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**STANDING COMMITTEE ON WATER RESOURCES
(2020-21)**

SEVENTEENTH LOK SABHA

**MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION**

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (2021-22)

TENTH REPORT



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI**

March, 2021 / Phalgun, 1942 (Saka)

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(2021-22)

Presented to Lok Sabha on 8.3.2021
Laid on the Table of Rajya Sabha on 8.3.2021



LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

March, 2021 / Phalguna, 1942 (Saka)

W. R. C. No. 65

Price : Rs.

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Published under Rule 382 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha (Sixteenth Edition) and Printed by

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**COMPOSITON OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON WATER RESOURCES
(2020-21)**

Dr. Sanjay Jaiswal - Chairperson

LOK SABHA

2. Shri Vijay Baghel
3. Shri Bhagirath Chaudhary
4. Vacant ^
5. Shri Nihal Chand Chauhan
6. Shri Chandra Prakash Choudhary
7. Shri Guman Singh Damor
8. Dr. Heena Vijaykumar Gavit
9. Dr. K. Jayakumar
10. Shri Kaushal Kishore
11. Shri M. Dhanush Kumar
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14. Shri Kuruva Gorantla Madhav
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16. Shri Sanjay Kaka Patil
17. Vacant ^^
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19. Ms. Agatha K. Sangma
20. Shri D. K. Suresh
21. Shri A. Narayana Swamy

RAJYA SABHA

22. Sardar Balwinder Singh Bhunder
23. Shri Harshvardhan Singh Dungarpur
24. Shri N. R. Elango
25. Vacant ^^^
26. Dr. Kirodi Lal Meena
27. Shri A. Mohammedjan
28. Shri Arun Singh
29. Shri Subhash Chandra Singh
30. Shri Rewati Raman Singh
31. Shri Pradeep Tamta

^ Vacancy caused on account of demise of Shri Nand Kumar Singh Chauhan from 02.03.2021

^^ Shri Dipsinh Rathod ceased to be the Member of the Committee w.e.f. 28.12.2020

^^^ Mir Mohammad Fayaz ceased to be the Member of the Committee w.e.f. 10.02.2021 on his retirement from Rajya Sabha.

SECRETARIAT

1. Shri Manoj K. Arora - OSD (LSS)
2. Shri M.K. Madhusudhan - Director
3. Shri R.C. Sharma - Additional Director
4. Shri Gaurav Jain - Assistant Committee Officer

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairperson, Standing Committee on Water Resources (2020-21) having been authorized by the Committee to submit the Report on their behalf, present the Tenth Report on Demands for Grants (2021-22) of the Ministry of Jal Shakti - Department of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation.

2. The Demands for Grants have been examined by the Committee under Rule 331E(1)(a) of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha.
3. The Committee took evidence of the representatives of the Ministry of Jal Shakti - Department of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation on 23.2.2021.
4. The Report was considered and adopted by the Committee at their sitting held on 4.3.2021.
5. The Committee wish to express their thanks to the representatives of the Ministry of Jal Shakti - Department of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation for providing them the requisite written material and for making oral depositions before the Committee in connection with the examination of the subject.
6. The Committee would also like to place on record their sense of deep appreciation for the assistance rendered to them by the officials of the Lok Sabha Secretariat attached to the Committee.

NEW DELHI
4 March, 2021
13 Phalgun, 1942 (Saka)

Dr. SANJAY JAISWAL,
Chairperson,
Standing Committee on Water Resources

ABBREVIATIONS

Atal Bhujal Yojana	Atal Bhujal Yojana
AIBP	Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme
AIB	: Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank
AMRUT	: Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation
BBMB	: <i>Bhakra Beas Management Board</i>
BE	: Budget Estimate
BOD	: Biochemical Oxygen Demand
CA	: Central Assistance
CAD	: Command Area Development
CADWM	: Command Area Development and Water Management Programme
CCA	: Culturable command area
CEDAR	: Centre for Ecology Development & Research
CEE	: Committee on Establishment Expenditure
CGF	: Clean Ganga Fund
CGWB	: Central Ground Water Board
CM	: Chief Minister
COD	: Chemical Oxygen Demand
CSR	: Corporate Social Responsibility
CSS	: Centrally Sponsored Schemes
CWC	: Central Water Commission
CWRDM	: Centre for Water Resources Development and Management
DDP	: Desert Development Programme
DDWS	: Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation
DFG	: Demands for Grants
DO	: Dissolved Oxygen
DoWR, RD & GR	: Department of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation
DPR	: Detailed Project Report
DRIP	: Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Programme
DVC	: Damodar Valley Corporation
DWRIS	: Development of Water Resources Information System
EAP	: Emergency Action Plan
EBR	: Extra Budgetary Resources
EC	: Electrical Conductivity
EFC	: Expenditure Finance Committee
EPC	: Engineering, Procurement and Construction
FY	: Financial Year
FR	: Feasibility Report
GD	: Gauge & Discharge
GLOF	: Glacial Lake Outburst Flood
GWM&R	: Ground Water Management and Regulation

GOI	:	Government of India
Ha	:	Hectare
HFL	:	Highest Flood Level
HKKP	:	Har Khet Ko Pani
HO	:	Hydrological Observation
HRD	:	Human Resource Development
IAs	:	Implementing Agencies
IEBR	:	Internal External Budgetary Resources
IIT	:	Indian Institute of Technology
ILR	:	Interlinking of Rivers
I.P.	:	Irrigation Potential
ISO	:	International Standards of Organization
JJM	:	Jal Jeevan Mission
KLD	:	Kilo Litres Per Day
LS	:	Lok Sabha
LTIF	:	Long Term Irrigation Fund
MIDH	:	Mission on Integrated Development of Horticulture
MLD	:	Million Litres Per Day
MoDW&S	:	Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation
MoEF&CC	:	Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
MoJS	:	Ministry of Jal Shakti
MoWR	:	Ministry of Water Resources
MoWR, RD & GR	:	Ministry of Water Resources River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation
NABARD	:	National Bank for Agricultural and Rural Development
NAPCC	:	National Action Plan on Climate Change
NAQUIM	:	National Aquifer Mapping & Management Programme
NBWUE	:	National Bureau of Water Use Efficiency
NGP	:	National Ganga Plan
NGRBA	:	<i>National Ganga River Basin Authority</i>
NHAI	:	National Highways Authority of India
NHP	:	National Hydrology Project
NITI Ayog	:	National Institution for Transforming India Ayog
NMCG	:	National Mission for Clean Ganga
NMSHE	:	National Mission for Sustainable Himalayan Ecosystem
NP	:	National Project
NPMU	:	National Project Monitoring Unit
NRCD	:	National River Conservation Directorate
NRCP	:	National River Conservation Plan
NRIs	:	Non Resident Indians (NRIs),
NWDA	:	National Water Development Agency
NWIC	:	National Water informatics Centre
NWM	:	National Water Mission
O&M	:	Operation and Maintenance
PDMC	:	Per Drop More Crop
PIO	:	Persons of Indian Origin
PL	:	Price List
PMKSY	:	<i>Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana</i>
PMO	:	Prime Minister Office

PSU	:	Public Sector Undertakings
PWD	:	Public Works Department
RBC	:	Right Bank Canal
RBM	:	River Basin Management
RE	:	Revised Estimate
RRR	:	Repair, Renovation and Restoration
R&D	:	Research and Development
SMI	:	Surface Minor Irrigation
SPMU	:	State Project Monitoring Unit
STPs	:	Sewage Treatment Plants
TAMC	:	Technical Assistance and Management Consultancy
TC	:	Technical Committee
TDS	:	Total Dissolved Solids
UTs	:	Union Territories
World Bank	:	World Bank
WRD	:	Water Resources Department
WQ	:	Water Quality Stations

REPORT
PART - I
NARRATION ANALYSIS

1.1 Water is a natural resource fundamental to life, livelihood, food security and sustainable development. It is also a finite resource. Therefore, development, conservation and management of water resources are crucial especially for developing economy like India where the demands are rising rapidly due to increase in population, urbanization and industrialisation.

1.2 The Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation (DoWR, RD & GR) comes under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Jal Shakti and is responsible for laying down policy guidelines and programmes for the development, conservation and management of water as a national resource; overall national perspective of water planning and coordination in relation to diverse uses of water; water-laws and legislations; addressing inter-State and trans-boundary water issues; bilateral and multi-lateral cooperation; general policy, guidelines and programmes for assessment, development and regulation of the country's water resources; water quality assessment; rejuvenation of River Ganga and its tributaries and also conservation and abatement of pollution of other rivers. The Department is also allocated the subjects pertaining to regulation and development of inter-State rivers; implementation of awards of Tribunals; technical guidance, scrutiny, clearance and monitoring of the irrigation, flood control and multi-purpose projects; ground water management; flood proofing; water logging; sea erosion and dam safety.

Salient features of the Union Budget (2021-22) with regard to Water Resources Sector

1.3 On being asked about the Salient features of the Union Budget (2021-22) with regard to Water Resources Sector, the Department in their written reply stated as under:-

"Although no specific announcement has been made in the Union Budget (2021-22) pertaining to this Department, overall an allocation of Rs.69455.51crore has been made under various sectoral schemes being implemented by other Ministries/Departments, and Department of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation as detailed under:

Name of Ministry/Department	Name of Scheme	Allocation (Rs. in crore)
<i>Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers' Welfare , Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare - Demand No.1</i>	<i>Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana (PMKSY)- Per Drop More Crop</i>	<i>4000.00</i>
<i>Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs - Demand No.59</i>	<i>AMRUT (Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation)</i>	<i>7300.00</i>
<i>Ministry of Jal Shakti Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation - Demand No.62</i>	<i>Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM)/National Rural Drinking Water Mission</i>	<i>50011.00</i>
<i>Ministry of Jal Shakti Department of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation Demand No.61</i>	<i>Various Schemes</i>	<i>9022.57</i>
Total		70333.57

Budgetary Allocations for FY 2021-22

1.4 The detailed Demands for Grants in Demand No. 61 of the DoWR, RD & GR were laid on the Table of Lok Sabha on 11 February 2021. A total budgetary Provision of Rs. 9022.57 crore has been made for the fiscal year 2021-22. The following table shows the total allocation of Budget and Internal External Budgetary Resources (IEBR) for the DoWR, RD & GR for the year 2021-22:

Total Allocations (2021-22)

A. Budgetary

(Rs. in crore)

Revenue	8700.80
Capital	321.77
Total	9022.57

B. IEBR*

IEBR - NABARD	5130
Grand Total	14,152.57

1.5 In response to a query regarding the actual budgetary allocation sought by the Department, the Committee have been apprised by the Department as follows:

"Department of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation (DOWR, RD&GR) had projected a requirement of Rs.13380.86 crore including Rs.12392.35 crore for schemes. However, due to resource constraints, allocations for DOWR, RD&GR at Budget Estimates (BE) level have been kept at Rs.9022.57 crore including Rs. 8144.51 crore for schemes. While efforts will be made to sustain the progress of schemes/projects, approval/inclusion of some new projects under schemes may be affected to some extent. Additional requirement of funds would be sought at Revised Estimates (RE) stage to meet the additional requirement after reviewing the progress of works".

1.6 The budgetary allocation and utilization of the funds as well as the reasons for under-utilization of funds by the Department during the last four years are given as under:

Rs. in crore				
Year	BE	RE	Actual	Reasons for under-utilization
2017-18	6887.00	7660.00	5313.48	Pursuant to closure of National Clean Energy & Environment Fund (NCEEF) and unspent balances available with NMCG, releases under components of National Ganga Plan (savings of Rs.1550 crore) and Ghat Works (savings of Rs.50 crore) were restricted. Further, savings of Rs.380 crore incurred under the component of debt servicing of NABARD loan due to less drawls of state share loans under LTIF.
2018-19	8860.00	7612.52	7422.08	Allocation available to DOWR, RD&GR was reduced at RE level. The Department was able to utilize 98% of RE allocations.
2019-20	8245.25	7518.21	7418.60	Allocation available to DOWR, RD&GR was reduced at RE level. The Department was able to utilize 99% of RE allocations.
2020-21	8960.39	7262.09	5740.28*	Allocation available to DOWR, RD&GR has been reduced at RE level due to resource crunch. The Department utilized 79.04% of RE allocations till 31.01.2021, mainly due to lockdown restrictions. The expenditure booked now stands at Rs.6204.86 crore as on 15 th February, 2021, which is 85.44% of RE.

* Expenditure up to 31.01.2021.

1.7 On being asked the reasons for wide disparity between BE and RE allocations of the Department, the representative of the Department during the oral evidence on the subject held on 23.2.2021 stated as follows:

"...One point is that while our BE and RE have changed a lot, we consider PMKSY to be an exception, where there are extrinsic resources, in many places, we have their bills, But we are not able to release the money right now, because our budget is truncated. So, it is not a saving. It is a liability that we are going to carry over to the next year. We will have to pay those bills next year..."

1.8 Further elaborating on the issue, the representative stated as under:

"...Yes, it is because of shortage of resources. So, we need more money. We have bills. We have not released the money to the states either. In the program where we release 40 percent of the money to the states, we have told the states that right now we are releasing 10 percent of the money, you keep the work going. So, there are issues on which we think we are doing to keep our pipeline going because due to COVID there has been some slowdown. But the other reason is also that there is a resource crunch and that resource crunch is real..."

1.9 On the concern expressed by the Committee that non-release of funds to the States will adversely affect the financial resources of the State Governments, the representative stated as under:-

"...Sir, may I just clarify. I am not saying that we are releasing 10 per cent permanently against 40 per cent. I am saying in some schemes, there is a certain amount of advance release. We are restricting those advance releases to a lesser amount. The contribution will eventually be exactly what is envisaged in the scheme. That is not being truncated..."

