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**STANDING COMMITTEE ON WATER RESOURCES
(2022-23)**

SEVENTEENTH LOK SABHA

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

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (2023-24)

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

TWENTY FOURTH REPORT



LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

NEW DELHI

August, 2023 / Sravana, 1945 (Saka)

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STANDING COMMITTEE ON WATER RESOURCES
(2022-23)

(SEVENTEENTH LOK SABHA)

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RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION**

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**(Action Taken by the Government on the Observations /
Recommendations contained in the Twentieth Report on ‘Demands for
Grants (2023-24) of the Ministry of Jal Shakti -
Department of Water Resource, River Development and Ganga
Rejuvenation)**

Presented to Lok Sabha on 09.08.2023

Laid on the Table of Rajya Sabha on 09.08.2023



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI**

August, 2023 / Sravana, 1945 (Saka)

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**COMPOSITION OF STANDING COMMITTEE ON WATER RESOURCES
(2022-23)**

Shri Parbatbhai Savabhai Patel - Chairperson

LOK SABHA

2. Shri Vijay Baghel
3. Shri Nihal Chand Chauhan
4. Shri Bhagirath Choudhary
5. Shri Chandra Prakash Choudhary
6. Shri Guman Singh Damor
7. Dr. Heena Vijaykumar Gavitt
8. Dr. K. Jayakumar
9. Shri Dhanush M. Kumar
10. Shri Sunil Kumar
11. Shri Mohammad Akbar Lone
12. Shri Kuruva Gorantla Madhav
13. Shri Hasmukhbhai Somabhai Patel
14. Shri Sanjay (Kaka) Ramchandra Patil
15. Shri P. Ravindhranath
16. Ms. Nusrat Jahan Ruhi
17. Smt. Agatha K. Sangma
18. Shri Pratap Chandra Sarangi
19. Shri Chandan Singh
20. Shri D.K. Suresh
21. Shri Shivkumar C. Udasi

RAJYA SABHA

22. Shri H.D. Devegowda
23. Shri Aneel Prasad Hegde
24. Dr. Kirodi Lal Meena
25. Smt. Mausam Noor
26. Shri Sharad Pawar
27. Dr. Laxmikant Bajpayee
28. Shri Arun Singh
29. Sant Balbir Singh
30. Shri Pramod Tiwari
31. Vacant

SECRETARIAT

- | | | | |
|----|----------------------|---|-----------------------------|
| 1. | Smt. Suman Arora | - | Joint Secretary |
| 2. | Shri Ajay Kumar Sood | - | Director |
| 3. | Ms. Shanta B. Datta | - | Under Secretary |
| 4. | Shri Gaurav Jain | - | Assistant Committee Officer |

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairperson, Standing Committee on Water Resources (2022-23) having been authorized by the Committee to submit the Report on their behalf, present the Twenty Fourth Report on the Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations contained in their Twentieth Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants (2023-24) of the Ministry of Jal Shakti -Department of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation.

2. The Twentieth Report of the Committee was presented to Lok Sabha on 20 March 2023 and laid on the Table of Rajya Sabha on 17 March 2023. The Action Taken replies of the Government to all the recommendations contained in the Report were received in this Secretariat on 12 June, 2023.

3. The replies of the Government were examined and the Report was considered and adopted by the Committee at their sitting held on 08.08.2023.

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

New Delhi
08 August, 2023
17Sravana, 1945 (Saka)

Parbatbhai Savabhai Patel
Chairperson
Standing Committee on Water Resources

CHAPTER I

REPORT

This Report of the Standing Committee on Water Resources (2022-23) deals with the action taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations contained in their Twentieth Report (17th Lok Sabha) on the Demands for Grants (2023-24) of the Ministry of Jal Shakti – Department of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation.

2. The Twentieth Report was presented to Lok Sabha on 20.03.2023 and was laid on the Table of Rajya Sabha on 17.03.2023. The Report contained 15 Observations/Recommendations.

3. Action Taken Notes in respect of all the 15 Observations/Recommendations of the Committee have been received from the Government. These have been examined and categorized as follows: -

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

Recommendation Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, 13 and 15

(Total – 11)

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

Recommendation Nos. NIL

(Total – NIL)

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

Recommendation Nos. 5, 9, 12 and 14

(Total – 04)

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

Para Nos. NIL

(Total – NIL)

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

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

A. Mission Amrit Sarovar

Recommendation No. 5

6. The Committee observed that the Amrit Sarovar Mission had been launched by Hon'ble Prime Minister in addition to the existing Repair, Renovation and Restoration (RRR) schemes. The Department had informed that the water bodies which were included under the RRR scheme and were likely to be completed by August, 2023, had been identified to be included as Amrit Sarovars in consultation with the State

Governments concerned. The Committee noted that a total of 608 water bodies under RRR scheme have been identified for implementation as Amrit Sarovars. Out of these, 211 water bodies have so far been renovated. The Committee took note that no separate dedicated fund has been proposed under Amrit Sarovar initiative. The Repair, Renovation and Restoration (RRR) of Water Bodies schemes are funded under PMKSY-HKPP scheme. The Committee noted that the details on the work relating to Amrit Sarovar in the State of Manipur are yet to be added on Amrit Sarovar portal. Keeping in view the better monitoring for fruitful results, the Committee urged upon the Department to coordinate not only with Manipur but also with all the States where Mission Amrit Sarovar had been undertaken to provide/update all relevant information in a time bound manner on the portal of Amrit Sarovar.

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

“The observation of the Committee has been noted for compliance, through the nodal Ministry for Mission Amrit Sarovar, i.e., Ministry of Rural Development”.

8. **The Committee find that the nodal Ministry for Mission Amrit Sarovar is the Ministry of Rural Development. However, during the examination of DFG (2023-24), the Committee were apprised that a total of 608 water bodies under Repair, Renovation and Restoration (RRR) Scheme have been identified for implementation as Amrit Sarovars. Further, no separate dedicated fund has been proposed under Amrit Sarovar Programme and the RRR of water bodies schemes are funded under PMKSY-HKPP Scheme. Thus, the Committee find that though the water bodies under RRR Scheme, administered by Ministry of Jal Shakti, have been identified as Amrit Sarovars, Ministry of Rural Development has been made the nodal agency for implementation of Mission Amrit Sarovar. The Committee would like to be apprised of the rationale for the same. They would further like to be apprised of the role of the Ministry of Jal Shakti – Department of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation in this regard along with the mechanism devised for proper coordination and monitoring of water bodies in order to achieve effective utilization of resources and timely realisation of the goals under both Mission Amrit Sarovar and RRR scheme. The Committee would also like to know the steps taken for updating all relevant information on Amrit sarovars created/rejuvenated in respect of each of the States and Union territories in a time bound manner on the portal of Amrit Sarovar.**

B. Safety of Dams

Recommendation No. 9

9. The Committee noted that as per the National Register of Large Dams-2019, there are 234 functional large dams in India which are more than 100 years old. The Committee took note of list as furnished by the Department, of failures from such old

large dams which are as follows: Tigris Project in Madhya Pradesh (completion in the year 1917 and failure in the year 1917 itself), Ashti Project in Maharashtra (completion in 1883 and failure in 1933), Khadakwasla Project in Maharashtra (completion in 1880 and failure in 1961), Jamunia Project in Madhya Pradesh (completion in 1921 and failure in 2002) and Jaswant Nagar Project in Rajasthan (completion in 1889 and failure in 2007). The Committee observed that some of them, as per the National Register of Large Dams – 2019, are more than 300 years old and so far none of these dams have been decommissioned, however, the Department has stated that the dams are normally designed for 100 years of useful age and their functional life also gets decreased with progressive reservoir sedimentation concurrently reducing project benefits. The Department further stated that there is no mechanism to assess the viable lifespan and performance of the dams and these dams are mostly owned by State Governments /Public Sector Undertakings/Private Agencies which carry out the Operation and Maintenance (O&M) works of the dams in their jurisdiction. Furthermore, realizing the importance of dam safety, a Dam Safety Act had been notified in the year 2021 to provide for surveillance, inspection, operation and maintenance of the specified dam for prevention of dam failure related disasters and to provide for institutional mechanism to ensure their safe functioning and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto. In view of the foregoing, the Committee recommended the Department to take suitable measures for evolving a viable mechanism to assess the lives and operations of the dams and also persuade the States to decommission those dams which have outlived their lifespan and may pose a severe threat to life and infrastructure in case of any failure. The Committee would like to be apprised of the steps taken by the Department in this regard within three months from presentation of this Report.

