35/2002-GW.II

New Delhi September 2, 2004

Dear Shri Shekhar,

Please refer to the letter of even number dated 20th July, 2004 from Hon'ble Minister of Water Resources addressed to Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission regarding approval of the proposed Centrally sponsored Scheme on "Artificial Recharge to Ground Water and Rainwater Harvesting" for implementation during Xth Five Year Plan. Approval of Planning Commission in the matter is still awaited.

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Water Resources on Demand for Grants of Ministry of Water Resources for the year 2004-05 in its report has made following recommendations:

"The Committee are surprised to find that the Scheme 'Artificial Recharge of Ground Water' prepared on the advice of the Planning Commission remains to be cleared by them as yet. Considering the laudable objective of the Artificial Recharge of Ground Water scheme and the fact that the scheme has been prepared on the advice of the Planning Commission, the Committee, are anguished over the delay in launching the scheme. The Committee, therefore, reiterate the recommendation of the Committee on Agriculture contained in their 44th & 50th Reports during the 13th Lok Sabha and desire that the scheme be launched without further delay."

The scheme was also discussed in the conference of Chief Secretaries/Principal Secretaries (Irrigation and Water Resources) of States/UTs held on 2nd and 3rd August, 2004 in New Delhi in which the overwhelming view was that the above scheme should be implemented *immediately* with an enhanced outlay.

I shall, therefore, be grateful, if you look into the matter personally and expedite the approval of Planning Commission to the above scheme so that it may be processed further for approval of the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs.

With regards,

Yours sincerely,

(SUSHMA SINGH)

Shri A. Shekhar,
Adviser (WR)
Planning Commission,
Yojana Bhawan, New Delhi—110 001.

APPENDIX II

Secretary
Ministry of Water Resources
Government of India
Shram Shakti Bhawan,
New Delhi
Tel No. 23715919 Fax No.: 23710305

V.K. Duggal

D.O.No. 2-10/2001-CAD

September 3, 2004

**Command Area Development and
Water Management (CADWM) Programme**

Dear Shri,

The Centrally Sponsored Command Area Development (CAD) Programme has been under implementation in the country since 1974-75 with the objective of improving utilization of created irrigation potential and optimize agriculture productivity and production in the irrigated Commands. The programme has been undergoing need based changes during its three decades of implementation. Recently it has been thoroughly restructured keeping in view the feedback received from the State Governments and the reviews undertaken at the level of Government of India. The restructured programme, made effective from 1st April, 2004, is called as Command Area Development and Water Management (CADWM) Programme. Detailed guidelines for implementation of the restructured programme have already been circulated to all the State Governments. The guidelines were also discussed in the Conference of Chief Secretaries, Principal Secretaries of irrigation/Command Area Development and Administrators of Command Area Development Authorities held at New Delhi on 2nd and 3rd August, 2004. With minor suggestions the guidelines were concurred by the State Governments. The salient features of the restructured programme are:

- i. Adoption of a holistic approach encompassing all aspects of water management and irrigated agriculture development.
- ii. Mandatory implementation of Participatory Irrigation Management (PIM) Practices (Model Act on PIM for enactment of necessary act through State legislatures already circulated to States). Formation of Water Users' Associations is now a must before implementing CAD activities.

- iii. Mandatory minimum contribution of 10% by beneficiaries in cash or in the form of labour in selected activities namely construction of field channels/full package on-farm development works, reclamation of water logged areas and renovation of minor irrigation tanks within commands.
- iv. Introduction of a new component of correction of system deficiencies above the outlets up to distributaries of 150 cusec capacity. Formation of distributory committees and handing over of the system, after renovation to such committees for future maintenance is a must for future maintenance is a must.
- v. Inclusion of a new component for renovation of minor irrigation tanks within the designated irrigation commands for augmenting water supplies. Formation of Water Users' Associations is a must before taking up the activity.
- vi. Submission of fresh Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) in respect of all the ongoing projects covered under the programme. Each DPR has to *inter-alia* indicate time frame, budget, action plan etc. for completion of the CAD works (The DPRs were to be submitted by the end of August, 2004).
- vii. Intensified monitoring of the programme through a State level committee headed by Secretary in-charge of CADWM Programme as well as the field units of Central Water Commission.

The Standing Committee of the Parliament on Water Resources', while examining the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Water Resources for the year 2004-05 has *inter alia* reviewed the progress of restructured CADWM Programme as well. The Committee has directed, that all the State Government may stick to the dead line for submission of DPRs. After receipt of DPRs the Ministry would review them so as to chalk out an action plan for completing various CAD activities in the projects in a time bound manner.