Analysis of Demands for Grants

1.10 The following table shows the comparative analysis of the Demands for Grants (BE) for fiscal year 2021-22 vis-a-vis 2020-21:

(Rs. in crore)

Year	Revenue (BE)	Capital (BE)	Total
2020-21	8574.37	386.02	8960.39
2021-22	8700.80	321.77	9022.57

It may be seen from the above table that the total budgetary allocation for the year 2021-22 is Rs. 9022.57 crore, comprising of Rs. 8700.80 crore under 'Revenue Section' and Rs. 321.77 crore under 'Capital Section'. In comparison to last fiscal year, there is an

increase of Rs. 126.43 crore in the 'Revenue Section', however, there is a decrease of Rs. 64.25 crore under the 'Capital Section'. On the whole, there is an increase of Rs. 62.18 crore in demand for the year 2021-22.

Debt-servicing under LTIF:

1.11 The year-wise details of borrowings i.e. Extra Budgetary Resources (EBR) for central assistance and State share loan are as under:

(Rs. in crore)						
Year	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21 so far	Total
EBR for CA	5751.11	6534.78	5493.41	3813.30	3571.40	25164.00
State Share	3334.98	4825.72	8308.83	6656.48	2798.10	25924.11

The details of payments made to NABARD for debt servicing during last five years are as under:

Account head	(Rs. in crore)				
	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21 (so far)
Interest on EBR + NABARD Margin				1726.78	2011.96
Principal	44.66	610.11	1430.00	31.25	471.15
Interest Subvention				241.26	211.34
Total	44.66	610.11	1430.00	1999.29	2694.45

Note: Ministry of Finance introduced separate heads for principal, interest & interest subvention from FY 2019-20.

Implementation of Schemes/Programmes

1.12 A comparative analysis of the Budgetary Allocations for Central Sector Schemes/Projects; Centrally Sponsored Schemes; and Establishment Expenditure of the Centre (BE) for the fiscal year 2021-22 vis-a-vis 2020-21 is given as under:-

Sl. No.	Item(s)	2020-21		2021-22	% increase/decrease in 2021-22 over 2020-21 (BE)
		BE	RE	BE	
1.	Central Sector Schemes/Projects	2746.03	1966.39	2456.02	(-) 10.56
2.	Centrally Sponsored Schemes	5346.51	4490.96	5688.49	6.39
3.	Establishment Expenditure of the Centre	867.85	804.74	878.06	1.17
4.	Total	8960.39	7262.09	9022.57	0.69

* As shown in Expenditure Budget of Union Budget 2021-22.

1.13 The following schemes have witnessed increased allocations at the BE stage for FY 2021-22 vis-à-vis BE 2020-21:

Rs. in Crore

Name of Scheme	BE 2020-21	BE 2021-22	Reasons
Development of Water Resources Information System (DWRIS)	140	175 (increase of 25%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Need for outsourcing of manpower on increased no. of H.O. sites. Upgradation to advanced technology/equipment in data collection and related procurements.
Servicing of loans from NABARD under PMKSY	2675	3600 (increase of 34.58%)	Increased allocation has been necessitated due to the higher repayment liability on loans taken from NABARD and interest subvention during 2016-17 to 2020-21, releases proposed under approved projects being funded through LTIF, and for continuation of PMKSY-AIBP scheme including CADWM component in the 15 th Finance Commission period.
Atal Bhujal Yojana (ATAL JAL)	200	330 (increase of 65%)	During the year 2020-21, field implementation of this new Scheme initiated in 2020-21 was hampered due to the COVID 19 pandemic. Scheme implementation is expected to gather momentum in 2021-22.

1.14 The details of schemes which have witnessed decrease in allocations by 25% or more at BE 2021-22 level compared to BE 2020-21 is given as under:-

Name of Scheme	BE 2020-21	BE 2021-22	Reasons
Flood Management & Border Areas Programme (FMBAP)	750	342.99 (decrease of 54.26%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The scheme was approved in 14th Finance Commission only for completion of the spill over projects already approved under Flood Management Programme during 11th and 12th Plan periods. • The EFC for FMBAP Scheme for period 2021-26 is under finalisation and new projects as may be approved would be included. • Accordingly, provision for release of 1st installment of Central assistance has been kept at this stage and implementation of the scheme is not likely to be impacted, as sufficient funds are available to meet requirements for 1st installment under the projects. • Depending upon progress of schemes, if required demand for additional funds would be made at RE stage.
Infrastructure Development	50	20 (decrease of 60%)	Decrease in allocations will not impact the projects as this is based on actual assessed requirement.
Irrigation Census	50	15(decrease of 70%)	The funds are insufficient to meet requirements for FY 2021-22 for the scheme and Ministry of Finance would be requested to enhance allocations at RE stage so that the targets laid down for the implementation in the FY are not adversely affected.
DRIP	55	25(decrease of 54.54%)	The ongoing DRIP is scheduled for closure in March 2021. During FY 2021-22, financial provision has been proposed for closure activities by CWC, CSMRS and CWPRS. The closure activities include payment of liabilities in respect of CPMU Consultant hired under DRIP, payments due on account of procurement of equipment by CSMRS and CWPRS etc. The allocation is sufficient to meet the demands and would not affect performance of the Scheme.
NRCP(OB)	220	100(decrease of 54.54%)	Decrease in the allocation of fund will affect the project completion with scheduled time. However, the project proposals would be prioritised.

R&D and NWM	60	29.50(decrease of 50.83%)	Some of the research works / studies under the R&D scheme are likely to be delayed due to the reduction.
HRD & CB	50	29.50(decrease of 30.26%)	Reduction in allocations would not have major impact on ongoing activities due to slow progress in production of video spots, short films, animated videos etc. and shift to e-mode/ social media publicity under IEC component in pandemic situation. Classroom trainings by RGNGWTRI and NWA at respective institutes may be impacted. However, training programs are being conducted online and efforts would be made to meet the training requirements. The reduction is also on account of shift of GIA-salaries Rs.4.50 crore of NERIWALM to non-scheme establishment allocations of the Department.

1.15 On being enquired about the existing/continuing Schemes/Programmes which have been completed during the financial year 2020-21, the Department in a written reply stated as under:

"All schemes of DOWR, RD&GR are proposed to be continued into 15th Finance Commission period. However, Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Project (DRIP) is scheduled for closure in March 2021. An allocation of Rs.55 crore was made at BE level, which was reduced to Rs.30 crore at RE stage. Expenditure till date under the scheme is Rs.26.54 crore. A provision of Rs.25 crore has been kept in FY 2021-22 to meet spill over liabilities on account of procurement of equipment and services".

Atal Bhujal Yojana

1.16 When asked about the plans for launching, if any, new Programmes/Schemes by the Department during the financial year 2020-21, the Department in its written submission stated as follows:

"A new scheme namely Atal Bhujal Yojana (ATAL JAL) as approved by the Cabinet in December, 2019 was launched in FY 2020-21. The salient features of scheme are as under: -

- i. Implementation period 2021-2026.

- ii. A World Bank aided Central Sector Scheme with total outlay of Rs 6000 crore, out of which Rs.3000 cr. will be the loan from World Bank.
- iii. The scheme focuses on community participation and demand side interventions for sustainable ground water management in identified water stressed areas.
- iv. Being taken up in 9000 water stressed Gram Panchayats of 222 administrative blocks/ Talukas in 80 districts of seven states, viz. Haryana, Gujarat, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh.

Budgetary allocation under the scheme for financial year 2020-21 was Rs.200 crore which was reduced to Rs. 125 crore at RE stage. However, a token supplementary is proposed in the ongoing Budget Session of Parliament. An expenditure of Rs.41.88 crore has been incurred till 15.02.2021. It is expected that the RE allocations would be fully utilized once enabling supplementary is available, as many proposals are in readiness and awaiting approval".

Atal Bhujal Yojana

The details of budgetary allocation and expenditure for Atal Bhujal Yojana during 2020-21 and for FY 2021-22 is as follows:

Year	BE	RE	Actual
2020-21	200.00	125.00	36.22*
2021-22	330.00	-	-

(Rs. in crore)

** Note: The column 'Actual' for the FY 2020-21 depicts the actual expenditure position till 31.12.2020.*

1.17 On being asked about the reasons for drastically reducing the BE allocation of Rs. 200 crore to Rs. 125 crore at RE stage for fiscal year 2020-21 and again for hiking for the provision to Rs. 330 crore for FY 2021-22, the Department replied as under:

"Budgetary allocation of Rs.200 crore for FY 2020-21 was reduced to Rs. 125 crore as the overall allocations for the Department was reduced at RE stage. Also, field implementation of the Scheme was hampered due to the COVID 19 pandemic. For the year 2021-22, the budgetary allocation has been raised to Rs. 330 crore as the scheme is expected to pick up momentum with improvement in the pandemic situation".

1.18 When asked whether all the over-exploited blocks in the 80 water stressed districts in seven States where Atal Jal is being implemented are covered under the Scheme, the Department in a written reply stated as follows:

"The States for the implementation of the Scheme were identified based on a number of criteria, including degree of groundwater exploitation and degradation, established legal and regulatory instruments, institutional readiness and experience in implementing initiatives related to groundwater management. The districts, blocks and gram panchayats, in the identified States, have been selected by the respective State Governments considering the prevailing hydrogeological conditions and criticality of ground water situation.

Therefore, all over-exploited Blocks / Mandals / Taluks in 80 water stressed districts are not being covered at present under the Scheme".

1.19 As per the information furnished by the Department, districts which are having large number of 'over-exploited' blocks and yet to be covered under Atal Bhujal Yojana are as follows:

Districts having large number (> 50%) of Assessment Units (Blocks, Firqas, Mandals, Taluks) categorized as 'Over-exploited' as per Dynamic Ground Water Resources of India, 2017.

S.No.	State / UT	District
1	Delhi	New Delhi
2		North East Delhi
3		Shahdara
4		South Delhi
5		South East Delhi
6		South West Delhi
7	Haryana	Jind
8	Karnataka	Bengaluru (urban)
9	Madhya Pradesh	Indore
10		Ratlam
11	Punjab	Amritsar
12		Barnala
13		Faridkot
14		Fatehgarh Sahab
15		Ferozepur
16		Gurdaspur
17		Jalandhar
18		Kapoorthala
19		Ludhiana
20		Mansa
21		Moga

S.No.	State / UT	District
22		Mohali
23		Nawanshahar
24		Patiala
25		Sangrur
26		Tarn Taran
27	Rajasthan	Barmer
28		Bharatpur
29		Jodhpur
30		Nagore
31		Pali
32		Pratapgarh
33	Tamil Nadu	Chennai
34		Coimbatore
35		Dharmapuri
36		Dindigul
37		Karur
38		Namakkal
39		Perambular
40		Salem
41		Thanjavur
42		Thiruppur
43		Tiruvannamalai
44		Vellore
45	Telengana	Hyderabad
46	Uttar Pradesh	Amroha
47		Ferozabad
48		Ghaziabad
49		Hapur

1.20 To a question regarding non-inclusion of Punjab under Atal Jal Yojana, the representative of the Department during the evidence held on 23.2.2021 stated as follows:

"...There is a matter of including Punjab in the Atal Ground Water Scheme, many states did not show interest in the initial phase. It was decided to take up a limited number of states plus water stressed areas. Right now the CM, Punjab has written twice that Punjab should be included in it. They have been told that as we will be in a position to extend this scheme, we will think seriously about including Punjab..."

Ground Water Management and Regulation

1.21 As per the information furnished by the Department, Ground Water Management and Regulation (GWM&R) Scheme which is a Central Sector Scheme is under implementation since 12th plan (2012-17). The scheme was continued during 2017-2020 with an outlay of Rs. 1164 crore and has the following components:

- a. National Aquifer Mapping & Management Program –
- b. Ground Water Monitoring, Resource Assessment, Regulation, Information Dissemination etc
- c. Strengthening of infrastructure for technological upgradation (Machinery & Equipment)

1.22 The main objectives of the scheme are delineation of Aquifer disposition along with their characterization, Quantification of water availability and water quality parameters to formulate Aquifer Management Plans for facilitating sustainable management of ground water resources, Regulation and control of development and management of ground water resources, Periodic long term monitoring of ground water regime and Upgradation of technological capabilities and infrastructure of the Central Ground Water Board etc. The total area mappable under National Aquifer Mapping and Management (NAQUIM) is 24.78 lakh km². The cumulative targets under the Aquifer Mapping programme upto March 2021 is 16 lakh km² against which 14.78 lakh km² area has been covered since inception. The entire area identified for coverage under NAQUIM is to be completed by March 2023.

Allocation and Expenditure for Ground Water Management and Regulation Scheme

(Rs. in crore)

Year	BE	RE	Actual Expenditure	Reasons for under-utilization of funds	Reasons for variation between BE and RE
2015-16	163.00	163.00	138.57	Under the GWM&R scheme, data generation for Aquifer Mapping was envisaged to be taken up largely through outsourcing. Some of the activities envisaged through outsourcing were delayed as tenders could not materialize due to several issues.	No Variation
2016-17	303.39	115.00	112.25		
2017-18	500.00	275.00	254.44		
2018-19	450.00	260.00	260.20		
2019-20	260.00	243.18	239.32	There is only a marginal reduction in the RE vis-à-vis BE allocations. A Project Management Consultant was engaged for streamlining the works and procurements of machinery and equipment under the GWM&R scheme which improved utilisation of	No significant variation in the allocation.

				funds and the allocations under RE was utilized fully.	
2020-21	275.00	125.00	109.33 (as on 11.02.2021)	Due to Covid-19 related restrictions, some of the activities were delayed. Further, the RE allocations were reduced by the Ministry of Finance due to Covid-19 pandemic.	There was reduced budget allocations due to Covid-19 pandemic.

1.23 When asked about the reasons for hiking the budgetary allocation to the scheme to Rs. 275 crore for fiscal year 2021-22, when the RE allocation was just Rs. 125 crore in FY 2020-21, the Department in their written reply stated as follows:

"Allocations for FY 2021-22 have been increased as some of the activities envisaged to be executed during 2020-21 and impacted due to pandemic/resource crunch are expected to be undertaken during 2021-22, in addition to the works envisaged for the year 2021-22. Further, the proposed requirement for 2021-22 is nearly equal to the expenditure increased during 2017-18, 2018-19 and 2019-20".