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

“Well maintained and operated dams, if continued to be giving meaningful service, can have long life. Earthen Dams are generally constructed using locally available materials and can be compared to natural geological landforms having very long life. Similarly, other type of dams also, if maintained/ rehabilitated from time to time, they will also serve the purpose for a long time.

Loss of useful storage of Dam reservoirs with time can also be managed by proper sediment management such as flushing by low level sluices, removal of accumulated sediments (if found techno economically and environmentally feasible) as well as Catchment Area Treatment etc. If a project, even after its designed useful age, is serving its benefits and is structurally safe, it is not advisable to decommission such dam. Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Project Phase II and III(2021-2031), is a continuing Scheme of DRIP-I(2012-2021), being implemented under overall coordination and supervision of Ministry of Jal Shakti. The objective of Scheme is to improve safety and operational performance of selected dams in participating States along with Dam Safety Institutional Strengthening.

It has provision for physical rehabilitation of 736 dams located in 19 States, to improve hydrological, structural and operational safety of selected dams, which in turn would help in enhancing the lives of these dams to serve the intended benefits. In addition to dam rehabilitation activities, the Scheme has provision for other important activities including publication of technical Guidelines and Manuals in dam safety areas, capacity building of academic Institutions, Central agencies as well as participating Implementing Agencies, preparation of dam specific Emergency Action Plan as well as O&M Manuals to improve climate and disaster

resilience. These activities would also contribute in improving the Institutional mechanism to deal with safety and performance of the given dams.

Also, there is need based provision for de-siltation of selected reservoirs. Other sediment management approach such as Catchment area treatment may also be taken up under the Scheme.

To meet concerns of safety related to ageing dams, DSA 2021 has been enacted and has come into force w.e.f 30.12.2021. Consequent upon enactment of National Dam Safety Act, 2021 and in pursuance of the provisions therein, National Dam Safety Authority (NDSA) has been set up.

To ensure long term sustainability of capacity building of dam owners, Ministry of Jal Shakti has decided to support identified academic institution to provide technical support to dam owners through the establishment of Centre of Excellence. In this regard a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) was signed between central water commission and IIT Roorkee for Dams under the Dam Rehabilitation and improvement project Phase II and III at IIT Roorkee.

As per Section 30-31, (Chapter VII) DSA 2021, for each specified dam, the owner shall, within the operation and maintenance establishment, provide a dam safety unit consisting of such competent levels of engineers as may be specified by the regulations. Every owner of a specified dam shall undertake every year, through their dam safety unit, a pre-monsoon and post-monsoon inspections in respect of each such dam and also during and after every flood, earthquake or any other natural or man- made calamities, or if any sign of distress or unusual behavior is noticed in the dam. Remedial measures shall be initiated by the concerned SDSOs if the dams are found to be in distressed condition.

As per Section 36-37, (Chapter VIII), DSA 2021, in respect of the existing dam, emergency action plan shall be prepared within five years from the date of commencement of this Act and thereafter update such plans at regular intervals.

As per section 38, Chapter IX, DSA 2021, the owner of a specified dam shall make or cause to be made comprehensive dam safety evaluation of each specified dam through an independent panel of experts, shall be conducted within five years from the date of commencement of this Act, and thereafter carried out at regular intervals as may be specified by the regulations, which includes review and analysis of available data on the design, construction, operation, maintenance and performance of the structure along with general assessment of hydrologic and hydraulic conditions with mandatory review of design floods as specified by the regulations.

Therefore, as per relevant provisions of DSA 2021, the safety concerns of ageing dams are adequately addressed.”

11. The Committee note from the replies that the life of dams can be enhanced by proper maintenance/rehabilitation, sediment management to ensure efficient operation of reservoir and catchment area treatment, etc. They further note that decommissioning of dams will not be required if maintained properly. Currently, Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Project (DRIP) I & II is being implemented in

case of 736 dams located in 19 States to improve their safety and operational performance. Further, in order to meet safety concerns of ageing dams, Dam Safety Act 2021 has been enacted which has come into force w.e.f. 30.12.2021. However, during the examination of DFG (2023-24), the Committee were apprised by the Department through its written submission that there are 234 functional large dams of more than 100 years old age which have been recorded under the National Register of Large Dams – 2019, with some of them older than 300 years and so far, none of those dams have been decommissioned. The Committee were further informed that the dams are normally designed for 100 years of useful age and their functional life also gets decreased with progressive reservoir sedimentation. The Committee were also apprised that there is no mechanism to assess the viable lifespan and performance of the dams and these dams are mostly owned by State Governments/Public Sector Undertakings/Private Agencies which carry out the Operation and Maintenance (O&M) works of the dams in their jurisdiction. In view of the above information furnished by the Department during the examination of DFG (2023-24), including the fact that dams are normally designed for 100 years of useful life, the Committee find that the Department has not furnished specific information on reasons for not decommissioning the dams, at least those which are more than 300 years old. The Committee, would therefore, reiterate their recommendation that Department should persuade the States to decommission those dams which have outlived their lifespan and may pose a severe threat to life and infrastructure in case of any failure. They would further like to be apprised of the details of those functional dams from amongst the 234 large dams which have been covered by DRIP I and II so far. They would also like to be apprised of the status of Dam Safety Units constituted in each of the States/UTs post enactment of Dam Safety Act, 2021.

C. Cleaning of the River Yamuna

Recommendation No. 11

12. In connection with the cleaning of river Ganga, the Committee would like to recall the briefing meeting held on 16.12.2021 in connection with the examination of the subject 'Review of Upper Yamuna River Cleaning Project up to Delhi and River bed management in Delhi'. During the aforesaid meeting, they were apprised by the Department that though the stretch of river Yamuna in Delhi is very small just 22 kms, however it is responsible for causing 75 to 80 percent of pollution in the river. The Committee noted that the bathing quality of river Yamuna particularly in the State of Delhi, as per parameters stipulated by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) for Outdoor Bathing (organized), falls into class-B category. One of the parameters is

Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) which should be less than 3.0 mg/l for bathing purpose. The Committee found very high presence of BOD in the river Yamuna in Delhi during 2019- 2021. Maximum concentration observed is 114 mg/L during 2020 which is very much high as per the prescribed limit of less than 3 mg/l BOD for bathing purpose in river Yamuna. In this regard, the representative of the Department had informed the Committee that a number of STPs in Delhi would be commissioned soon, which would be of great help in reducing the pollution level in the river Yamuna. He further emphasized the role and the steps required to be taken by the State Government in curbing the pollution in river Yamuna. The Committee further noted that the major impediments for cleaning of river Yamuna are less flow at Wazirabad during dry period, illegal discharge of sewage and industrial effluent, disposal of solid waste in drains, improper functioning of CETPs and insufficient sewage treatment capacity. Considering the role of Delhi stretch of river Yamuna which is responsible for major pollution load of the entire Yamuna river, the Committee were of the opinion that both the Union Government and the State Government should work in close collaboration and make all endeavours by taking remedial measures to overcome all the obstacles as mentioned above so that the rejuvenation of river Yamuna may become a reality.