One of the major bottlenecks in programme implementation has been inadequacy of matching budgetary support and delays in release of funds by the State Governments to the Command Area Development Authorities/implementing departments resulting in slow utilisation of central assistance. A review of utilisation of central assistance earmarked for current year reveals that less than 10% funds have been utilised so

far. In a number of States there are also unspent balances of previous year(s).

In view of the above I would request you to review the progress of implementation of CADWM programme in your State so as to ensure: (i) submission of DPRs of all the ongoing projects covered under the CADWM programme at the earliest; (ii) implementation of CADWM programme as per provisions of guidelines; and (iii) submission of utilisation certificates and audit certificates in respect of central assistance released in previous year(s) together with proposals for release of central assistance for current year.

This Ministry may please be kept informed of the action taken/ proposed to be taken in the matter.

With regards,

Your sincerely

Sd/-
(V.K. DUGGAL)

To
All State Chief Secretaries
Implementing CADWM Programme

APPENDIX III

2/5/2004-ER/4067

**Government of India
Ministry of Water Resources
(ER Wing)**

New Delhi, the 1st November 2004

To

Advisor (WR),
Planning Commission,
Yojana Bhavan,
New Delhi

Sub: Critical Anti River Erosion Works/raising & strengthening of
the embankments in other than Ganga basin States

Sir,

This is with reference to Planning Commission's letter No. 22(165)/1/2003-WR dated 18.3.2004 wherein it was informed that the subject new Centrally Sponsored Scheme estimated to cost Rs. 24.80 crore was considered by the Internal Planning Commission (IPC) on 8.3.04 and keeping in view the need to avoid proliferation of new Centrally Sponsored Schemes in the 10th Plan, IPC decided not to recommend the scheme for approval of the full Planning Commission. Further as desired by IPC as conveyed in the Planning Commission's letter of 18.3.04, the concerned State Governments were informed to include such scheme(s) in their respective State Plan(s) which could thereafter be considered for allocation at the time of Annual Plan discussions of the States.

This matter came for discussions before Parliamentary Standing Committee on Water Resources on Demands for Grants (2004-05) of the MOWR who in their recommendation at Sl. No. 5.24 (copy enclosed) has desired that the above Centrally Sponsored Scheme may be got cleared by the Planning Commission at the earliest to avoid damages caused by river erosion in the States of Kerala, Andhra Pradesh and Orissa. In this connection it is requested that the matter

relating to approval of the above Centrally Sponsored Scheme by the Full Planning Commission may kindly be reconsidered for implementation in the 10th Plan and its approval communicated at the earliest for reporting the position to the Parliamentary Standing Committee.

This issues with the approval of Commissioner (ER)

Your faithfully,

Sd/-

(K.C. Gupta)

Sr. Joint Commissioner (ER)

Encl. as above

APPENDIX-IV

STANDING COMMITTEE ON WATER RESOURCES (2004-2005)

**MINUTES OF THE SIXTH SITTING OF THE COMMITTEE HELD ON MONDAY,
20 DECEMBER, 2004**

**The Committee sat from 1500 hours to 1550 hours in Committee Room 'C', Ground
Floor, Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.**

PRESENT

Shri R. Sambasiva Rao – Chairman

MEMBERS

LOK SABHA

2. Shri Bhanwar Singh Dangawas
3. Shri Bikram Keshari Deo
4. Shri Rajen Gohain
5. Dr. M. Jagannath
6. Smt. Preneet Kaur
7. Shri Munshiram
8. Shri Lonappan Nambadan
9. Shri Prabodh Panda
10. Shri Harilal. M. Patel
11. Shri Laxmanrao Patil
12. Shri Arjun Charan Sethi
13. Shri Chandra Bhushan Singh

RAJYA SABHA

14. Shri Manoj Bhattacharya

APPENDIX V

[Vide Para 4 of the Introduction]

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

(i)	Total number of Recommendations/Observations	17
(ii)	Recommendation/Observations which have been accepted by the Government	
	Para Nos. 2.9, 2.10, 2.18, 2.24, 3.18, 3.19, 5.7, 5.14, 5.19, 6.18 and 6.19	
	Total	11
	Percentage	64.70%
(iii)	Recommendations/Observations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of the Government's replies	
	Para Nos. 5.24 and 5.31	
	Total	2
	Percentage	11.76%
(iv)	Recommendations/Observations in respect of which replies of the Government have not been accepted by the Committee	
	Para Nos. 1.15, 1.16 and 5.42	
	Total	3
	Percentage	17.64%
(v)	Recommendations/Observations in respect of which final replies of the Government are still awaited	
	Para No.4.10	

Total	1
Percentage	5.88%