1.24 During the course of oral evidence held on 23.2.2021, the Committee suggested that on the lines of the Ground Water Coordination Committees constituted at State level should also be constituted at District level Committees to which the Department responded positively.

Water Use Efficiency

1.25 When asked whether any comparative study regarding water use efficiency in respect of major cereal and commercial crops in the irrigation sector in India vis-a-vis international standards has been conducted, the Department in a written reply stated as follows:

"No specific study with regard to measuring water use efficiency in respect of any crop has been undertaken by the National Water Mission (NWM)/CWC and details regarding water use efficiency in respect of major cereal and commercial crops in the irrigation sector in India vis-a-vis international standards are not available. However, 'Sahi Fasal' campaign was launched by NWM to nudge farmers in the water stressed areas to grow crops which are not water intensive, but use water very efficiently; and are economically remunerative; are healthy and nutritious; suited to the agro-climatic-hydro characteristics of the area; and are environmentally friendly".

Future Water Demand			
Particulars	Water Demand in Km³ or BCM		
	2010	2025	2050
Water Demand from all Sectors	710	843	1180
Irrigation	557	611	807
Drinking Water	43	62	111
Industry	37	67	81
Energy	19	33	70
Others	54	70	111
Availability of Utilisable Water	1122	1122	1122
Excess / Shortfall	412	279	-58

Water Audit

1.26 Water auditing is a method of quantifying water flows and quality in simple or complex systems, with a view to reduce water usage and often saving money on otherwise unnecessary water use. It is a mechanism for conserving water. Ministry of Jal Shakti has notified the guidelines for regulation and control of ground water abstraction in India on 24.09.2020. These guidelines include mandatory provision for annual water audit by industries using more than 100 KLD of ground water. Such industries are required to reduce their fresh water consumption by 20% over a period of three years.

1.27 On being asked about the funds allocated and utilized during last three years, the Department in their written reply stated that no funds have been allocated and utilized by the Department for water audit. Water audit by the industries is to be carried out using their own funds.

Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana (PMKSY) - Har Khet Ko Pani (HKKP)

1.28 As per the written information furnished by the Department, Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) was launched in 2015-16 with an aim to enhance physical access of water on farm and expand cultivable area under assured irrigation, improve on farm water use efficiency, introduce sustainable water conservation practices etc. Har Khet Ko Pani (HKKP) is one of the components of Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY). The scheme of Surface Minor Irrigation (SMI) and Repair, Renovation and

Restoration (RRR) of Water Bodies has now become a part of PMKSY (HKKP). The SMI and RRR of Water Bodies schemes have multiple objectives like expanding cultivable area under assured irrigation, improving water use efficiency, Ground Water recharge, improvement and restoration of water bodies thereby increasing the tank storage capacity and revival of lost irrigation potential, increased availability of drinking water, improvement of catchment of tank commands etc. DoWR, RD&GR under Ministry of Jal Shakti provides Central Assistance (CA) to States for creation and restoration of Irrigation Potential (I.P.) under the SMI and RRR of Water Bodies schemes.

1.29 The Committee note that in the Demand for Grant of the Department, a Provision for grant to NWDA for debt-servicing of NABARD loan taken under LTIF has been kept under this component. Out of total provision of Rs.4500.50 crore for 2021-22, Rs.3600.00 crore is towards debt-servicing.

1.30 On being asked about the justification for such a huge amount 80% (approx.) of total PMKSY funds being kept for servicing of loans, the Department in a written reply stated as follows:

"The funding of all PMKSY projects of AIBP and CAD is being done through Extra Budgetary Resources raised by NABARD. The allocation under PMKSY is largely utilized for meeting the mandatory commitment of debt servicing to NABARD in addition to release of grants for SMI, RRR and Ground water projects.

As has also been stated in reply to Point No.7, increased allocation has been necessitated due to committed principal/interest repayment liabilities on loans taken from NABARD towards central assistance and interest subvention on state share during 2016-17 to 2020-21. Additional liabilities are expected on account of releases from LTIF proposed in the rest of FY 2020-21 and ongoing/new projects proposed under PMKSY-AIBP scheme including CADWM component in the 15th Finance Commission period for FY 2021-22, where Extra Budgetary Resources(EBR) of Rs.5130 crore are expected to be raised/released for LTIF funded projects".

Funding pattern under PMKSY – HKKP

1.31 When asked about the funding pattern under the PMKSY-HKKP scheme, the Department in a written reply stated as under: -

"The Central Assistance (CA) is in the form of central grant. Category wise funding pattern under different schemes is given below.

(a) Funding pattern for Surface Minor Irrigation (SMI) scheme

Sl. No.	Category	Funding Pattern
1.	Seven North-Eastern states including Sikkim & three Hilly states (Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir and Uttarakhand)	90 (Central) : 10 (State)
2.	Project benefitting special areas i.e, undivided Koraput, Bolangir and Kalahandi (KBK) districts of Odisha, Bundelkhand region of UP and MP, Marathwada & Vidharbha region of Maharashtra, Naxal affected areas, DPAP areas, Tribal areas, Flood prone area, Desert Development Programme (DDP) area of General Category States /UTs other states and Union Territories	60 (Central) : 40 (State)

(b) Funding pattern for Repair, Renovation and Restoration of Water Bodies scheme

Sl. No.	Category	Funding Pattern
1.	Seven North-Eastern states including Sikkim & three Hilly states (Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir and Uttarakhand)	90 (Central): 10 (State)
2.	Project benefitting special areas i.e. undivided Koraput, Bolangir and Kalahandi (KBK) districts of Odisha, Bundelkhand region of UP and MP, Marathwada & Vidharbha region of Maharashtra, Naxal affected areas, DPAP areas, Tribal areas, Flood prone area, Desert Development Programme (DDP) area of General Category States /UTs	60 (Central) : 40 (State)
3.	General Category States/UTs excluding the special areas	25 (Central): 75 (State)

(c) Funding pattern for PMKSY- Ground Water scheme

Sl. No.	Category	Funding Pattern
1.	Seven North-Eastern states including Sikkim & three Hilly states (Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir and Uttarakhand)	90 (Central): 10 (State)
2.	General Category States/UTs excluding the special areas	60 (Central) : 40 (State)

1.32 On being asked about the hindrances / constraints faced in the implementation of the scheme, the Department in a written reply stated that Budget constraints at Central and

State level, less working seasons and difficult terrain in Hilly and North East region etc. hinder timely completion of the 'Har Khet Ko Pani' Schemes.

Repair, Renovation & Restoration (RRR) of Water Bodies

1.33 The Department of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation in a written note furnished to the Committee have stated that the Repair, Renovation and Restoration (RRR) of Water Bodies Scheme under PMKSY aims at revival of irrigation potential by improvement and restoration of water bodies along with other multiple objectives such as enhancing the tank storage capacity, ground water recharge, increased availability of drinking water, improvement of catchment of tank commands etc. It covers rural water bodies having minimum water spread area of 5.0 hectare and urban water bodies having water spread area from 2.0 hectare to 10.0 hectare. Detail of Central Assistance(CA) released and Irrigation Potential (IP) revived under the scheme during last three years are given as below.

2017-18		2018-19		2019-20		2020-21	
CA (Rs. in Crore)	IP achieved in thousand Ha						
79.65	30.601	24.80	16.958	64.79	5.274	35.79	Yet to be reported by State.

1.34 When asked about the measures taken by the Department to strengthen monitoring mechanism for protection and conservation and abatement of pollution in Water Bodies, the Department in a written reply stated as under:

"Works related to water resources development & management are planned, funded, executed and maintained by the State Governments themselves as per their own resources and priorities. In order to supplement the efforts of the State Governments, Government of India provides technical and financial assistance to State Governments to encourage sustainable development and efficient management of water resources through various schemes and programmes such as scheme for Repair, Renovation and Restoration (RRR) of Water Bodies under Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) – Har Khet Ko Pani (HKKP).

Works related to protection and conservation and abatement of pollution in Water Bodies, comes under the purview of State Government concerned. Further, it is to mention that water bodies included under RRR of water bodies schemes are encroachment free".

Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP)

1.35 The Committee have been informed by the Department that under PMKSY (AIBP), 99 projects have been prioritized for completion by December 2019. Out of these 99 prioritized projects (and 7 phases), 44 projects have been completed as on 31.12.2020. Both Central Assistance and State Share for these projects are being provided from NABARD under LTIF. State Share is being provided at an interest rate of 6% and rest of the interest cost is borne by the Central Government.

1.36 The year-wise details of State Share borrowed through NABARD, Central Assistance released and its utilization through expenditure incurred on PMKSY-AIBP works since inception are as under:

Rs. in Crore

Year	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21 so far	Total
State Share loan through NABARD	3324.51	4717.27	8300.58	6367.76	2604.53	25314.65
CA released	3307.88*	3593.60	2849.07	1738.76	1082.71	12572.02
Expenditure from State budget	4132.17	2031.31	1179.62	1979.85	Inputs from States awaited	9322.95
Total Exp	10764.56	10342.18	12329.27	10086.37		43522.38

* Out of Rs. 3307.88 crore CA released during 2016-17 under AIBP, Rs. 824.9 crore was through budgetary resources and the balance through EBR

Micro Irrigation

1.37 As per the written information furnished by the Department, the targeted Culturable command area (CCA) of included projects is 45.08 lakh hectares. The total estimated cost of works for these 88 projects is Rs.18799.34 crore and total estimated Central Assistance (CA) is Rs. 8271.30 crore. Total CA amounting to Rs. 2677.70 crore has been released from 2016-17 till December 2020 for on-farm development works including micro irrigation infrastructure in the States. As per information provided by States, CCA of 14.85 lakh ha has

been developed including micro irrigation infrastructure for 15000 Ha. This is around 2.5% of CCA of 610000 hectares targeted to be developed with micro-irrigation infrastructure.

1.38 On being asked about the steps taken for increasing the adoption of modern technology in micro irrigation, the Department in a written note submitted as under:-

"Under CADWM Scheme operated by the Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation (Do WR, RD &GR) , financial assistance is also given to the States for creation of Micro irrigation infrastructure in the canal irrigated commands. It is provisioned in the CADWM scheme that micro-irrigation shall cover at least 10% of the targeted CCA of the Project. Central Assistance @ 50% are being provided with a cost norm of Rs.50,000 per hectare for development of micro irrigation infrastructure covering construction of sump, installation of water pump, and laying of piped conveyance system up to the field head".

1.39 The Committee note from the Annual Report (2019-20) of the Ministry of Jal Shakti – Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, that the devices – such as sprinkler/ rain gun/ drip sets etc. – needed to be installed by individual farmers below farm outlets are not part of the micro irrigation infrastructure. Farmers are expected to bear the cost of such devices or avail subsidies available in extant scheme of the Ministry of Agriculture.

1.40 When asked about the details of various schemes/programmes under which farmers are provided financial assistance for installing devices – such as sprinkler/ rain gun/ drip sets etc, the Department in a written reply stated as follows:

"For farm level intervention (for installing devices – such as sprinkler/ rain gun/ drip sets etc), farmers can avail financial assistance from the extant scheme of PMKSY- Per Drop More Crop (PDMC) operated by Ministry of Agriculture and Farmer Welfare. Under PDMC, financial assistance is provided @ 55% to small & marginal farmers and @ 45% to other farmers for installation of Micro Irrigation. In addition, the following Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) of Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmer's Welfare is providing financial assistance to farmers for installation of Micro Irrigation as one of the intervention to achieve the objective of the schemes:

- i. Mission on Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH): Providing financial assistance for installation of drip irrigation as a part of integrated package in establishing new horticulture gardens.*

- ii. *National Food Security Mission & Oilseeds: Providing financial assistance to farmers to establish Micro Irrigation Systems in cultivation of food grain crops, oil seeds and oil palms to save the irrigation water".*

1.41 On being asked about the major bottlenecks/constraints faced in the implementation of Schemes under Micro Irrigation, the Department in a written reply stated as under:

"In so far as CADWM is concerned, major constraints in adopting a small extent of coverage for micro irrigation management under the well established water rotational system in the existing irrigated command. Other hindrances include unwillingness of the farmers to adopt micro-irrigation owing to high initial cost of micro-irrigation infrastructure. Efforts are being made with convergence with other schemes to offset this high capital cost.

Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmer's Welfare has reported the following constraints

- i. The scheme is demand driven by the farmers. The farmers have to contribute their corresponding share of the total unit cost of the Micro Irrigation systems. Most of the farmers are small and marginal and are not able to afford their share.
- ii. The Himalayan States and North Eastern States are lagging in adoption of micro Irrigation due to various factors like high rainfall, poor infrastructure, small size of land holding and lack of adequate energy support".

Namami Gange

1.42 Government of India (GOI) has launched the Namami Gange Program to accomplish the twin objectives of effective abatement of pollution, conservation and rejuvenation of the National River Ganga and its tributaries with a total budgetary outlay of Rs.20,000 crore for the period from FY 2014-15 till 31/12/2020.

1.43 On being asked about the amount spent under various components under the Scheme till 31 December 2020, out of the earmarked amount of Rs. 20,000 crore, the Department in a written reply submitted as follows:

"Out of the earmarked amount of Rs.20,000 crore under the scheme, a total of Rs.9,781.38 crore has been spent under the various components till 31st December".

1.44 A statement showing the status of implementation of various projects under Namami Gange Programme, as on 31st January, 2021 is given at Annexure-I.