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

“Water quality assessment of river Yamuna is carried out by Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) at 33 locations, under National Water Quality Monitoring Programme (NWMP) in association with State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs) of Uttarakhand (04 locations), Himachal Pradesh (04 locations), Haryana (06 locations), Delhi (07 locations) and Uttar Pradesh (12 locations). The analysis results are compared with Primary Water Quality Criteria (PWQC) for Outdoor Bathing notified under Environment (Protection) Rules, 1986 with respect to parameters viz., DO, pH, BOD, Fecal Coliform and Fecal Streptococci. Based on recent analysis of water quality for 2022, it has been observed that in Delhi, all the 07 monitored locations are not meeting with the criteria with respect to parameters DO (except Palla and Wazirabad), BOD & FC (except Palla), indicating that the water in river Yamuna is not fit for bathing, particularly in the State of Delhi.

As per the data submitted by DPCC, the total sewage generation in Delhi is 3,491 MLD, whereas the total installed capacity of 35 STPs is 2,874 MLD and the capacity actually utilized is 2,714 MLD. In addition, there are 13 Common Effluent Treatment Plants (CETPs) with a total capacity of 212.3 MLD is existing in Delhi to treat industrial wastewater generated from industries.

As per NGT directions, a High Level Committee (HLC) has been constituted under the chairmanship of Hon’ble Lieutenant Governor, Delhi to coordinate with all departments involved in Yamuna rejuvenation. Action plans for rejuvenation of rivers have been prepared by “River Rejuvenation Committee” (RRC) constituted by the respective State Government/UT Administration, under the overall supervision and coordination of Principal Secretary, Environment of the concerned State/Union Territory, including river Yamuna.

Presently in Delhi, under Namami Gange Programme, a total of 9 projects have been taken up with an estimated cost of Rs.1951.03 crore to abate the pollution in river Yamuna. These projects are generally at advanced stage of implementation. These projects envisage creation of 1,268 MLD of sewage treatment capacities in Delhi to bridge the gap in treatment capacity.

Stringent monitoring and regulation of industries and pollution sources is undertaken to assess the compliance status of Grossly Polluting Industries (GPIs) for enforcing regulatory framework on the polluting industries. Stringent action is taken by Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB)/State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs)/ Pollution Control Committees against the GPIs discharging into main stem of Ganga River & its tributaries which are non-complying with respect to the prescribed norms.

Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEF& CC) formulates and notifies standards for emission or discharge of environmental pollutants viz. air pollutants and water pollutants from industries, operations or processes with an aim to protect and improve the quality of the environment and abate environmental pollution.

Industry specific effluent/emission standards are notified under Schedule-I: 'Standards for Emission or Discharge of Environmental Pollutants from Various Industries' of Environment Protection Act, 1986. State Pollution Control Boards and Pollution Control Committees in States and Union Territories, respectively are adhered to ensure the compliance of these standards. So far, 47 industry specific effluent standards and 63 industry specific emission standards have been notified.

Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC) regulates industrial pollution through consent mechanism. DPCC has notified stricter norms for sewage treatment in Delhi.

NMCG has been organizing regular Yamuna Ghat cleaning campaigns on certain Saturdays of every month for cleaning the seven Ghats in Yamuna in association with different Water quality assessment of river Yamuna is carried out by Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) at 33 locations, under National Water Quality Monitoring Programme (NWMP) in association with State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs) of Uttarakhand (04 locations), Himachal Pradesh (04 locations), Haryana (06 locations), Delhi (07 locations) and Uttar Pradesh (12 locations). The analysis results are compared with Primary Water Quality Criteria (PWQC) for Outdoor Bathing notified under Environment (Protection) Rules, 1986 with respect to parameters viz., DO, pH, BOD, Fecal Coliform and Fecal Streptococci. Based on recent analysis of water quality for 2022, it has been observed that in Delhi, the monitored locations are not meeting with the criteria with respect to parameters DO (except Palla and Wazirabad), BOD & FC (except Palla), indicating that the water in river Yamuna is not fit for bathing in the State of Delhi.

NMCG has been organizing regular Yamuna Ghat cleaning campaigns on certain Saturdays of every month for cleaning the seven Ghats in Yamuna in association with different volunteering civil society group.

Directions were issued by the Ministry of Jal Shakti to Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC) vide communication dated 16.08.2018 under Section 5 of Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 against sub-optimal functioning of CETPs as well as reutilization of treated waste water in the State of Delhi. In addition, as reported by CPCB, directions were also issued to Delhi Jal Board (DJB) dated 19.02.2019 under the said Act against non-complying sewage treatment plants operating in Delhi.

Central Monitoring Committee under the Chairmanship of Secretary, DoWR, RD & GR, Ministry of Jal Shakti has been monitoring the progress in implementation of Action Plan for the State of Delhi including sewerage projects for abatement of pollution in the river Yamuna in a time bound manner. The Committee has also directed the NCT of Delhi for completing their initiatives without any further delay.

The State Government of Delhi has been directed to ensure compliance of the existing STPs and CETPs and to take strict action against the non-complying industries. Time bound action plan needs to be implemented to bridge the gap in solid waste management in the State.”

14. The Committee find from the Action Taken Reply furnished by the Department that based on recent analysis of water quality for 2022, it has been observed that in Delhi, all the 07 monitored locations with respect to Yamuna are not meeting with the criteria with respect to parameters Dissolved Oxygen (DO), Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) and Faecal Coliform (FC) thus clearly indicating that the water in river Yamuna is not fit for bathing, particularly in the State of Delhi. The Committee further find that the total sewage generation in Delhi is 3491 MLD, whereas the total installed capacity of 35 STPs is 2874 MLD and the actual utilization of the capacity is 2714 MLD. In addition, there are 13 Common Effluent Treatment Plants (CETPs) in Delhi with a total capacity is of 212.3 MLD to treat industrial wastewater generated from industries. The Committee are pleased to note that under Namami Gange Programme, a total of 9 projects envisaging creation of 1268 MLD of sewage treatment capacities in Delhi have been taken up. These Projects when commissioned along with other STPs and CETPs in Delhi will be able to bridge the gap in treatment capacity. However, the Committee are of the view that in view of the burgeoning population and rapid urbanization especially in the metro city like Delhi, there is a continuous need to upgrade the sewage treatment capacity. The Committee thus express their hope that both the Union and the State Government will work in unison to improve the sewage treatment capacity and its effective utilization. They would also like to know the target date of completion of 9 sewage treatment projects taken up under Namami Gange and interim measures taken by the Government till then to comply with the prescribed bathing quality of water of river Yamuna to avoid any possible health hazard.

D. E-Flow for River Yamuna

Recommendation No. 12

15. The Committee observed that a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed by the Chief Ministers of Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, and National Capital Territory of Delhi on 12th May, 1994 regarding allocation of utilizable surface flow of river Yamuna upto Okhla Barrage (Upper Yamuna) among the co-basin States. The MoU stipulates that 'A minimum flow in proportion of completion of upstream storages going upto 10 cumec shall be maintained downstream of Tajewala and Okhla Headworks throughout the year from ecological considerations, as upstream storages are built up progressively in a phased manner'. Further, the Principal Bench of the National Green Tribunal (NGT) directed that the State of Haryana shall release 10 Cumec water directly into main stream of river Yamuna from Hathinikund Barrage and maintain e-flow of river till Wazirabad. The Committee noted that as per the water released data, the minimum 10 Cumec (352 cusec) as stipulated in the MoU is being released downstreams of Hathinikund Barrage and Okhla Barrage throughout the year.

The Committee observed that storage as stipulated by the 1994 MoU among the States for maintaining minimum flow in the river Yamuna throughout the year has not been built so far. Even the Department reasoned that less flow at Wazirabad during dry period is one of the major issues that impedes cleaning of river Yamuna. The Committee, therefore, recommended the Department to make all out efforts in cooperation with the concerned States to build the storage capacity. Further, the Committee also urged upon the Department to consider defining e-flow for the river Yamuna on the line of the river Ganga in order to maintain the health of the river and also its ecosystem.