Namami Gange

Projects Status as on 31st January, 2021

SI No	Projects Undertaken	No of Projects	Sanction Cost (Rs in Cr)	No of Projects Completed	No of Projects Under Progress	No of Projects Under Tendering	AA&ES issued	Total Expenditure (Rs in Cr)
Sewage Infrastructure								
1	Sewage Infrastructure	156	23521.27	56	75	21	4	7226.09
2	Modular STPs Decentralized Treatment	1	410.00	0	0	1	0	0.00
3	Industrial Pollution Abatement	15	1267.37	0	13	2	0	187.20
4	Bioremediation	16	250.52	2	11	0	3	35.49
5	Rural Sanitation	1	1421.26	0	1	0	0	1020.44
	Sub Total	189	26870.42	58	100	24	7	8469.22
River Front Development, Ghats & Crematoria								
1	Old Ghats & Crematoria (Projects under NRCP/NGRBA-in State of West Bengal)	24	204.39	24	0	0	0	180.16
2	Ghats & Crematoria(New Projects under Namami Gange Programme)	53	887.67	30	19	3	1	563.09
3	River Front Development	1	336.73	0	1	0	0	308.52
4	Ghats Cleaning	3	49.28	0	3	0	0	25.32
5	River Surface Cleaning	1	33.53	0	1	0	0	17.51
	Sub Total	82	1511.60	54	24	3	1	1094.60

Namami Gange

Projects Status as on 31st January, 2021

Institutional Development (Non -Infrastructure)

Sl No	Projects Undertaken	No of Projects	Sanction Cost (Rs in Cr)	No of Projects Completed	No of Projects Under Progress	No of Projects Under Tendering	AA&ES issued	Total Expenditure (Rs in Cr)
1	Ganga Knowledge Center	6	143.95	1	5	0	0	23.03
2	Ganga Monitoring Center	1	46.69	0	1	0	0	0.00
3	District Ganga Committee	1	2.30	0	1	0	0	0.00
4	Project Implementation Support/Research & Study Projects/Public Relations and Public Outreach	16	247.46	5	8	0	3	92.70
5	Composite Ecological Task Force and Ganga Mitra	5	199.29	3	2	0	0	70.80
	Sub Total	29	639.69	9	17	0	3	186.53
Afforestation & Bio-diversity Conservation								
1	Afforestation	26	392.28	15	11	0	0	231.82
2	Biodiversity Conservation	9	164.06	6	3	0	0	34.74
	Sub Total	35	556.34	21	14	0	0	266.56
Grand Total		335	29578.05	142	155	27	11	10016.91

1.45 Elaborating on the Physical progress made under the scheme, the Department in its written submission furnished the following information:

"Cleaning of River is a continuous process and GOI is supplementing the efforts of the State Governments in addressing the challenges of pollution of river Ganga by providing financial and technical assistance. Since 2011, towards cleaning of Ganga, 156 Sewerage infrastructure projects (118 on main stem of Ganga and 38 on tributaries of Ganga) have been taken up with a sanctioned cost of Rs. 23521.27 crore for creation of new sewage treatment capacity 3,785.46 Million Litres per Day (MLD), rehabilitation of 1081.89 MLD capacity and laying of around 5066.02 KM sewerage network. As on Dec 2020, 56 of these projects have been completed resulting in creation of 789.9 MLD of Sewerage Treatment Plant (STP) capacity and laying of 3347.23 KM sewerage network. As far as Ganga main stem towns are concerned, against the estimated sewage generation of 2,953 MLD from the 97 towns along main stem of river Ganga, the current sewage treatment capacity has been enhanced to 2181 MLD. Projects for further addition of 1134 MLD treatment capacity have also been taken up and are at various stages of implementation. The pace of these projects have gathered momentum and all efforts are being made to complete these projects well within the respective timelines".

1.46 On the issue of non-achieving the envisaged targets under the Namami Gange, one of the representatives of the Department during oral evidence DFG (2021-22) held on 23.2.2021 stated as follows:

"...Sir, your understanding is correct. I would like to throw light with your permission that out of our 156 sewerage projects, there are also projects on the Ganges and projects on its tributaries. Projects were given priority by the government only for the main stream of Ganga in the initial years. So Ganga has 113 projects on the mainstream, out of which we have completed 53 projects. Its percentage is good, but the projects of other subsidiary rivers have been done in the year 2018-19..."

1.47 Further, elaborating on the subject, the witness stated:

"...There is a discussion about our progress. It is true that so far we have not spent 20 thousand crores, our expenditure will go further. This is a long-term mission. We are getting all the money. I tried to show in the chart that it took time to get some policy decision to make the project in the initial two-three years. We will bring hybrid annuity, long-term O&M. Since the year 2018, we have an expenditure of about 10 thousand crore rupees, about seven thousand crore rupees in the last three years. Now our work has gathered momentum. All the projects have been grounded, most of the projects

have been sanctioned. Many projects of the Ganga's mainstream work have been completed and almost all tenders have been awarded. Now we will speed up the pace as soon as possible..."

1.48 The Committee note that the allocation for Namami Gange including National Ganga Plan, National River Conservation Plan and Ghat Works for Beautification of River Front has been pegged at Rs. 1450.02 crore at BE stage for the fiscal year is 2021-22, whereas the BE allocation for the same for FY 2020-21 was Rs. 1640.02 crore which was reduced to Rs. 1300 crore at RE stage for FY 2020-21.

1.49 When asked about the reasons for increasing the BE allocation under the Scheme for FY 2021-22 by Rs. 150.02 crore vis-a-vis RE allocation for FY 2020-21, the Department stated as follows:

"RE allocation for the Department as a whole, including under this scheme have been curtailed by the Ministry of Finance due to resource constraints. The increase in the allocation at BE level in FY 2021-22 is to meet the requirement of funds for various on-going projects, which are at the advance stages of completion.

Under Namami Gange Programme till 31st December 2020, a total of a total of 333 projects have been sanctioned at an estimated cost of Rs. 29571.36 crore, out of which 140 projects have been completed and made operational; rest of the projects are at various stages of implementation. Further, out of these 333 Projects, 156 belong to Sewerage Infrastructure. However, only 56 of these Projects have been completed".

1.50 On being asked about the reasons for completion of only 56 Projects of sewage infrastructure so far, which is one of the important components of Programme, the Department in their written reply stated as under:

"There are some delays in completion of various projects/works under the programme across all the five river basin states of the river Ganga. However, most of the sewerage projects sanctioned in Uttarakhand have been completed well within scheduled time.

During the implementation of projects bottlenecks like delay in tendering process, retendering, non-availability of land, natural calamities like flood, delay in permission from local authorities and other agencies like National Highways Authority of India (NHA) & Railways on road and railways cutting/crossing etc. are noticed.

In F.Y. 2020-21, major issue faced is Nationwide Lockdown due to Covid-19 pandemic; shortage of labour at project sites due to migration of labour to native places in fear of

Covid-19; restrictions imposed by local administration due to Covid-19 cases and sealing of project sites due to Covid-19 case in unlock phase".

Clean Ganga Fund (CGF)

1.51 The Union Cabinet approved in September 2014 the creation of Clean Ganga Fund (CGF) with the objective of raising contributions from the public, residents, Non Resident Indians (NRIs), Persons of Indian Origin (PIO) and others for financing various activities related to Ganga Rejuvenation. In January 2015, a Trust has been created under the Chairmanship of the Union Finance Minister for operationalisation of CGF.

1.52 Asked about details of funds received and utilized during last three years under Clean Ganga Fund, the Department in their written reply stated as follows:

Details of funds received and utilized during the last three years under Clean Ganga Fund are as under: -

Financial Year	Donation	Interest	Total	Rupees in crore
				Expenditure
2017-18	46.54	11.16	57.70	0.29
2018-19	99.25	15.63	114.88	54.66
2019-20	44.43	23.06	67.49	35.85
Total	190.22	49.85	240.07	90.80

1.53 As per the Trust Deed of CGF, the Board of Trustees should ordinarily meet once in three months or as often as might be necessary for the conduct of the affairs of the Trust satisfactorily. When asked to furnish the details of number of meetings held by the Board of Trustees of CGF since creation of Clean Ganga Fund, the Department in their written reply stated as under:

"Three meetings of the Board of Trustees of Clean Ganga Fund have been held till date as under:

i. First meeting - 29 May 2015

ii. Second Board of Trustees meeting held through 'circulation'

iii. Third meeting - 03 October 2019"

National Water Mission Scheme (NWM)

1.54 The Department has informed the Committee that the Government of India has established National Water Mission as one of the eight National Missions under the National

Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC). The Union Cabinet approved (on 6th April, 2011) the comprehensive Mission Document for National Water Mission (NWM). The main objective of NWM is “conservation of water, minimizing wastage and ensuring its more equitable distribution both across and within States through integrated water resources development and management”. NWM has identified five goals as under:-

1. Comprehensive water data base in public domain and assessment of the impact of climate change on water resource,
2. Promotion of citizen and state actions for water conservation, augmentation and preservation,
3. Focused attention to vulnerable areas including over-exploited areas,
4. Increasing water use efficiency by 20%, and
5. Promotion of basin level integrated water resources management.

1.55 Various strategies for achieving the goals have been identified which lead to integrated planning for sustainable development with active participation of the stakeholders. In pursuance to the approval accorded by the Union Cabinet to the National Water Mission, a Mission Directorate was established in the Ministry of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation. Implementation of National Water Mission (NWM) is a Central Scheme of the Department of Water Resources River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation, M/o Jal Shakti with total financial outlay of Rs.196 crore (Rs.one hundred ninety six crore only) for the XII Plan period has been approved by the Ministry of Finance vide MoWR office order dated 27.11.2013. Scheme has been extended upto 31.03.2021 and is being considered for further continuation.

Implementation of the National Water Mission scheme has following components

- National Water Mission Directorate
- Preparation of State Specific Action Plan for Water Sector
- Human Resource Development and capacity building and mass awareness programme
- Setting up of National Bureau of Water Use Efficiency
- Baseline Studies
- Demonstration/Benchmarking/Pilot Projects

During FY 2021-22, Rs.29.50 crore has been provided at BE level under the scheme of Research & Development and National Water Mission.

1.56 On being asked to furnish details regarding budgetary allocation *vis-à-vis* fund utilization during each of last 5 years under NWM, the Department furnished the following information:

Rs. in Crore			
Year	Budget Estimate (BE)	Revised Estimate (RE)	Expenditure
2015-16	20.00	9.00	6.74
2016-17	25.00	5.00	4.45
2017-18	15.00	5.00	1.17
2018-19	20.10	6.56	5.99
2019-20	5.00	5.00	4.34

1.57 As regards the budgetary allocations and functional autonomy of NWM, the Mission Director, NWM during the course of oral evidence on the subject "Groundwater: A Valuable But Diminishing Resource" held on 18.1.2021, stated as follows:

"There is one submission regarding the National Water Mission is though it is in the Ministry of Jal Shakti, but our budget is not appropriate because we have got only a budget of about Rs. Six crore. So, I would request the Committee that if you could recommend to increase our budget and also for more functional autonomy, that would be helpful".

1.58 On being asked about the views / opinion of the Department with regard to the issue of functional autonomy and lower budgetary allocation for NWM, the Department in its written submission stated as follows:

"NWM was constituted as a mission to implement the goals on a Mission Mode. However, NWM still functions as a Wing of the Department. Limitations of administrative and financial powers, constraints of regular officers/staff, reduction in budget were the major bottlenecks in the implementation of the projects. Posting of a regular Mission Director, posting of regular officers of Department in the Mission, and engagement of consultants and young professional for Mission are expected to address establishment issues. NWM has taken several e-initiatives viz. online Water Talks etc. which have partly addressed issue of financial restrictions also".

1.59 During evidence on the subject held on 23.02.2021, the representative of the Department has apprised the Committee that 'Jal Shakti Abhiyan' is going to be launched

next year for which more funds will be required. The Secretary of the Department added that the Mission may need more funds and options are being explored to fund the same.

1.60 In this regard, it may be appropriate to mention that the Committee in their 3rd Report (17th LS) on DFG (2020-21) had recommended that the National Water Mission needed to be made independent of the Ministry in order to realize its full potential and to function as per its stated mandate.

National Bureau of Water Use Efficiency (NBWUE)

1.61 The Annual Report 2019-20 of the Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation states that it is proposed to set up a “National Bureau of Water Use Efficiency (NBWUE)” through a notification under Article 3(3) of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. The proposed Bureau will have the overall responsibility of improving water use efficiency across various sectors namely irrigation, drinking water supply, power generation, industries, cities etc. in the whole country.

1.62 In the preliminary material furnished to the Committee in connection with the examination of the DFG (2021-22), the DoWR, RD & GR stated that a note for Committee on Establishment Expenditure has been prepared and circulated for inter-ministerial consultation. It further stated that it is a time consuming process as it involves consultation with stakeholders concerned and that since the proposal is at nascent stage, no financial allocation could be made.

1.63 When asked about the timeline for setting up NBWUE, the Department in its written submission stated as under:

"Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance has directed that the proposal for setting up of National Bureau of Water Use Efficiency (NBWUE) may be re-submitted for appraisal of Committee on Establishment Expenditure (CEE) in the next financial year 2021-22. Since various appraisals/approvals are involved, at this stage, it would be difficult to precisely commit a time frame for actual setting up of NBWUE. However, it is likely to be finalized in the next financial year".

1.64 In this connection, it would be appropriate to recapitulate the historical background of the efforts for setting up NBWUE.

1.65 During the course of examination of DFG (2013-14) (15th Lok Sabha), the Committee were informed by the Department that the National Bureau of Water Use Efficiency (NBWUE) will be operationalised in 2013-14, subject to approval of EFC. Further in their

Action Taken Reply on the observations / recommendations contained in the said Report, the Department stated that efforts are being made to secure the approval of EFC of National Water Mission (NWM) and to set up NBWUE under Section 3(3) of Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 during the financial year 2013-14.

1.66 Further, during examination of DFG (2015-16), the Department had apprised the Committee that the Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC) had recommended for setting up NBWUE in 2013 with Rs. 50 crore allocation in XII Plan towards this. While examining the Demands for Grants (2015-16), The Committee had again noted that despite the EFC's recommendation for setting up NBWUE in 2013, the organisation was not formed. The then MoWR, RD and GR (Now Ministry of Jal Shakti – Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation) in their action taken reply had stated that the draft Cabinet Note for establishment of “National Bureau of Water Use Efficiency (NBWUE)” was approved by the Hon'ble Minister (W, RD&GR) and the same has been circulated to concerned Ministries for the comments vide O.M. No. 11/8/2012-NWM dated 12.05.2015. The Department in their Annual Report (2015-16) have stated that the draft Cabinet note has been circulated for inter-ministerial consultations and responses have been received. The clarifications sought by NITI Ayog, MoEF and CC and PMO are under consideration of the Ministry.

National Hydrology Project

1.67 As per information furnished by the Department, National Hydrology Project (NHP) has been approved by the cabinet on 06.04.2016 as central sector scheme with a total outlay of Rs.3679.7674 crore [Rs.3,640 crore for National Hydrology Project (NHP) and Rs.39.7674 crore for establishment of National Water informatics Centre (NWIC) as a repository of nation-wide water resources data].

1.68 NHP is a Central Sector Scheme, with 100% grant to the States with World Bank Assistance to the tune of 50% of the project cost. It has pan India coverage with 49 Implementing Agencies (IAs) (including 10 from Central Government and 39 from States). The project has a total duration of 8 years from 2016-17 to 2023-24.

1.69 The objective of the scheme is to improve the extent, quality, and accessibility of water resources information, decision support system for floods and basin level resource assessment/planning and to strengthen the capacity of targeted water resources professionals and management institutions in India.

Project Concept:

Modernizing Monitoring network: The project will establish & strengthen monitoring networks in project states, with a focus on deploying new sensors, data storage, and telemetry technologies across the whole country, to establish comprehensive, modern, automated, real-time monitoring systems for surface water and ground water.

Transforming Knowledge Access: The project will build on the dramatic advances in cloud computing, internet, mobile devices, social media and other communication tools to modernize access to and visualization of customized water information by different stakeholders.

Enhancing Analytical Tools: The project will develop and demonstrate tools for water resources assessment, hydrologic and flood inundation forecasting, water infrastructure operations, ground water modeling, and river basin and investment planning.

Modernizing Institutions: The project will complement technology investments with investments in people and institutional capacity. Support will be provided for developing centers of expertise, innovative learning approaches, collaboration with academia and research institutes, and outreach programs. Office and equipment will be modernized to streamline workflows to effectively leverage the technology investments.

Allocation and Expenditure for National Hydrology Project

(Rs. in crore)

Year	BE	RE	Actual
2015-16	10.00	2.00	0.70
2016-17	165.00	54.93	51.77
2017-18	300.00	185.00	177.89
2018-19	250.00	80.00	79.22
2019-20	150.00	150.00	144.71
2020-21	200.00	135.00	87.56*

* The Column actual for the FY 2020-21 depicts the actual expenditure position till 31 December 2020.

1.70 On being asked about the reasons for wide disparity between the BE and RE allocations for NHP during last six years barring the year 2019-20, the Department stated as under:

"NHP was approved by the Cabinet during 2016-17 hence, only preparatory works could be taken up in FY 2015-16. During 2016-17 also, only preparatory activities like signing of Memorandum of Agreements with the Implementing Agencies (IAs), Legal agreement with the Bank, Capacity building of IAs, placement of Technical Assistance

and Management Consultancy etc, establishment of SPMUs, opening of bank accounts etc. could be taken up, having only nominal financial implications.

After signing of loan agreement with the World Bank in 2017-18, exhaustive effort on capacity building of 48 Implementing Agencies for following World Bank procurement procedures etc. were taken up. The procurement process got spilled over the next financial year 2018-19. As most of activities under NHP are of scientific nature, not covered under conventional rate of schedule of rates and also spread over remote locations of the country, these involved challenges related to field implementation. Therefore, the procurement process could not culminate into expenditure as per budget estimate in FY 2018-19. The efforts for capacity building, streamlining of processes etc. in initial year have started yielding results with effect from financial year 2019-20 and the pace of expenditure has accelerated".

1.71 When asked as to whether there is sufficient manpower (both technical and non-technical) to carry out the activities relating to National Hydrology Project, the DoWR, RD & GR in their written reply stated as under:

"No issues are faced at Central level. However, National Hydrology Project is being implemented through involvement of around 48 Implementing Agencies in which there is a provision of establishment of management units by all the Implementing Agencies. In most of the implementing agencies, the PMUs are being managed by through regular establishments having additional charge of PMUs. Considering the constraints being faced by a number of Implementing Agencies on the issue of outsourcing, National Project Management Unit (NPMU) and Technical Assistance and Management Consultancy (TAMC) are putting extra efforts to support such Implementing Agencies. Further, online management system has also been developed in a comprehensive manner for automation of processes as well as to support the Implementing Agencies in discharging their assigned activities. This arrangement has lead to mitigation of problem to a significant extent related to insufficient manpower with Implementing Agencies".

Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)

1.72 As per information furnished by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs on the basis of filings made by the companies in MCA 21 registry, the amount spent for CSR by all companies, including PSUs during the last three years (upto 30.09.2020) is as under:-

PSU/Non PSU	Total No. of Companies (FY2017-18)	Amount Spent for CSR during FY2017-18 (Rs in crore)	Total No. of Companies FY 2018-19	Amount Spent for CSR during FY2018-19 (Rs in crore)	Total No. of Companies FY2019-20	Amount Spent during FY2019-20 (Rs in crore)
PSU	535	2704.32	609	3835.50	14	438.29
Non PSU	20915	11185.53	24323	14819.32	1061	7384.21
Grand Total	21450	13889.86	24932	18654.82	1075	7822.50

1.73 When asked to furnish details regarding the quantum of CSR funds both in absolute terms and percentage wise earmarked and spent on water conservation Schemes during each of the above said Financial Years (year-wise) as well as percentage of funds under CSR being spent by the Water Intensive Industries on ground water recharge and water conservation, the Department in its written submission stated as follows:

"The data requested is not available with DoWR, RD & GR. The matter would be taken up with Ministry of Corporate Affairs and Committee apprised in the matter".

1.74 On being asked about the details of funds earmarked and utilized by WAPCOS under Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) in water sector during last five years, the Department in a written reply stated as under:

"However, in so far as WAPCOS is concerned, the Corporate Social Responsibility Policy of the Company is governed by the guidelines issued by Department of Public Enterprises and Ministry of Corporate Affairs, from time to time.

During the year 2016-17 and 2017-18 the focus was more on Swachh Bharat Mission and Sanitation activities. In 2018-19 the Department of Public Enterprises assigned 5 Aspirational Districts to WAPCOS with focus on taking up CSR activities in School Education and Health Care. In 2019-20 the Department of Public Enterprises advised PSUs to focus on CSR activities in the areas of School Education, Healthcare & Nutrition. Considering the above guidelines, CSR activities in WAPCOS were taken up accordingly".

Details of CSR expenditure by of WAPCOS during last three FYs is given in table below.

WAPCOS CSR Expenditure during last three Financial Years:					
Financial Year	Budget Allocation during F.Y	Total Expenditure incurred during F.Y	Percentage wise (%) total Expenditure incurred during F.Y	Expenditure incurred on water Conservation Schemes during F.Y	Percentage wise (%) Expenditure incurred on water Conservation Schemes (% of Budget Allocation)
2019-20	352.07	390.10	110.80%	19.50	5.53%
2018-19	302.83	398.08	131.45%	12.87	4.24%
2017-18	267.75	302.95	113.14%	25.08	9.36%

1.75 On the issue of earmarking CSR funds for water conservation schemes, the Committee took cognizance of the statement of Union Jal Shakti Minister on the occasion of giving away the National Water Mission Awards-2019, where he stated that only four per cent of funds earmarked for CSR funds were spent on water conservation.

WAPCOS

1.76 WAPCOS Limited is a “MINI RATNA-I” Public Sector Enterprise set up under the aegis of the MoJS, DoWR, RD & GR. Incorporated on 26th June, 1969 under the Companies Act, 1956; WAPCOS is a technology driven Consultancy and Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) organization with strong home country and global presence in the field of Water, Power and Infrastructure sectors. The quality management systems of WAPCOS comply with the Quality Assurance requirements of ISO 9001:2015 for Consultancy Services in Water Resources, Power and Infrastructure Development Projects.

1.77 In response to a query whether there is any proposal under consideration to divest/disinvest WAPCOS and to list it on Stock Exchanges in order to unlock the value of Company, the Department replied in affirmative and apprised the Committee that necessary action is being taken by the Company.

1.78 On being asked whether the Government guidelines issued under Companies Act 2013 with regard to requisite number of Independent Directors and female Director to be nominated to the Board of Directors of WAPCOS, is being followed the Department in a written reply stated that though these guidelines do not apply to WAPCOS, however, the Company is following these guidelines.

1.79 When asked to furnish the details of Independent Directors and female Directors in position on the Board of Directors of WAPCOS as on 31st January 2021, the Department stated as under:

"Independent Directors:

Sanctioned - 03

In Position - 01

Vacant - 02 (Necessary action to fill the vacant positions is being taken by the DoWR, RD & GR)

Female Directors: - 01"

Himalayan Glacier System

1.80 As per Annual Report- 2019-20 of Department Of Water Resources , DST has approved a project proposal entitled "Integrated Hydrological Studies for Upper Ganga Basin up to Rishikesh" under the National Mission for Sustainable Himalayan Ecosystem (NMSHE). This project, in January, 2016 at total cost of Rs.13.04 Crore, which envisages to focus on issues of comprehensive integrated hydrological studies for upper Ganga basin up to Rishikesh. Under this project, , two sub –projects , namely –(i) Glacial Lakes & Glacial Lake Outburst Flood (GLOF) in Western Himalayan region and (ii) Assessment of downstream impact of Gangotri glacier system at Dabrani and future runoff variations under climate change scenarios, have been taken up.

1.81 On being asked about the latest status on hydrological studies, with respect to the aforesaid two sub projects on Himalayan glacier system, the Department in a written reply stated as under:

"Latest status on the referred sub-projects is narrated below:

i. Sub Project "Glacial Lakes and Glacial Lake Outburst Flood (GLOF) in Western Himalayan region"

The objectives of the study are preparation of inventory of glaciers and glacial lakes, identification of vulnerable lakes and GLOF modeling. To carry out this study, four basins: Sutlej, Beas, Chenab and Ganga have been selected. Inventory of glaciers and glacial lakes have been prepared using satellite data since 1990 at regular interval.

The lakes have been categorized into Glacial-erosion, Moraine-Dammed and Ice-dammed lakes. The vulnerable lakes in the basins of Sutlej, Beas, Chenab and Ganga have been identified on the basis of standard criterion i.e. area change and location of lakes etc. The database for hydrodynamic modeling for these vulnerable

lakes have been prepared. The simulation of GLOF for all the four basins have been carried out using hydrodynamic model HEC-RAS 1D.

The report preparation is under progress.

ii. Sub Project: Assessment of downstream impact of Gangotri glacier system at Dabrani and future runoff variations under climate change scenarios

The objectives are

1. Modelling Glacier, Snow and Rainfall components in the stream flow at Dabrani
2. Assess the role of glaciers in regulating the inter-annual runoff variations at Dabrani.
3. To establish a cryosphere response to climate variables through climate downscaling and runoff modelling and
4. Assessment of future runoff variations at Dabrani in response to climate change.

Snow cover variations in the study basin during 2002-2019 is established. Lower elevations experience snow cover decline, especially in the month of December while higher elevation experience increase in snow cover at the end of the ablation suggesting elevation depended response of snow to the changing climate.

Discharge at Maneri is modelled and Snow, glacier and rainfall components were estimated. Runoff stability in assessed and May/June and September/October flow has shown increased inter-annual variations and July/ August experiencing a stable regime forced by glacier contribution.

REMO and RegCM-4.5 data were biased corrected using station data and projection upto 2100 were generated. Model run for future projections were carried out and snow, glacier and rainfall components were estimated. Glacier inventory of Upper Ganga basin in updated upto 2014 and sub-basin scale snow, glacier and rainfall component is being assessed.

Final report preparation is in progress".

1.82 On being asked to furnish a detailed note on the causes for the recent glacial outburst in Chamoli district in Uttarakhand, the Department in a written note stated as under:-

"Dhauliganga River is one of the tributaries of Alaknanda River and it confluences the Alaknanda River at Vishnuprayag at the base of Joshimath mountain in Uttarakhand.

A devastating flashflood occurred on Dhaul Ganga river which initiated from the upper glacier region of Ronti gad which flowed into Rishi Ganga and then Dhaul Ganga and fed into Alakanada River in Chamoli district. Origin of the flood is being getting clearer from input coming from across the globe. Satellite images are the key source of information followed by visuals of aerial reconnaissance survey. On the basis of information available so far, it seems breaking of a hanging glacier of approx.1 km long and 500 m wide from the northern slope in the Ronti gad catchment. Location of the hanging glacier was Lat: 30°22'40.62"N, 79°43'57.66"E. This hanging glacier situated at an elevation range of 4695- 5550 m a.s.l. having an area of 0.59 km² fell into Ronti gad at 3800 m a.s.l. originating from Trishuli glacier. Satellite images show the hanging glacier at its place on 6th February and vacated on 7th February. Hence, it is clear that the event happened during the intervening period. Other possibility investigated was occurrence of any Glacial Lake Outburst Flood(GLOF). However, no evidence of any such events could be located in the satellite images. Initial estimate suggest that the hanging glacier could have a volume equivalent to 6-10 MCM. Initially the glacier slid through a 33° slope of approx.1.7 km and then covered a approx. 13 km stretch having mean slope of ~9° before the confluence with Rishi Ganga river. The area experienced heavy snow fall couple of days before. It seems that snow/glacier melted during its transport by the frictional heat generated. Along the way, it picked up huge debris load and possibly reached at lower elevation as debris flow".

1.83 The Rishiganga Hydro-Electric Project got severely damaged and Tapovan Project on river Dhauliganga project also got damaged in the sudden impact of the flood. detailed damage report has not been received from Government of Uttarakhand as the rescue operations are still continuing and then only survey of damages could be conducted. The Flood Monitoring Station at Joshimath on river Alaknanda downstream of the confluence of river Dhauliganga flowed in *Extreme Flood Situation* when it crossed the previous Highest Flood Level (HFL) and attained a peak of 1388.60 m on 7th February 2021 compared to its previous HFL of 1385.54m on 16th June 2013. On River Alaknanda CWC is maintaining a flood forecasting Station at Srinagar in Pauri Garhwal District. However, downstream of Joshimath, the floods got moderated.