16. The Department in its action taken note has replied as follows:
"There are three National Projects, planned in the upstream of the Yamuna River. The status of these three projects is as follows:

i. Renukaji Dam Project-

Renukaji Dam Project has been conceived as a storage project on Giri River (a tributary of river Yamuna) in Sirmour District of Himachal Pradesh. The project envisages construction of 148 m. high rock filled dam for supply of 23 cumec (498 MCM) water to Delhi for 9 months from October to June and other basin States. The project will also generate 40 MW (2x20 MW) of power during peak flow. The live storage of Renukaji MPP is 498 MCM. The Project was declared as a National Project in 2008. The Agreement has been signed amongst six basin States of Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, NCT of Delhi and Rajasthan on the construction of Renukaji Dam Project on 11.01.2019. The project has been approved for implementation with central assistance from Gol in December 2021.

ii. Lakhwar Multi-Purpose Project-

Lakhwar Multi-Purpose Project is situated on Yamuna River in Dehradun district of Uttarakhand. It envisages construction of 204 m. high concrete dam with underground power house with installed capacity of 300 MW along with construction of Katapather Barrage about 13.6 km downstream of Lakhwar dam. The live storage of the Lakhwar MPP is 330.66 MCM. The Project was declared as a National Project in 2008 wherein 90% of the cost of water component shall be provided as grant assistance by Gol. The Agreement has been signed amongst six basin States of Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, NCT of

Delhi and Rajasthan on the construction of Lakhwar Project on 28.08.2018. The project has been approved for implementation with central assistance from Gol in December 2021.

iii. Kishau Multi-Purpose Project-

Kishau Multi-Purpose Project has been identified as a National Project in Feb' 2008. The project is a storage scheme located on river Tons (tributary of river Yamuna) in Dehradun district of Uttarakhand & Sirmour district of Himachal Pradesh. The Live Storage of the Project is 1,324 MCM and Gross Storage of the Project is 1,824 MCM. Hydropower with installed capacity of 660 MW has also been envisaged. Efforts are being made by DoWR, RD & GR for agreement among the party States viz. Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and NCT and Delhi for its implementation.

As regards defining e flow of river Yamuna, a study report titled "Environmental flow assessment for Yamuna River from Hathnikund barrage to Okhla barrage" was submitted by NIH (Roorkee). There have been certain observations with regard to surface and sub-surface interactions etc. which are equally important. Efforts are being made to arrive at a consensus between stake holding States".

17. The Committee note that three National projects, viz. Renukaji Dam project, Lakhwar Multi-purpose project and Kishau Multi-purpose projects have been contemplated in the upstream of river Yamuna as storage projects which would help maintain minimum flow in the river, as stipulated by the 1994 MoU signed by Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and National Capital Territory of Delhi. However, all the above three National projects are yet to be implemented. They further note that National Institute of Hydrology (NIH) submitted a Report titled "Environmental Flow Assessment for Yamuna River from Hathnikund Barrage to Okhla Barrage" wherein there have been certain observations with regard to surface and sub-surface interactions and efforts are being made to arrive at a consensus between stake-holding States. Taking note of the delay in implementation of the storage projects, the Committee are of the view that e-flow for river Yamuna is essential for its health and also maintaining its ecosystems. Therefore, they reiterate their recommendation to the Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation to make all out efforts in cooperation with the concerned States to build the storage capacity. They are also of the opinion that a clearly defined level of e-flow for river Yamuna, which is one of the main tributaries of river Ganga, is a pre requisite for making Namami Gange Programme a true success. The Committee, therefore, again recommend the Department to make concerted efforts for defining 'E-flow' for river Yamuna.

E. Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP)

Recommendation No. 14

18. The Committee noted that Ninety-Nine (99) ongoing Major/Medium Irrigation projects (and 7 phases) spread in 18 States were identified during 2016-17, in consultation with the States, to be completed in phases. Central Assistance to these projects is being provided through budgetary resources whereas State Share for these projects is being provided from NABARD under LTIF. Out of these 99 projects and 7 phases (Total- 106),50 projects have been reported to be completed so far. Further, out of balance projects, 23 projects have seen progress of more than 90 % and 14 projects between 80 to 90 %. Ultimate Irrigation Potential of these 99 projects is 76.03 Lakh Ha. out of which 41.39 Lakh Ha. had been created upto 31.03.2016. During 2016-2022, additional potential of 24.35 Lakh ha. had been created through these projects. The Committee observed from the information furnished by the Department that the budgetary allocation for Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme and National/special Projects for FY 2022-23 was Rs. 3237.69 crore (BE) which was reduced to Rs. 1800 crore at RE stage for FY 2022-23. However, till 31 December, 2022, no expenditure had been spent under this Programme. The Committee noted that the Department had not furnished specific reply to their query with regard to the reasons for not spending a single penny under such an important Scheme during first three quarters of FY 2022-23. Keeping in view the importance of AIBP for the agriculture sector of the country, the Committee, therefore, recommended the Department to act proactively and monitor the pace of actual expenditure and flow of funds under such an important Scheme in order to ensure optimum utilization of budgetary allocations. The Committee also urged the Department to identify the factors/reasons which restricted them from utilizing the funds and take suitable remedial action accordingly.

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

"The budgetary allocation for Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme and National / Special Projects for FY 2022-23 was Rs. 3,237.69 crore (BE) which was reduced to Rs. 1,800 crore at RE stage for FY 2022-23. The final expenditure under the scheme in the FY 2022-23 is Rs. 668.61crore.

Major reasons for reduction in the outlay, are as follows:-

(i). Change in appraisal/approval mechanism for inclusions of new projects under PMKSY-AIBP:- So far, inclusion of additional projects under PMKSY-AIBP was possible through multi-stage intra-Ministry approval process. However, the appraisal/ approval process is required to be aligned with the Department of Expenditure guidelines, which requires inter-Ministerial consultations, approval of Public Investment Board/ SFC and in several cases, the approval of CCEA. While earlier, the entire process could be completed in a month or so, the revised procedure now takes 4-6 months at least. This year, DoWR, RD&GR has been able to seek approvals for inclusion of only one small project (total central assistance Rs. 50 crore) under AIBP so far, as against 5 projects having central assistance of about Rs. 1,280 crores approved during Dec., 2021 (when extension of PMKSY was approved) to March, 2022 last year. Further, inclusion of projects having major requirements of central assistance (total Rs. 2,000 crore), namely, Jamrani Project of Uttarakhand and Bodwad Parisar Sinchai Yojana Stage-I, are presently under process, due to which the central assistance cannot be provisioned at this stage.

(ii). Less Utilisations by National projects: Lakhwar multipurpose project of Uttarakhand and Renukaji project of Himachal Pradesh are in preliminary stage of implementation. The two projects had projected major requirement of central assistance during the current financial year. However, while in case of Lakhwar project the tendering could be completed only recently, Renukaji project is still in its pre-construction stage. Further, the two projects are also struggling with the State share component to be collected from all co-basin States, which is to be essentially reflected in the Single Nodal Agency account to enable release of next installment of central assistance. As a result, these projects could avail central assistance of Rs. 38.58 crore only, which is hardly 5% of the projected requirements.

(iii). Complexities involved in Single Nodal Agency (SNA) system: Single Nodal Agency (SNA) system has been made mandatory for all centrally sponsored schemes. However, there are many complex issues involved in its implementation by the States, due to which in a large number of cases, the release does not take place even after the necessary approvals have been obtained. In such cases, special action is required from PFMS Section of Min. of Finance, or Department of Expenditure, or both, which is again a time consuming process. Another fall-out of this delay is that the States are not able to claim the four installments in a year stipulated by SNA guidelines.

In 2016, with the launch of PMKSY-AIBP, 99 prioritized projects were included for time bound implementation and assured central assistance through NABARD. So far, 50 out of these projects have been completed. However, in the balance 49 projects, there is a major chunk of about 28 projects which are held up due to court cases or protests by locals. Thus, the central assistance availed is much less than the projected requirement on account of the above.”