1.84 Further apprising the Committee about the tragic incident of 7 February 2021, the Chairperson of the Central Water Commission (CWC) during evidence held on 23.2.2021 stated as follows:

"...Sir, there was an event on 7 February in Uttarakhand. The glacier there is a slide. The height of that glacier was about 5500 meters. It slide down. That was a drop of 2,500 meters. The Rishganga River is the tributary of Alaknanda. The Gadela Nala of the Rishiganga, there it created an artificial blockade of the river and a landslide dam was formed which was comprising of glacial materials. Because of that lake, there is a problem right now. That lake is still there. About 0.7 MCM storage is available in it. We are daily monitoring that lake. Now we are trying to break that lake to remove its storage in the control way. The incident that took place on February 7, that is the one of kind of an incident that happened. There is a lot of damage in it. But it was a tragic and sudden accident. We do not have a forecasting system for that. Our systems are installed, the station there is in Joshimath. The incident took place about 40 kilometers upstream. There we do not have any monitoring system but we are planning to put our monitoring system in those areas..."

1.85 Elaborating on the steps taken by the Department after the tragic incident, the witness stated as under:

"Sir, in the incident which took place on 7th February, immediately, a joint group was formed including Central Water Commission, NIH, Roorkee, NRSA, DRDO, ITBP and all those organisations, which have a knowledge base in that area. We are sharing all the information. We are evaluating all the information we are gathering so that we can develop a forecast system to avoid such accidents in the future. We are continuously talking to all these organizations. The size of the artificial lake which has been built there, its size estimation has been given. We have done dam-break modelling studies so that in the case of a sudden breach of that dam, what will be the outflow from that dam and its downstream effect will be evaluated. By dipping that channel, the 70-80 percent volume of that lake is around eight meters from the top, we will remove 80 percent of the volume by dipping it slowly, then completely removing the land slide dam control blasting or control removal through two or three months. After that incident, we are constantly talking to all the concerned agencies and we are planning to do this for the broadcast system in the upstream area, for snow measurement, and for stabilization, which is useful for all of us".

1.86 Further elaborating on the planning to monitor the glacier lakes, the witness informed the Committee as follows:

"Sir, India has 477 glacier lakes with a size of over 50 hectares. As of now we are monitoring these 477 lakes. If there is any abnormal increase in their size, then we are doing the broadcast issue or to give a warning on it. In India there are about 2038

which are of size 10 hectares. Now we are planning to monitor all those 2038 lakes. In future we will be monitoring those lakes also".

1.87 When asked about any study conducted by the Department to assess the adverse impact of construction of Hydro Electric Projects and dams in upper Ganga river basin causing flash floods in the region and also their impact on Glacial Outbursts including the recent Glacial Outburst in Chamoli district of Uttarakhand, the Department in its written submission stated as follows:

"National Water Mission is funding a project titled "Hydro-geological Assessment and Socio-Economic Implications of Depleting Water Resources in Tourist towns of Uttarakhand". The project will be executed by Centre for Ecology Development & Research (CEDAR), in collaboration with Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Roorkee and Forest Research Institute, Dehradun. The study site of the project is Himalayan town of Nainital, Uttarakhand.

The execution of the project will develop a deeper understanding of critical water zones and help identify areas critical to water recharge. The project will augment the understanding of inputs and outputs of lake systems. It will identify recharge zones and it's dynamics on which lake functions. The database created and the success stories resulting from the project will be of use to other cities in the Himalayan region and add to the corpus of scientific literature through research papers".

Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Project – Phase II and Phase III

1.88 According to the Department, the Union Cabinet has approved the Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Project (DRIP) Phase II & Phase III with the financial assistance of the World Bank (WB), and Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) each with 250 million US Dollar to improve the safety and operational performance of selected dams across the whole country, along with institutional strengthening with system wide management approach. The budget outlay is Rs 10,211 crore with 19 States and 3 Central Agencies on board with rehabilitation for 736 dams. The Project will be implemented over a period of 10 years duration in two Phases, each of six years duration with two years overlapping. The Scheme is likely to be effective in May/June 2021. The civil works contract for approximately Rs. 825 crore under evaluation and award stage.

1.89 To a query regarding, inclusion of big dams, particularly Hirakud Dam under DRIP, the representative of the Department during evidence held on 23.2.2021 stated as follows:

"...Sir, Odisha Government is included in this. However, the Odisha government has included a small dam of Rs 100 crore. They have not yet included Hirakud Dam in it.

We are persuading with the Odisha government that the work of Hirakud Dam should be included in it. We are following up with the Odisha Government.

Sir, in fact, we want that all the dams which are iconic, like BBMB is Srisaïlam, these are big dams, which can cause a lot of loss of life and property due to failure, they have all been included in it. But, it should have a consensus from all the states, like in BBMB, we have got consents from everyone, but yet to get consensus from one of Punjab Unit, which we are resolving. In this, the state is borrowing back-to-back from World Bank. Our role is that we are serving the nodal agency. We are constantly moving forward with the states. It has a lot of flexibility. We have taken approval of 23 states from the cabinet. As the states get ready, they can also bring additional dams. This is the scope in this program..."

PART II

OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS

Analysis of Demands for Grants

2.1 The Committee note that a total budgetary allocation of Rs. 9022.57 crore comprising of expenditure of Rs. 8700.80 crore under Revenue Section and Rs. 321.77 crore under Capital Section, has been made for the Ministry of Jal Shakti - Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation (DoWR, RD &GR) for the financial year 2021-22 to implement various schemes/projects which are under the administrative control of the DoWR, RD & GR. The Committee note with concern that against the Department's projected BE of Rs.13380.86 crore including Rs.12392.35 crore for schemes, due to resource constraints, allocation to the Department has been pegged at Rs. 9022.57 crore. The Committee further note that during 2020-21, the budgetary allocation of Rs. 8960.39 crore made at BE stage was later revised to Rs. 7262.09 crore at RE stage. The overall budgetary allocation for Financial Year (FY) 2021-22 has shown less than 1 % increase i.e. a meagre increase of 0.69% as compared to the FY 2020-21 Budgetary Estimates (BE) which seem to be grossly inadequate to meet the targets assigned to the Department. The Committee express their concern over the current financial state of the Department and its inability in convincing Ministry of Finance to make adequate BE allocations, notwithstanding the fact that the Secretary, DoWR, RD & GR time and again flagged the issue of inadequate budget before the Committee. The Committee recommend the Ministry to take up the matter with Ministry of Finance so that the budgetary allocations is enhanced suitably to achieve the physical targets set during the year 2021-22.

(Recommendation 1)

2.2 The Committee are constrained to note that most of the major Schemes under the Department have undergone a substantial cut of at least 25% in their budgetary allocations vis-a-vis 2020-21 (BE allocations) barring two schemes namely Development of Water Resources Information System and Atal Bhujal Yojana, which have witnessed substantial increase in budgetary allocations (25% and 65%. respectively) vis-a-vis 2020-21 (BE allocations). The Committee have been apprised by the Department that due to truncated budget for 2020-21 at the RE stage, they could release only 10% of the advance payment against 40% to the States in some schemes,

which is certainly a committed liability that would be carried forward to next fiscal year. The Committee are of the view that this will hurt the already strained finances of the State Governments. The Committee are of the view that cut in projected allocation by Rs. 4358.29 crore would compel the Department to scale down execution of schemes and may prevent the Department from launching any new programme/scheme in the Fiscal year 2021-22. The Committee therefore recommend that the Department should take up the matter with the Ministry of Finance to suitably raise allocation at the Revised Estimates (RE) stage so that the priorities and timelines set for implementation of programmes / schemes of the Department in the FY 2021-22 are not adversely affected.

(Recommendation 2)

Under-Utilization of Budgetary Resources

2.3 The Committee note that over the years the Budgetary Support / allocation to the Department has been gradually decreasing at RE stage barring the fiscal year 2017-18. The Committee are of the opinion that continuous decrease in budgetary allocation at RE level is not only symptomatic of the poor financial planning by the Department but also render the original budgetary allocations losing their sanctity. It also indicates the inability of the Department to cash the cheques the Centre writes. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Department should focus on streamlining and strengthening the monitoring mechanisms and plug loop holes in the implementation of various schemes / programmes in order to ensure that the outlays earmarked for them are fully utilized and there may not be any scope for decrease at RE stage. Further, the Department should diligently carry out pre-budget exercise and also apply best available methodology in making more pragmatic and prudent budgetary estimates in order to avoid major deviations at RE level.

(Recommendation 3)

Increasing Committed Liability

2.4 The Committee observe that out of total budgetary allocation of Rs. 9022.57 crore for FY 2021-22 in respect of the Department, as much as Rs. 3600 crore which is almost 40 % of the total allocation has been kept for repayment of loans and other liabilities under Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) leaving a net budgetary allocation of only Rs. 5422.57 crore for the various schemes /activities of the Department. Besides the Department has been permitted to borrow an amount of

Rs. 5130 crore from the NABARD in BE 2021-22 for bridging the resource gap. The Committee are of the view that as the increase in committed liability of the Department on account of huge borrowing and servicing of loans, which is a large proportion of the budgetary allocation has greatly impaired the leverage of the Department in financing its ambitious and important projects. The Committee urge the Department to approach the Ministry of Finance for one time waiving off its committed liability so as to enable the Department to allocate more funds to the various important programmes which are facing resource crunch. The Committee would like to be apprised of the steps taken by the Department in this regard.

(Recommendation 4)

Atal Bhujal Yojana

2.5 The Committee note that a new scheme namely Atal Bhujal Yojana (ATAL JAL) as approved by the Cabinet in December, 2019 has been launched in FY 2020-21 with an outlay of Rs. 6,000 crore, to be implemented over a period of 5 years (2020-21 to 2024-25). Out of the total outlay of Rs. 6,000 crore, 50% will be in the form of loan from the World Bank and the balance 50% will be in the form of matching contribution from the Government of India. The objective of the Scheme is to improve the management of groundwater resources in the water stressed areas through community participation in identified priority areas in 7 States, viz. Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh, by way of promoting community led ground water management and behavioral changes with primary focus on demand side management. The Committee note that for FY 2020-21, the BE was kept at Rs. 200 crore which was reduced at RE stage to Rs. 125 crore i.e. by 37.5 %. During evidence the Department stated that a token supplementary demand is proposed to be made in the ongoing Budget Session of Parliament and it is expected that the RE allocations would be fully utilized once enabling supplementary grant is made available, as many proposals are in readiness and awaiting approval. However, given the fact that upto the third quarter of FY 2020-21 ending on 31.12.2020, only 29% of revised allocation could be utilized by the Department, the Committee are not much confident that the entire RE allocation would be utilized by the end of Financial Year 2020-21 i.e. till 31.3.2021. The Committee further observe that though the scheme is being implemented in 80 districts of 7 States, at present all the over-exploited Blocks / Mandals / Taluks in 80 water stressed districts are not covered under the Scheme. The Committee do not agree with the Department's contention that the blocks and gram panchayats, in the identified districts, have been selected by the respective State

Governments considering the prevailing hydrogeological conditions and criticality of ground water situation, since it is a pilot project, Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) should work more closely with State Governments to impress upon them to cover all the over-exploited blocks in the identified 80 water stressed districts. The Committee also note that a number of States like Punjab, Tamil Nadu and Delhi having large number of districts where more than 50 % of Assessment Units (Blocks, Firqas, Mandals, Taluks) which have been categorized as 'Over-exploited' as per Dynamic Ground Water Resources of India, 2017 have not been covered under the scheme. The Committee recommend that the scheme should be broad based and implemented at Pan India level so as to cover all the water scarce regions and districts of the country particularly in those states having large number of over-exploited blocks. The Committee would like to apprised of the action taken by the Department in this regard within 3 months of presentation of this report.

(Recommendation 5)

Ground Water Management and Regulation

2.6 The Committee note that the Ground Water Management and Regulation Scheme has been launched with an objective for overall development, management and regulation of ground water in the country. However, the Committee observe that actual expenditure under this head has been lower vis-a-vis allocated funds especially against BE allocation. In FY 2016-17, the actual expenditure was only Rs. 112.25 crore as against BE of Rs. 303.39 crore. Similarly only 254.44 crore was spent against BE allocation of Rs. 500 crore in 2017-18 and in FY 2018-19, only Rs. 260.20 crore was incurred against BE allocation of Rs. 450 crore. The Committee also find that barring the financial year 2015-16, the budgetary allocations have been constantly reduced at RE level leaving lesser resources for carrying out the programme. Given the fact that the ground water levels in many parts of the country are rapidly depleting coupled with deteriorating water quality to a large extent, the Committee urge the Department to make concerted efforts for full utilization of allocated budgetary resources under such an important Scheme. Further, the Committee recommend that the accountability should be fixed on the persons and implementing agencies for under-utilization of funds under the scheme as it has very implications for health of groundwater resources in the country. The Committee also find wide variation between BE and RE allocations under this scheme every year. For the year 2016-17, the BE allocation was Rs. 303.39 crore which was reduced to Rs. 115 crore at RE stage. Similarly, for 2017-18 and 2018-19, BE was pegged at Rs. 500 crore and 450 crore, whereas at RE stage it

was reduced to Rs. 275 crore and Rs. 260 crore respectively. This indicates lack of proper financial planning and foresightedness on the part of the Department in estimating the actual requirements at the beginning of Financial year resulting in huge alteration in budgetary allocations at RE stage. Besides, frequent adjustment of the funds at RE stage undermines the budget credibility. The Committee therefore recommend the Department to take steps to streamline its budgetary estimation system so as to avoid huge variation in BE and RE allocations. The Committee recommend that with a view to increasing the efficacy in the implementation of the Scheme, the Ground Water Coordination Committees should also be constituted at District level as well.