20. The Committee note that the budgetary allocation for Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme and National/Special Projects for FY 2022-23 was Rs. 3237.69 crore (BE) which was reduced to Rs. 1800 crore at RE stage and the final expenditure under the Scheme in the FY 2022-23 was Rs. 668.61 crore. The Department has cited number of reasons for reduction in the outlay such as change in appraisal/approval mechanism for inclusion of new projects under PMKSY-AIBP because of which the entire process which earlier could be completed in a month or so, now takes 4-6 months at least. Further, the Department has also attributed lower utilization of budgetary resources to complexities involved in Single Nodal Agency (SNA) system. They further note that the Lakhwar multipurpose project in Uttarakhand and Renukaji project in Himachal Pradesh are in preliminary stage of implementation and are struggling with the State share component to be collected from all co-basin States which is to be essentially reflected in the Single Nodal Agency account to enable release of next instalment of Central Assistance. As a result, these projects could avail Central Assistance of Rs. 38.58 crore only, which is hardly 5% of the projected requirements. The Committee however, notice that no expenditure was incurred during first three quarters of Fiscal Year 2022-23 and no specific reason has been

furnished for the same. During the last quarter, only Rs. 668.61 crore which is 37% (appx.) of the RE of Rs. 1800 crore has been spent which is minuscule utilization of even reduced budgetary allocations. The Committee, therefore, once again urge the Department to 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.

The Committee also find that out of remaining 49 prioritized projects included under PMKSY-AIBP, a significant number of about 28 projects are held up due to court cases or protests by locals. The Committee would, therefore desire to be briefed about the steps taken by the Department in resolving these obstacles as well as the efficacy of these steps so that these projects may also be completed within a reasonable timeframe.

CHAPTER II

OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE GOVERNMENT

RECOMMENDATION NO. 1

Analysis of Demands for Grants

The Committee note that for the year 2023-24, the Department have laid Detailed Demands for Grants of Rs. 20054.67 crore consisting of Rs. 19694.19 crore under Revenue Section and Rs. 360.48 crore under Capital Section. The Committee note that for FY 2023-24, the Department sought Rs. 22673.53 crore, and a budgetary allocation of Rs. 20054.67 crore (BE) has been proposed. In comparison to Budget Estimate (BE) allocations i.e. Rs. 18967.88 crore for FY 2022-23, the BE allocation of Rs. 20054.67 crore for FY 2023-24 has shown a hike of 5.72% appx. The revenue provision (BE) for FY 2023-24 has been increased by Rs. 1146.14 crore vis-a-vis BE of Rs. 18548.05 crore for FY 2022-23, whereas under the Capital Section, the allocation has been reduced by Rs. 59.35 crore in FY 2023-24 vis-à-vis BE of Rs. 419.83 crore for FY 2022-23. The Committee observe that the BE provision of Rs. 18967.88 crore for Fiscal Year 2022-23 was reduced drastically and kept at Rs. 14000 crores at Revised Estimate (RE) stage (a decline of 26.19% of BE allocations of Rs. 18967.88 crore). The Committee note that even this reduced amount was not utilized in full and only Rs. 7671.21 crore has been spent during the first three quarters of FY 2022-23 i.e. till 31 December, 2022. The Committee are of the opinion that the rest of the amount i.e. Rs. 6328.79 crore (45.20 % of RE of Rs. 14000 crore) would hardly be spent in the last quarter of FY 2022-23. The representative of the Department admitted while deposing before the Committee about the underutilization of funds which resulted into reduction of budgetary allocations at RE stage and attributed it to the new financial system of Single Nodal Account wherein the funds to the States would be released in four instalments instead of two instalments as provided earlier. The Committee further note that most of the Schemes of the Department, particularly irrigation schemes like PMKSY where works are done from October to May-June and Command Area Development (CAD) where works are carried out from January to March, have been impacted due to the new system introduced by the Ministry of Finance as these schemes are in nature-wise more compliant to 2 instalments system rather than 4 instalments. The Committee take note that under the revised procedure of Ministry of Finance, funds for the Central Sector schemes are to be routed through the Central Nodal Account (CNA) while the State Sector schemes through Single Nodal Account (SNA). The Department has informed that the funds under the CNA is being done without much difficulty and the activities under the Central Sector schemes are relatively unaffected. Under the SNA, being initial year of implementation, State Governments are not equipped to adapt to the new fund flow mechanism. The Committee observe that since most of the States have not been able to submit proposals for release of more than 2 instalments and therefore desire that the Department to take up the matter with the Ministry of Finance and apprise them the practical difficulties in implementing the new system under SNA, particularly in irrigation schemes and seek exemption for these Schemes so that the budgetary resources may be optimally utilized and implementation of such Schemes are not adversely affected. The Committee would like to be categorically apprised of the steps taken in this regard within three months of presentation of this Report.

Reply of the Government

Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation (DoWR, RD & GR) humbly acknowledges the concern expressed with regard to the problems, being faced by the department in releasing funds in some of the schemes, particularly irrigation schemes like PMKSY and Command Area Development (CAD).

On the request from DoWR, RD & GR, Ministry of Finance has decided to release funds under CSS in two instalments of upto 50% each if the total amount earmarked under the CSS for a particular State for the financial year is less than Rs. 1.00 crore. The department is working on the proposal to seek exemption for these schemes viz. AIBP and CADWM from the conditions for release in 04 instalments and allow releases in 02 instalments so that implementation of those scheme is not hampered due to non-releases of funds.

The concern of the Committee regarding under utilization of funds against RE allocation for the year 2022-23 has also been noted. Department is hand holding States for resolution of the issues faced by them in implementation of the SNA system and coordinating with the State Govt. departments, PFMS State Govt. directorates and PFMS HQ for early resolution of the issues pertaining to the implementation of the SNA system for the schemes of this department. Further, besides monthly and quarterly expenditure plan, regular monitoring of progress of schemes is also being undertaken.

(O.M. NO. G-30012/2/2023-Bud/26 dated 12.06.2023)

RECOMMENDATION NO. 2

Implementation of the Schemes

Though the Committee are happy to note that the budgetary allocations of some of the important Schemes of the Department like Namami Gange, Atal Jal and Interlinking of Rivers have witnessed substantial increase up to 43%, 43% and 150% respectively for Fiscal Year 2023-24 in comparison to their budgetary provisions of FY 2022-23, yet, they find that some of the Programmes like Dam Rehabilitation and Improved Project (DRIP), Farakka Barrage Project, National Hydrology Project and Special Package for Maharashtra have seen noticeable decline of 50%, 35.5%, 37.5% and 50% respectively in their BE provisions for FY 2023-24 vis-à-vis budgetary allocations of FY 2022-23. The Department has enumerated various reasons for decline in budgetary provisions which inter alia include delay in appointment of consultant in DRIP and less requirement of funds in National Hydrology Project due to non-availability of microprocessor chips etc. The Committee while taking note of the various problems as furnished by the Department which have caused reduction in budgetary allocations, desire that the Department to take all preparedness to formulate the plan judiciously and realistically so that such vital Schemes could not be hampered on this account.

Reply of the Government

The Budget Estimates (BE) are proposed, keeping in view the planned activities linked with the annual targets during a particular financial year. Efforts are made to formulate the plan judiciously and realistically so that budget of the department is realistic and vital schemes of department are not hampered due to less allocation of funds. In case more resources are required for a programme during 2023-24, suitable provision will be made at R.E. stage.

(O.M. NO. G-30012/2/2023-Bud/26 dated 12.06.2023)

RECOMMENDATION NO. 3

Challenges in Water Sector

The Committee note that the country has 18% of the world's population as well as 18% cattle population. However, it has only 4% of world's freshwater resources. The water table in certain parts of the country has seen depletion due to over exploitation of groundwater and the climate change has further exacerbated the pressure on water resources. The Committee observe that with the growing population, rapid industrialization, increasing urbanization, the gap between demand and supply of water will further deteriorate the situation. Besides, as per the information furnished by the Department, the Committee observe that though the availability of utilizable water quantity as per projection will be 1122 BCM in the year 2025 while the water demand from all sectors (Irrigation, Drinking Water, Industry, Energy, others) will be 843 BCM resulting in excess of 279 BCM, however, even this excess of water may not be considered much due to the fact that much of the utilizable water in the country is in the Brahmaputra-Barak basin due to huge spatial variation. Further, as per water demand projection, there will be shortfall of 58 BCM in the year 2050 when availability of utilizable water is projected to be same as in the year 2025 i.e. 1122 BCM, however, water demand from all sectors is projected to rise to 1180 BCM.

Taking Cognizance of the challenges of the water sector, the Committee are of the view that, it is the high time to adopt a holistic approach to conserve the water resources while catering to the increasing requirements of water in various sectors. It requires multi-pronged strategy such as strengthening of legal and institutional framework for water conservation, crop diversification, growing of crops requiring less water, revive dry springs, floodwater harvesting and ensure better percolation of rainwater etc. Further, the Union and State Governments should work in close cooperation in order to find a viable and lasting solution to the water woes of the country. Besides, the Committee believe that public participation and social awareness are essential to make programme a success on this count. The Committee are aware that the Union government has initiated numerous steps like launching Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP), Atal Bhujal Yojana, Jal Shakti Abhiyan, Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana etc. to augment the water resources of the country. They feel that it is high time that the common people be aware of their duties of importance of conservation of our limited water resources. The Committee, therefore, would like to suggest the Department to create a dedicated fund for public awareness in order to give impetus to the public awareness programmes with stringent monitoring to make it a success. The Committee may be apprised of the steps taken in this regard.

Reply of the Government

DoWR, RD & GR note the recommendation of the Committee and agree with the observations of the committee regarding adoption of a holistic approach to conserve the water resources, while catering to the increasing requirements of water in various sectors. DoWR, RD & GR has adopted a multi-pronged strategy for conservation of water resources in a holistic manner while catering to increasing requirements of water in various sectors.

Funds have been made available under Publicity and Advertising heads to various organisations under DoWR, RD & GR in order to give impetus to the public awareness programmes of the department.

Central Ground Water Board (CGWB), an attached body under the aegis of DoWR, RD &GR, has taken up Aquifer Mapping and Management Programme during XII Plan, under the scheme 'Ground Water Management and Regulation'. The Aquifer Mapping is aimed to delineate aquifer disposition and their characterization for preparation of aquifer/area specific ground water management plans with community participation. The management plans including agriculture sector like crop diversification, sprinkler system, drip irrigation, etc. are shared with the respective State Governments for taking appropriate measures/implementation. Further, Public Interaction Programs (PIP) are being organized at grass root level for disseminating the tenets of the Aquifer Management Plans as part of the National Aquifer Mapping and Management (NAQUIM) Programme for the benefit of the stakeholders, including farmers. Best practices of water conservation by various entities including private persons, NGOs, PSUs etc. have been compiled and put on the website of this Department for the benefit of general public. An interactive link on best practices has also been created for receiving inputs from public, which, after necessary evaluation/validation are put on the website for the benefit of the public.

Central Water Commission(CWC) is also participating various exhibitions organized by various Govt departments, NGOs, Private sector specific to the water/related areas. Various events for sensitization of public, school children for efficient use of water is being carried out constantly throughout the country by regional offices of CWC.

Mass awareness programmes (Trainings, Seminars, Workshops, Exhibitions, Trade Fares and Painting Competitions etc.) are conducted from time to time each year under the information, Education & Communication (IEC) Scheme of DoWR, RD&GR in various parts of the country to promote water conservation techniques including in the irrigation sector.

NWM is generating awareness for water conservation under Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain (JSA: CTR) Campaigns which is an inter-sectoral convergence of various Central and State Government Schemes/Programmes.

Atal Jal is also conducting IEC activities at National level from their funds available under "Advertising & Publicity" budget head.

(O.M. NO. G-30012/2/2023-Bud/26 dated 12.06.2023)

RECOMMENDATION NO. 4

North-East Water Management Authority (NEWMA)

The Committee are happy to note that the Department has prepared a draft Bill, titled, 'North East Water Management Authority (NEWMA) Bill, 2023', in consultation with the Ministry of Law and Justice. The draft Cabinet Note for introduction of the Bill is currently under consideration of the Government. The Committee feel that once the Bill is enacted, the Authority will come into existence and will manage water resources of Brahmaputra and Barak basin in an integrated manner with due regard to relationship between surface and ground water resources, keeping in view the environmental aspects. The Chief Ministers of all member States of the basin will be part of the Governing Council of the authority under the chairmanship of Union Minister of Jal Shakti. The States of the basin will have more say in the affairs of the NEWMA through

the structure of the Governing Council. Unlike its predecessor organization i.e. Brahmaputra Board, which was basically a single discipline body for flood control, the NEWMA will be a multi-disciplinary body which will also look after other water bodies viz - lakes etc. and their relationship with Brahmaputra and Barak basin as an integrated unit. The Committee laud this initiative of the Government and urge upon the Department to take all out efforts for passage of the NEWMA Bill by the Parliament, so as to pave way for formation of the Authority for better management of water resources in the North – Eastern region in a holistic manner.

Reply of the Government

Draft Cabinet Note was circulated amongst concerned stake holders. Suggestions received from various departments were examined. Revised draft cabinet notes and NEWMA Bills have been circulated for comments and the matter is being pursued.

(O.M. NO. G-30012/2/2023-Bud/26 dated 12.06.2023)

RECOMMENDATION NO. 6

Atal Bhujal Yojana (ATAL JAL)

The Committee note that the Atal Bhujal Yojana (ATAL JAL) is being implemented since April, 2020 in 8,774 water stressed Gram Panchayats of 222 administrative blocks/ Talukas in 81 districts of seven States, viz. Haryana, Gujarat, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh for five years. The Department has informed that the World Bank has undertaken the midterm review of the Scheme and as per its findings, the programme is on track and would achieve its objectives by the closing date of 31st March, 2025. The Department has further informed the Committee that the proposals of inclusion of more water stressed areas in this Programme would be considered in future, depending upon the outcome of the scheme and its implementation status. Keeping in view the fact that the Scheme as of now has covered the above-mentioned States which account for about 37% of the total number of water-stressed (over-exploited, critical and semi-critical) blocks in India, the Committee feel that the Department should make concerted efforts to cover the remaining areas/States under this Scheme so as to cover the remaining 63% water stressed blocks of the country. The Committee also note that in the States where Atal Bhujal Yojana has been undertaken, some of the water stressed blocks have been selected while some have been left out, they, therefore, desire the Department to take proactive action and revise the guidelines of Atal Bhujal Yojana accordingly to bring all the water stressed blocks in the Selected States, where the Scheme is in operation, under this Scheme.

Reply of the Government

ATAL JAL was started as a Pilot Programme in identified areas of 07 States with an aim to demonstrate the community led ground water management so that later on, all the States can take up this approach further to remaining areas. Expansion of ATAL JAL is under consideration of this department and the suggestions made by Hon'ble Committee will be taken into account at the time of expansion.