(Recommendation 6)

Need for a study to assess the water use efficiency

2.7 The Committee note that though a 'Sahi Fasal' campaign has been launched by National Water Mission to encourage farmers in the water stressed areas to grow crops which are not water intensive and use water very efficiently, no specific study with regard to measuring water use efficiency in respect of any crop has been undertaken by the National Water Mission (NWM) / Central Water Commission (CWC). The Committee are also perturbed to learn that the data regarding water use efficiency in respect of major cereal and commercial crops in India vis-a-vis international standards is also not available at present. The Committee note from the submission of the Department that the water use in the irrigation sector is the biggest component of total water demand in the country which was appx. 78.50% of the total water demand in the 2010, and is projected to be around 72.50% and 68.40% in the year 2025 and 2050 respectively. The Committee are of the considered view that in the present scenario of fast depletion of the water resources both surface and ground water improving the water usage efficiency is the need of the hour and therefore recommend the Department to commission a study to assess the water use efficiency regarding the major cereal and commercial crops in India vis-a-vis international standards in order to ensure prudent and economic use of water by agricultural sector.

(Recommendation 7)

Water Audit

2.8 The Committee are pleased to note that the Ministry of Jal Shakti has notified the guidelines for regulation and control of ground water abstraction in India on

24.09.2020. These guidelines include mandatory provision for conducting annual water audit by industries using more than 100 Kilo Litres Per Day(KLD) of ground water which are required to reduce their fresh water consumption by 20% over a period of three years. However, the Committee find that Water audit by the industries is to be carried out using their own funds. The Committee recommend that steps should be taken by the Department to ensure that bulk water consuming industries are complying with these guidelines.

(Recommendation 8)

Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP)

2.9 The Committee note that 99 projects in 7 phases have been prioritized for completion by December 2019 under the AIBP. However, as on as on 31.12.2020, only 44 Projects could be completed under the scheme despite taking a huge loan of Rs. 37,061.77 crore (including central assistance and state share loan through NABARD) between the years 2016-17 till 2020-21 from NABARD for financing these Projects. The Committee are apprehensive that going by the pace at which these projects are being constructed, it will take decades to complete the envisaged projects. Since the financing of these Projects are done through LTIF by way of loan, the Committee recommend that Department should take steps to streamline and strengthen its monitoring mechanism and use latest technologies and to plug the loopholes and the deficiencies observed in the implementation of the projects, so that all the pending projects are completed within the revised schedule and that there are not further cost and time over-runs.

(Recommendation 9)

Repair, Renovation and Restoration (RRR) of Water Bodies

2.10 The Committee note that RRR is a part of Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana (PMKSY) - Har Khet Ko Pani (HKKP) Programme, the objective of which is revival of irrigation potential by improvement and restoration of water bodies along with other multiple objectives such as enhancing the tank storage capacity, ground water recharge, increased availability of drinking water, improvement of catchment of tank commands etc. It covers rural water bodies having minimum water spread area of 5.0 hectare and urban water bodies having water spread area from 2.0 hectare to 10.0 hectare. The Committee note that at present the funding pattern under RRR scheme is 90 (central): 10 (State) for seven North Eastern States including Sikkim & three Hilly states (Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir and Uttarakhand), while for General Category States/UTs excluding the special areas it is 25 (central): 75 (State). For

project benefiting special areas, it is 60 (central): 40 (State). Considering the precarious financial situation of the States which is accentuated by COVID-19 pandemic, the Committee urge upon the Department to take up the matter with the Ministry of Finance for exploring the feasibility of changing the funding pattern to 90 (central): 10 (State) under the scheme. The Committee are concerned to note that under RRR scheme, against the release of Central Assistance (CA) of Rs. 79.65 crore during FY 2017-18, 30.601 thousand Ha of Irrigation Potential (IP) was created. However in the year 2019-20, as against CA of Rs. 64.79 crore made available, IP of only 5.274 thousand Ha could be created which is grossly inadequate. The Committee would, therefore, like to be apprised of reasons such a huge reduction in IP creation in 2019-20 vis-a-vis that of the year 2017-18.

(Recommendation 10)

2.11 In so far as encroachment of water bodies and their unabated pollution, the Committee do not agree with the contention of the Department that the works related to protection and conservation and abatement of pollution in Water Bodies, comes under the purview of State Government concerned. Considering the fact that central assistance is being provided to the States for taking repair, renovation and restoration of water bodies, the Department cannot escape from its obligation by shifting the onus to the States on the plea that it belongs to States. The Committee, therefore, call upon the Department to take proactive measures in consultation with the respective States to prevent encroachments of water bodies and to abate pollution in water bodies.

(Recommendation 11)

MICRO IRRIGATION

2.12 The Committee note that under CADWM scheme the Department of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation provides financial assistance to the States for creation of Micro irrigation infrastructure in the canal irrigated commands. It is provisioned in the CADWM scheme that micro-irrigation shall cover at least 10% of the targeted CCA of the Project. Central Assistance @ 50% are being provided with a cost norm of Rs.50,000 per hectare for development of micro irrigation infrastructure covering construction of sump, installation of water pump, and laying of piped conveyance system up to the field head. The Committee are concerned to note that out of total CCA of 610000 hectares targeted to be developed with micro-irrigation infrastructure only 2.5% of Culturable command area (CCA) i.e. 15000 Ha has been developed till December, 2020. The Department has also informed that besides

CADWM, under the extant scheme of PMKSY- Per Drop More Crop (PDMC) operated by Ministry of Agriculture and Farmer Welfare, the farmers can also avail financial assistance for installing devices – such as sprinkler/ rain gun/ drip sets etc. However, unwillingness of farmers to adopt micro-irrigation owing to high initial cost of micro-irrigation infrastructure is cited as the major constraint. The Committee are of the view that owing to the fact that agriculture sector is the biggest water consuming sector in India and that adverse impact of irrigation through conventional methods have manifested in the form of fast depletion of groundwater, water logging and declining soil health, micro-irrigation is the only way forward to achieve sustainability in agriculture sector. Therefore, the Committee recommend that the Ministry in consultation with Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare should find ways and means to propagate the micro irrigation by encouraging and incentivizing the farmers to adopt micro irrigation by hiking/enhancing the capital subsidies, and if necessary, review and revamp the CADWM scheme. Further the Department should make concerted efforts for convergence of the scheme with other schemes to reduce the high capital cost of micro irrigation equipment.

(Recommendation 12)

Namami Gange

2.13 The Committee note that the Government of India has launched the Namami Gange Programme to accomplish the twin objectives of effective abatement of pollution, conservation and rejuvenation of the National River Ganga and its tributaries with a total budgetary outlay of Rs.20,000 crore for the period from FY 2014 -15 till 31.12.2020. However, out of the earmarked amount of Rs.20,000 crore under the scheme, a total of Rs.9,781.38 crore has been spent under the various components till 31st December 2020. The Committee further note that under the Namami Gange Programme, as on 31.1.2021, a total of 335 Projects have been sanctioned at an estimated cost of Rs. 29,578.05 crore, out of which expenditure of Rs. 10016.91 have been spent. Further, the Committee note that since 2011, towards cleaning of Ganga, 156 Sewerage infrastructure projects (118 on main stem of Ganga and 38 on tributaries of Ganga) have been taken up with a sanctioned cost of Rs. 23521.27 crore for creation of new sewage treatment capacity of 3,785.46 Million Litres per Day (MLD), rehabilitation of 1081.89 MLD capacity and laying of around 5066.02 KM sewerage network. However, as on December 2020, only 56 of these projects have been completed resulting in creation of 789.9 MLD of Sewerage Treatment Plant (STP) capacity (just around 21% of envisaged target) and laying of 3347.23 KM sewage network implying around 66%. of the target. The Committee while appreciating the

progress made under Namami Gange Programme, however, are constrained to observe that the implementation of this Programme has not been able to keep pace with the envisaged timelines. Taking cognizance of the slow pace of implementation of the projects and consequent lower expenditure incurred, the Committee urge upon the Department to make all out efforts so that Projects may now be completed in a time bound manner without any further delay and cost overruns. The Committee recommend that a Study be commissioned to analyse and assess the conditions of river beds on the basis of which, efforts may be made to maintain an optimum level of river bed.

(Recommendation 13)

Clean Ganga Fund (CGF)

2.14 The Committee observe that Clean Ganga Fund was constituted with the approval of Union Cabinet with the aim of raising contributions from the public, residents, Non Resident Indians (NRIs), Persons of Indian Origin (PIO) and others for financing various activities related to Ganga Rejuvenation. In January 2015, a Trust has been created under the Chairmanship of the Union Finance Minister for operationalisation of CGF. As per the trust deed of the CGF, the Board of the Trust should ordinarily meet once in three months or as often as might be necessary for the satisfactory conduct of the affairs of the Trust. However, the Committee are constrained to note that the trust had met only thrice since its constitution in the year 2015. Further the Committee find that there was an expenditure of just 0.29 crore against corpus of Rs. 57.70 crore in the year 2017-18, Rs. 54.66 crore of expenditure against total fund of Rs. 114.88 crore in the year 2018-19 and 35.85 crore expenditure against the corpus of Rs. 67.49 crore in the year 2019-20 which goes to show poor utilization of funds. The Committee desire that Board of Trust should meet more often and at periodic intervals so as to monitor the progress of the fund activities and step up utilization of funds covered under the CGF.

(Recommendation 14)

National Water Mission

2.15 The Committee find that under the scheme 'Research and Development and Implementation of National Water Mission', there was gross under- utilization of budgetary allocations during last 5 years. While during FY 2015-16, the actual

utilization was only 33.7% against the BE allocation of Rs. 20 crore, it drastically fell to 7.8% of budgetary allocation of Rs. 15 crore in FY 2017-18 and in FY 2018-19, it was 29.80% of the budgetary provision of Rs. 20.10 crore. It was only during the FY 2019-20 that there was substantial utilization of funds to the extent of 86.8% of budgetary provision of Rs. 5 Crore. However, on the other hand, the Committee find that simultaneously, the budgetary provision for NWM which was Rs. 20 crore in the year 2015-16 had been curtailed drastically to Rs. only 5 crore in FY 2019-20. For fiscal year 2021-22, an amount of Rs. 8 crore has been allocated for the Scheme. The Committee find it difficult to comprehend such a huge reduction in budget allocation to such an important scheme when compared to the BE allocation of Rs. 20 crore given in the year 2015-16. The Mission Director, NWM during the oral evidence on the subject “Groundwater: A Valuable But Diminishing Resource” held on 18.1.2021 appealed to the Committee for augmentation of budgetary resources and bestowing more functional autonomy for effectively carrying out the mandate of the Scheme. The Secretary of the Department during the evidence held on 23.2.2021 in connection with the examination of the DFG (2021-22) has also admitted that the programme 'Jal Shakti Abhiyan' to be launched under NWM next year will need more funds and the ways and means are being explored to fund it. The Committee are constrained to observe that though the National Water Mission has been established by the Government of India as one of the eight National Missions under the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC), nevertheless it has not been able to achieve the desired outcomes. The Mission has also been plagued by lower budgetary support. The Committee recommend that with a view to accomplish the objectives of the National Water Mission i.e. conservation of water, minimizing wastage and ensuring its more equitable distribution both across and within States through integrated water resources development and management in a time-bound manner, adequate funding should be provided and more functional and financial autonomy should be bestowed upon NWM in order to enable the Mission to discharge its functions effectively and achieve the goals set under the Mission.

(Recommendation 15)

National Bureau of Water Use Efficiency (NBWUE)

2.16 The Committee note that the “National Bureau of Water Use Efficiency (NBWUE)” was proposed to be set up through a notification under Article 3(3) of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. The proposed Bureau will have the overall responsibility of improving water use efficiency across various sectors namely

irrigation, drinking water supply, power generation, industries, cities etc. in the whole country. From the written submission made by the Department in connection with the examination of DFG (2021-22) the Committee find that a note regarding the setting up of NBWUE has been prepared and circulated for inter-ministerial consultation. It has been further stated that it is a time consuming process as it involves consultation with stakeholders concerned and that since the proposal is at a nascent stage, no financial allocation could be made in FY 2021-22. The Committee in this regard would like to recapitulate the chronology of events regarding efforts for setting up NBWUE. In the year 2013, an allocation of Rs. 50 crore has been made for the purpose of setting up NBWUE after approval from EFC in XII Plan itself. Further, a draft cabinet note was approved by the Hon'ble Minister (W, RD&GR) which was circulated for inter-ministerial consultations to concerned Ministries vide O.M. No. 11/8/2012-NWM dated 12.05.2015 and the responses were also received. However, it was then stated by the Department that clarifications as sought by NITI Ayog, MoEF & CC and PMO were under consideration of the Ministry. The Committee find that in its latest written submission to the Committee, the Department is silent as to what progress has been made regarding those clarifications sought by NITI Ayog, MoEF&CC and PMO. Taking cognizance of the aforesaid chronology of events, the Committee cannot but conclude that the Department has displayed callous and lackadaisical attitude in establishment of proposed National Bureau of Water use efficiency. The Committee, considering the importance and role of increased water use efficiency in framing a critical response to growing water scarcity in the country including the need to maintain sustainability of water resources including water bodies and sustain water ecosystems and in meeting the growing demands of cities and industries, reiterate its recommendation to make all out efforts to set up NBWUE with statutory powers at the earliest without any further delay as it would play a significant role in improving water use efficiency and also making users accountable for wastage of water.