(O.M. NO. G-30012/2/2023-Bud/26 dated 12.06.2023)

RECOMMENDATION NO. 7

Ground Water Management and Regulation Scheme

The Committee observe that the Ground Water Management and Regulation (GWM&R) Scheme is a continuing Central Sector Scheme of the Department of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation. The Committee note that the scheme has recently been approved for continuation for the period 2021-26. The components of the scheme include (i) Component I: Monitoring, Assessment, Management and Regulation and (ii) Component II: Strengthening of Infrastructure for Technological Upgradation (Machinery & Equipment). In addition to this, a project namely "National Aquifer Mapping and Management (NAQUIM)" has also been approved by the Public Investment Board (PIB) for implementation under the scheme. The Committee note that the BE allocation for such an important Scheme has been reduced drastically at RE stage year by year. To illustrate, in FY 2021-22, the BE was Rs. 275 crore which was reduced to Rs. 170 crore at RE stage. Similarly, for FY 2022-23, the BE of Rs. 375 crore was lowered to Rs. 315 crore at RE stage. While, the actual expenditure for FY 2022-23 till 31 December, 2022 is Rs. 124.84 crore (39.63% appx of RE allocation of Rs. 315 crore). The Committee note that the remaining amount i.e. Rs. 190.16 crore of the RE of Rs. 315 crores would scarcely be spent in the last quarter of the FY 2022-23. The Department has reasoned that COVID related restrictions during 2019-20 and 2020-21 have resulted in frequent reduction of budgetary provisions at RE stage. The Committee note that BE for the year 2021-22 was planned in accordance with the activities proposed in the Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC) memo. The EFC in its meeting held on 31st August 2021 recommended that most of the activities under Aquifer Mapping and Management Programme (Component I) should be undertaken as a Project, these activities were proposed to be taken up separately under PIB and the RE under GWM&R scheme has been reduced. Though, the BE for the year 2022-23 has been increased in anticipation of the approval of the PIB project on Aquifer Mapping and Management Programme, yet the expenditure under PIB is to be started as the project got approved recently. Having taken note of the fact that the above-said project has got approved as well as the impact of COVID has declined the Committee therefore desire the Department to formulate the plan and allocate the budget prudently and as far as possible realistically so that the aim of such an important Scheme which is to provide scientific inputs for sustainable development and management of ground water resources in the country may not be affected.

Reply of the Government

The Public Investment Board (PIB) proposal for NAQUIM project has been approved with an outlay of Rs 805.00 Cr for the years 2022-23 to 2025-26 as part of the Ground Water Management & Regulation Scheme. The physical & financial targets have been projected for F.Y. 2023-24. To monitor the implementation of the scheme, DoWR, RD&GR and CGWB review the physical and financial progress every quarter.

(O.M. NO. G-30012/2/2023-Bud/26 dated 12.06.2023)

RECOMMENDATION NO. 8

The Committee observe that the Department had circulated Ground Water (Regulation and Control of Development and Management) Bill, 2005, which was a Model Bill, to all states/UTs for regulation and development of ground water. The Committee note that so far only 15 States and 6 UTs have enacted and implemented the

Model Bill. The Committee note that though the Department is regularly pursuing the matter with the State Governments urging them to enact the Model Bill and adopt the guidelines stipulated by the Ministry of Jal Shakti (MoJS), however number of States are yet to enact the Model Bill. Taking cognizance of the afore-stated facts, the Committee recommend that the Department may suitably modify the Model Bill taking into account the apprehensions and socio-political and economic realities of the States thus paving the way for enactment of the Model Bill by rest of the States.

Reply of the Government

The Model Groundwater (Sustainable Management) Bill has been prepared by the Department. To tackle water related matters in a holistic and unified manner, a Draft Model Bill i.e., "Model State Integrated Water Resources Management Bill, 2023" incorporating all the major provisions of 06 water related Model Bills including Model Groundwater (Sustainable Management) Bill is under finalization.

(O.M. NO. G-30012/2/2023-Bud/26 dated 12.06.2023)

RECOMMENDATION NO. 10

Projects on Tributaries of Ganga

Though, the Committee are happy to note that the major work on main stem of river Ganga has been done, yet they find that some projects are left in the State of West Bengal which will be completed within 2 years and now the focus of the Department will be on the tributaries of river Ganga. The Committee note that 53 sewerage projects and 5 projects for construction of ghats and crematoria have been sanctioned on the tributaries of river Ganga, out of which, 19 sewerage projects and 1 project for construction of ghats have been completed. From the information furnished by the Department, the Committee find overrun in execution of the projects due to various impediments such as delays in obtaining permissions for road cutting, railway/National Highway crossings, land procurement, forest clearances, change of sites, abnormal floods etc. The Committee are of the view that Namami Gange Programme is a commendable effort of the Government, however, rejuvenation of the river is possible only if it is viewed in totality including health and ecosystem of other tributaries of river Ganga are maintained. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Department should focus on the tributaries of river Ganga and make concerted efforts with the States where these Projects are being executed so as to remove the obstacles coming in the way for faster completion for Ganga rejuvenation.

Reply of the Government

Namami Gange Programme covers all the tributaries of river Ganga for effective abatement of pollution and rejuvenation of the river Ganga and its tributaries. The projects are prioritized considering the high pollution load from the towns. The major tributaries of river Ganga on which projects have been sanctioned are Yamuna, Rispana, Bindal, Hindon, Ramganga, Kali East, Kali West, Gomti, Saryu, Varuna, Gandak, Ghaghara, Damodar, Ajoy, Banka etc.

The Namami Gange Mission is focussed on convergence of different schemes, piloting of new projects, rational augmentation of the interventions taken up in first phase with a focus on the ongoing projects with operation & maintenance (O&M), new

interventions on tributaries and sub-tributaries of Ganga for further scaling up the river rejuvenation in the entire Ganga and its tributaries basin comprising all the 11 States.

The status of the projects under the Programme are as follows:

(i) As on date, 428 projects have been sanctioned under Namami Gange Programme for various activities such as sewerage infrastructure, ghats & crematoria, river front development, river surface cleaning, institutional development, biodiversity conservation, afforestation and rural sanitation.

(ii) Out of 428, 244 projects have been completed and balance projects are at various stages of execution and tendering.

(iii) 186 Sewerage infrastructure projects have been taken up for creation of total STP capacity of 5933.37 MLD and laying of around 5238.26 Km sewerage network. As on date, 105 sewerage projects have been completed resulting in creation of 2610.05 MLD of STP capacity and laying of 4379.11 Km sewage network.

(iv) As on date, the total number of sewage infrastructure projects on tributaries of Ganga have been increased from 53 to 60 and the Ghat projects in Ganga tributaries have been increased from 5 to 8.

For cleaning of river Ganga and its tributaries, including Yamuna, the sewage treatment plants are being setup in various towns depending on various factors such as sewage generation from the town, characteristics of the wastewater in drains, land availability, topographical features, power availability, sewage travelling distance before meeting river etc.

(O.M. NO. G-30012/2/2023-Bud/26 dated 12.06.2023)

RECOMMENDATION NO. 11

Cleaning of the River Yamuna

In connection with the cleaning of river Ganga, the Committee would like to recall the briefing meeting held on 16.12.2021 in connection with the examination of the subject 'Review of Upper Yamuna River Cleaning Project up to Delhi and River bed management in Delhi'. During the aforesaid meeting, they were apprised by the Department that though the stretch of river Yamuna in Delhi is very small just 22 kms., however it is responsible for causing 75 to 80 percent of pollution in the river. The Committee note that the bathing quality of river Yamuna particularly in the State of Delhi, as per parameters stipulated by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) for Outdoor Bathing (organized), falls into class-B category. One of the parameters is Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) which should be less than 3.0 mg/l for bathing purpose. The Committee find very high presence of BOD in the river Yamuna in Delhi during 2019-2021. Maximum concentration observed is 114 mg/L during 2020 which is very much high as per the prescribed limit of less than 3 mg/l BOD for bathing purpose in river Yamuna. In this regard, the representative of the Department has informed the Committee that a number of STPs in Delhi will be commissioned soon, which will be of great help in reducing the pollution level in the river Yamuna. He has further emphasized the role and the steps required to be taken by the State Government in curbing the pollution in river Yamuna. The Committee further note that the major impediments for cleaning of river Yamuna are less flow at Wazirabad during dry period, illegal discharge

of sewage and industrial effluent, disposal of solid waste in drains, improper functioning of CETPs and insufficient sewage treatment capacity. Considering the role of Delhi stretch of river Yamuna which is responsible for major pollution load of the entire Yamuna river, the Committee are of the opinion that both the Union Government and the State Government should work in close collaboration and make all endeavours by taking remedial measures to overcome all the obstacles as mentioned above so that the rejuvenation of river Yamuna may become a reality.