(Recommendation 16)

National Hydrology Project (NHP)

2.17 The Committee note that NHP is a Central Sector Scheme, with 100% grant to the States with World Bank Assistance to the tune of 50% of the project cost for establishment of National Water Informatics Centre (NWIC) as a repository of nation-wide water resources data. It has pan India coverage with 50 Implementing Agencies (IAs) (including 11 from Central Government and 39 from States). The Committee are disheartened to observe that there was a persistently under-utilization of budgetary

allocations under the scheme during the last few years. In the year 2016-17, actual expenditure was only Rs. 51.77 crore as against budgetary allocation of Rs. 165 crore. Similarly, there was an expenditure of mere Rs. 177.89 crore and Rs. 79.22 crore vis-a-vis BE allocation of Rs. 300 crore and Rs. 250 crore during FY 2017-18 and 2018-19 respectively. It is only in the FY 2019-20, there was substantial utilization of funds i.e. Rs. 144.71 crore against BE provision of Rs. 150 crore. The Department have attributed reasons for poor utilisation to the preparatory work in initial years of formation of NHP such as building capacity of Implementing Agencies (IAs), establishment of State Project Monitoring Units (SPMUs) and delay in procurement process in later years for under-utilization of funds. It has been stated that preparatory work of initial years has began to show positive results from FY 2019-20 resulting in accelerating the pace of expenditure. The Committee also find wide disparity between BE and RE in respect of the National Hydrology Project except for the year 2019-20 when BE and RE allocation has remained the same i.e. Rs. 150 crore. The Committee recommend that the Department should maintain budgetary discipline, and undertake proper pre-Budget planning and exercises and also make necessary changes in its procedure for budgetary estimations so that prudent budgetary allocations are projected / made at BE stage and strive for full utilization of budgetary allocations made.

(Recommendation 17)

2.18 The Committee also note that a number of Implementing Agencies (IAs) are facing constraints in carrying out their job on account of outsourcing under NHP and that National Project Monitoring Unit (NPMU) and Technical Assistance and Management Consultancy (TAMC) are making efforts to support such Implementing Agencies. The Committee cannot but emphasise the pivotal role played by the NHP in providing an enabling platform to the various Implementing agencies on pan-India basis for taking informed decisions related to scientific management of precious water resources in the country. However, limitations of under-utilization of budgetary allocations and shortage of adequate manpower in number of IAs are stated to be major bottlenecks in the implementation of the NHP. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Department should take suitable measures for effective utilization of funds and address the problems arising out of lack of adequate staff in implementing the NHP programme, so that the NHP achieve its intended objectives, for which it had been set up.

(Recommendation 18)

Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)

2.19 From the written submission made by the Department, the Committee have come to learn that the details / data regarding the quantum of CSR funds both in absolute terms and percentage wise earmarked and spent on water conservation and ground water recharge schemes by the Water Intensive Industries are not maintained by the Department. The Committee recommend that Department should take up this issue very seriously and set up an exclusive cell in the Department to compile the data and also monitor and analyse the trends of amount spent by the industries both PSUs and Private companies on water conservation and ground water recharge schemes.

(Recommendation 19)

2.20 The Committee observe that in the year 2017-18 an amount of Rs. 302.95 crore was spent by WAPCOS on CSR activities, of which around 8.27% (Rs. 25.08 crore) was spent on water conservation scheme. In the year 2019-20, though the total expenditure by the Company on CSR rose to 390.10 crore, however, the expenditure on water conservation schemes was reduced to Rs. 19.50 crore which is just 5% of the total expenditure. The Department have stated that the corporate social responsibility policy of the WAPCOS is governed by the guidelines issued by Department of Public Enterprises and Ministry of Corporate Affairs, from time to time. The Committee, while taking cognizance of the fact that the Union Minister for Jal Shakti himself had lamented over the fact that only 4 percent of CSR funds are spent on water, the Committee recommend that the Department should approach the Department of Public Enterprises and Ministry of Corporate Affairs and persuade them to allow WAPCOS which is operating in water sector to spend more of its CSR funds on water conservation related schemes. Further, apart from providing the funds, the corporate sector should also share their expertise and technical knowledge in the field of water conservation with State agencies for carrying out their various water conservation programmes. The Committee also recommend that the Department should take appropriate steps for incentivizing the corporate sector to encourage them to liberally contribute in development of water sector. Further, the Ministry of Jal Shakti may also approach and hold consultation with the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Corporate Affairs to frame a suitable policy for providing various concessions like tax relief, tax holiday etc. for corporate houses including the startups desirous of undertaking water conservation and other related moves in the field of water sector.

(Recommendation 20)

WAPCOS

2.21 The Committee note that the WAPCOS Limited is a “MINI RATNA-I” Public Sector Enterprise under the aegis of the Ministry of Jal Shakti (MoJS), Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation (DoWR, RD & GR). Incorporated on 26th June, 1969 under the Companies Act, 1956, WAPCOS is a technology driven Consultancy and Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) organization with strong domestic as well as global presence in the field of Water, Power and Infrastructure sectors. The Committee have come to learn from the written submission of the Department that necessary action is being taken by the Department for listing the Company on the Stock Exchanges. The Committee welcome this step of the Department as getting the Company listed on the Stock Exchanges brings about many advantages like providing an opportunity to raise capital to fund new projects, undertake expansions/diversifications and acquisitions etc. Further, as listed companies are also required to ensure timely disclosure of information to the Exchange as provided in the Listing Agreements, it improves company’s visibility and credibility among institutions and the investing public due to complying with various regulatory norms. The listing also offers an opportunity to the market to independently assess its true value. Keeping in view of all these factors, the Committee express the hope that the divestment of WAPCOS will take place in the FY 2021-22 itself.

(Recommendation 21)

Himalayan Glacier System

2.22 The Committee note that the Department of Science and Technology has approved a project proposal entitled “Integrated Hydrological Studies for Upper Ganga Basin up to Rishikesh” under the National Mission for Sustainable Himalayan Ecosystem (NMSHE) in January, 2016 at a total cost of Rs.13.04 Crore, which envisages to focus on issues of comprehensive integrated hydrological studies for upper Ganga basin up to Rishikesh. Under this project, , two sub –projects , namely – (i) Glacial Lakes & Glacial Lake Outburst Flood (GLOF) in Western Himalayan region and (ii) Assessment of downstream impact of Gangotri glacier system at Dabrani and future runoff variations under climate change scenarios, have been taken up. The Committee urge upon the Department to expedite the studies on these projects and submit their report / findings arrived at to the Committee at the earliest.

2.23 The Committee observe that the recent tragedy of massive flash flood in the downstream of Rishi Ganga River due to a snow avalanche triggered by landslide at the terminus of the glacier in catchment of Rishi Ganga river underscores the imperative to closely monitor the glaciers system in the Himalayan region more closely. However, the Committee are surprised to learn that there was no forecasting system to predict the tragic accident as the monitoring station of the Department was located at Joshi Math. The representative of the Department has apprised the Committee that they are planning to have more monitoring systems in those areas. Further, the Committee have noted with concern that out of 2038 glacial lakes in India, only 477 lakes having size of more than 50 hectares are presently being monitored by the Department. Besides, a Joint Group after the disaster of 7 February has been constituted, comprising of several agencies and organizations having knowledge of that area to share the same. The Committee urge upon the Department to take pro-active measures in this regard and deploy resources both technical and financial in these eco-fragile regions as a number of large dams and Hydro Electric Projects are based there and if the kind of tragedy that occurred on 7 February recurs albeit on a large scale, it would bring lot of destruction and will have a lasting adverse impact on the geo-climate conditions of the region. The Committee desire to be apprised of the various steps being taken or proposed to be taken by the Department to monitor the movement of glaciers and avalanches and set up an Early Warning System on a real time basis so as to forewarn the impending glacier-related disasters.

(Recommendation 22)

2.24 Keeping in view the fact that the glaciers in the Himalayan region are constantly retreating and melting due to climate change and global warming, the Committee recommend the Department to commission a comprehensive study to assess the behaviour of Himalayan glaciers as well as the impact of the Hydro Electric Projects (HEP) if any, located in the region in causing Glacial Lake Outburst Flood. The Committee would categorically like to be apprised of the steps taken by the Ministry in this regard, within six months from the presentation of this Report to the Parliament.

(Recommendation Sl. No. 23)

Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Project – Phase II and Phase II

2.25 The Committee are happy to note that the Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Project (DRIP) Phase II & Phase III with a budgetary outlay of Rs 10,211 crore and financial assistance of the World Bank (WB), and Asian Infrastructure Investment

Bank (AIB) for improving the safety and operational performance of selected dams across the country, along with institutional strengthening and system wide management approach has been approved by the Union Cabinet and is likely to commence w.e.f. May/June 2021. The Committee note that at present 19 States and 3 Central Agencies are on board for rehabilitation of 736 dams. However, the Committee are concerned to note that some of the major dams like Hirakud Dam do not find place in the Programme as consent of the respective States is required. The Committee are of the considered view that all such large dams should be brought under DRIP II & III so as to obviate any unlikely event of failure of such dams which may cause destruction of unprecedented scale. The Committee urge upon the Department to take all possible steps to persuade the respective State Governments to give their consent for inclusion of big dams located in their States under the ambit of DRIP Programme.

(Recommendation 24)

NEW DELHI
4 March, 2021
13 Phalgun, 1942 (Saka)

Dr. SANJAY JAISWAL,
Chairperson,
Standing Committee on Water Resources

**MINUTES OF THE SIXTH SITTING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON WATER RESOURCES
HELD ON TUESDAY, 23 FEBRUARY, 2021 IN CONNECTION WITH THE EXAMINATION OF
DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (2021-22) OF THE MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI – DEPARTMENT OF
WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION**

The Committee sat from 1100 hours to 1345 hours in Committee Room 'B', Ground Floor, Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

PRESENT

Dr. Sanjay Jaiswal – Chairperson

MEMBERS

LOK SABHA

2. Shri Vijay Baghel
3. Shri Bhagirath Chaudhary
4. Shri Chandra Prakash Choudhary
5. Shri Guman Singh Damor
6. Dr. Heena Vijaykumar Gavit
7. Dr. K. Jayakumar
8. Shri Kaushal Kishore

RAJYA SABHA

9. Sardar Balwinder Singh Bhunder
10. Shri Harshvardhan Singh Dungarpur
11. Dr. Kirodi Lal Meena
12. Shri Subhash Chandra Singh
13. Shri Pradeep Tamta

SECRETARIAT

1. Shri Manoj K. Arora - OSD (LSS)
2. Shri M.K. Madhusudhan - Director
3. Shri R.C. Sharma - Additional Director

[The representatives of the Department of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation were, then, ushered in]

4. Thereafter, Hon'ble Chairperson welcomed the representatives of the Department of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation and drew their attention to Direction 55(1) of the Directions by the Speaker regarding the confidentiality of the proceedings of the Committee and invited them to make their submission/presentation on various Schemes, Programmes and allocation of funds for the fiscal year 2021-22. Thereafter, the representative of the Department highlighted the salient features of various Schemes, programmes being undertaken by them with reference to the Demands for Grants (2021-22) through a power point presentation.

5. After presentation of the representatives of Department of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation, the Members sought clarifications on the following issues:-

- (i) Reasons for under-achievement of the targets envisaged under different Schemes/Programmes.
- (ii) Issue of high proportion of debt servicing of NABARD loans and need for approaching the Ministry of Finance with a request to waive off debt.
- (iii) Wide disparity between Budgetary Estimates (BE) and Revised Estimates (RE) allocations.
- (iv) Issue of truncated budget resulting in lesser advance payment to the States under different Schemes/Programmes.
- (v) Issue of meagre budgetary allocation to National Water Mission.
- (vi) Under utilization of funds under 'Namami Gange Programme'.
- (vii) Issue of non-inclusion of the State of Punjab under Atal Bhujal Yojana.
- (viii) Water Use efficiency in irrigation sector
- (ix) Need to include larger dams like Hirakud Dam under Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Project (DRIP) II
- (x) Review the tragic incident of glacial lake outburst in Chamoli district of Utrakhnad on 7 February 2021 - preparedness of the Department to face such incidents in future.

- (xi) Need to cover all the glacial lakes irrespective of size for the purpose of issuing forecast in case of observing the abnormal behaviour.
- (xii) Sewage Management of lakes
- (xiii) Implementation of the National Aquifer Mapping and Management Programme .
- (xiv) Issue of interlinking of rivers
- (xv) Suggestion to constitute ground water coordination committee at district level.

6. The Chairperson, thanked the representatives of the Department of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation for the presentation made by them and also for replying to the queries raised by the Members. The Chairperson asked the Members to submit their further queries, if any, to the Secretariat within 48 hours to enable obtaining replies from the Department. He directed the Secretary, Department of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation to furnish written replies to those queries raised by the Members which could not be readily replied and which require detailed statistical replies to the Secretariat at the earliest.

[The witnesses, then, withdrew]

7. A copy of the verbatim record of the proceedings of the sitting of the Committee has been kept.

The Committee, then, adjourned.

MINUTES OF THE EIGHTH SITTING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON WATER RESOURCES (2020-21) HELD ON THURSDAY, 4 MARCH 2021

The Committee sat from 1500 hours to 1530 hours in Committee Room 'B', Ground Floor, Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

PRESENT

Dr. Sanjay Jaiswal – Chairperson

MEMBERS

LOK SABHA

2. Shri Bhagirath Chaudhary
3. Shri Nihal Chand Chauhan
4. Dr.HeenaVijaykumar Gavit
5. Shri Kaushal Kishore
6. Shri Hasmukhbhai Somabhai Patel

RAJYA SABHA

7. Shri Harshvardhan Singh Dungarpur
8. Dr. Kirodi Lal Meena
9. Shri Arun Singh
10. Shri PradeepTamta

SECRETARIAT

- | | | | |
|----|-----------------------|---|---------------------|
| 1. | Shri Manoj K. Arora | - | OSD (LSS) |
| 2. | Shri M.K. Madhusudhan | - | Director |
| 3. | Shri R.C. Sharma | - | Additional Director |

2. At the outset, the Chairperson welcomed the Members to the sitting of the Committee. Thereafter, he informed the Members about sudden demise of Shri Nand Kumar Singh Chauhan, MP and Member of the Committee. The Committee then passed a condolence resolution conveying their heartfelt condolence to the bereaved family.

3. Thereafter, the Committee took up for consideration (i) Draft Report on Demands for Grants (2021-22) of the Ministry of Jal Shakti (Department of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation); and (ii) Draft Report on Demands for Grants (2021-22) of the Ministry of Jal Shakti (Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation). After some deliberation, the Committee adopted the aforesaid draft Reports, without any modification.

4. The Committee then authorized the Chairperson to present the Reports on their behalf to both the Houses of Parliament in the current Budget Session.

The Committee then adjourned