Reply of the Government

Water quality assessment of river Yamuna is carried out by Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) at 33 locations, under National Water Quality Monitoring Programme (NWMP) in association with State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs) of Uttarakhand (04 locations), Himachal Pradesh (04 locations), Haryana (06 locations), Delhi (07 locations) and Uttar Pradesh (12 locations). The analysis results are compared with Primary Water Quality Criteria (PWQC) for Outdoor Bathing notified under Environment (Protection) Rules, 1986 with respect to parameters viz., DO, pH, BOD, Fecal Coliform and Fecal Streptococci. Based on recent analysis of water quality for 2022, it has been observed that in Delhi, all the 07 monitored locations are not meeting with the criteria with respect to parameters DO (except Palla and Wazirabad), BOD & FC (except Palla), indicating that the water in river Yamuna is not fit for bathing, particularly in the State of Delhi.

As per the data submitted by DPCC, the total sewage generation in Delhi is 3,491 MLD, whereas the total installed capacity of 35 STPs is 2,874 MLD and the capacity actually utilized is 2,714 MLD. In addition, there are 13 Common Effluent Treatment Plants (CETPs) with a total capacity of 212.3 MLD existing in Delhi to treat industrial wastewater generated from industries.

As per NGT directions, a High Level Committee (HLC) has been constituted under the chairmanship of Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor, Delhi to coordinate with all departments involved in Yamuna rejuvenation. Action plans for rejuvenation of rivers have been prepared by "River Rejuvenation Committee" (RRC) constituted by the respective State Government/UT Administration, under the overall supervision and coordination of Principal Secretary, Environment of the concerned State/Union Territory, including river Yamuna.

Presently in Delhi, under Namami Gange Programme, a total of 9 projects have been taken up with an estimated cost of Rs.1951.03 crore to abate the pollution in river Yamuna. These projects are generally at advanced stage of implementation. These projects envisage creation of 1,268 MLD of sewage treatment capacities in Delhi to bridge the gap in treatment capacity.

Stringent monitoring and regulation of industries and pollution sources is undertaken to assess the compliance status of Grossly Polluting Industries (GPIs) for enforcing regulatory framework on the polluting industries. Stringent action is taken by Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB)/State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs)/Pollution Control Committees against the GPIs discharging into main stem of Ganga River & its tributaries which are non-complying with respect to the prescribed norms.

Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEF& CC) formulates and notifies standards for emission or discharge of environmental pollutants viz. air pollutants and water pollutants from industries, operations or processes with an aim to protect and improve the quality of the environment and abate environmental pollution.

Industry specific effluent/emission standards are notified under Schedule-I: 'Standards for Emission or Discharge of Environmental Pollutants from Various Industries' of Environment Protection Act, 1986. State Pollution Control Boards and Pollution Control Committees in States and Union Territories, respectively are adhered to ensure the compliance of these standards. So far, 47 industry specific effluent standards and 63 industry specific emission standards have been notified.

Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC) regulates industrial pollution through consent mechanism. DPCC has notified stricter norms for sewage treatment in Delhi.

NMCG has been organizing regular Yamuna Ghat cleaning campaigns on certain Saturdays of every month for cleaning the seven Ghats in Yamuna in association with different Water quality assessment of river Yamuna is carried out by Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) at 33 locations, under National Water Quality Monitoring Programme (NWMP) in association with State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs) of Uttarakhand (04 locations), Himachal Pradesh (04 locations), Haryana (06 locations), Delhi (07 locations) and Uttar Pradesh (12 locations). The analysis results are compared with Primary Water Quality Criteria (PWQC) for Outdoor Bathing notified under Environment (Protection) Rules, 1986 with respect to parameters viz., DO, pH, BOD, Fecal Coliform and Fecal Streptococci. Based on recent analysis of water quality for 2022, it has been observed that in Delhi, the monitored locations are not meeting with the criteria with respect to parameters DO (except Palla and Wazirabad), BOD & FC (except Palla), indicating that the water in river Yamuna is not fit for bathing in the State of Delhi.

NMCG has been organizing regular Yamuna Ghat cleaning campaigns on certain Saturdays of every month for cleaning the seven Ghats in Yamuna in association with different volunteering civil society group.

Directions were issued by the Ministry of Jal Shakti to Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC) vide communication dated 16.08.2018 under Section 5 of Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 against sub-optimal functioning of CETPs as well as reutilization of treated waste water in the State of Delhi. In addition, as reported by CPCB, directions were also issued to Delhi Jal Board (DJB) dated 19.02.2019 under the said Act against non-complying sewage treatment plants operating in Delhi. Central Monitoring Committee under the Chairmanship of Secretary, DoWR, RD & GR, Ministry of Jal Shakti has been monitoring the progress in implementation of Action Plan for the State of Delhi including sewerage projects for abatement of pollution in the river Yamuna in a time bound manner. The Committee has also directed the NCT of Delhi for completing their initiatives without any further delay.

The State Government of Delhi has been directed to ensure compliance of the existing STPs and CETPs and to take strict action against the non-complying industries. Time bound action plan needs to be implemented to bridge the gap in solid waste management in the State.

(O.M. NO. G-30012/2/2023-Bud/26 dated 12.06.2023)

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

RECOMMENDATION NO. 13

Command Area Development & Water Management (CAD&WM)

The Committee observe that the BE provision for CAD&WM for FY 2022-23 was Rs. 1044 crore which was reduced to just Rs. 140 crore (reduction of more than 86%) at RE stage. However, for FY 2023-24, it has again been raised to Rs. 400 crore (BE). On the issue of huge decline of budgetary allocations at the RE stage, the Department has informed the Committee that with the paradigm shift in implementation of PMKSY-AIBP in 2016, implementation of CAD&WM was restricted to paripassu implementation of the 99 priority projects. However, work in CAD&WM has not been able to meet the expectations due to its bottlenecks as the farmers do not donate land or allow work in their farms unless they are able to see the water in a nearby canal. Further, the Committee find that the approval for modification in the CAD&WM which was anticipated to be obtained by mid of FY 2022-23 for inclusion of more projects under the Programme has not been received so far. Taking note of the importance of CAD&WM for achieving the objectives of water use efficiency, increased productivity and sustainable irrigation participatory environment, the Committee recommend that the Department should take up the matter with the Ministry of Finance to obtain approval of Rs. 600 crores for new projects and also suitably raise allocation at the Revised Estimates (RE) stage so that the execution of such an important Scheme in the FY 2023-24 is not adversely affected. The Committee also urge the Department to work in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare so that farmers may be made aware of the benefits of CAD&WM and accept the Scheme whole heartedly. For this purpose, if possible, the changes in CAD&WM may be considered to encourage the farmers. The Committee would categorically like to be apprised of the steps taken by the Department.

Reply of the Government

The flagship scheme for irrigation is Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayi Yojana (PMKSY) which has 2 components i.e. Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP) component pertaining to development of canals, dams, auxiliary setup etc with outlay of Rs 18,352 crore (central share from 2021-26) and Command Area Development & Water Management (CADWM) component to develop the last mile connectivity through water courses/field channels from distributary/ Minor canals to farm gate with an outlay of Rs 5,566 crore (central share from 2021-26).

Inclusion of new projects under CADWM component for the period 2022-26 is being proposed as "Modernisation of Irrigation Command Area Works", for meaningful enhancement of Water Use Efficiency (WUE) in existing command areas of various deserving projects.

The PMKSY - AIBP and CADWM as a whole is proposed to be reoriented for smart irrigation at last mile connectivity. A working group has been formed to suggest changes and re-orientation of the AIBP as well as the CADWM component of PMKSY for smart irrigation.

(O.M. NO. G-30012/2/2023-Bud/26 dated 12.06.2023)

RECOMMENDATION PARA NO. 15

Development of Water Resources Information System (DWRIS)

The Committee note that the Development of Water Resources Information System scheme aims for standardized national water information system with a network of data banks and data bases, improving data quality and processing capabilities through country wide network of Hydro meteorological sites. In addition, it endeavours towards early flood warning system as an important non-structural measure for flood management through existing network of flood forecasting stations towards effective flood warning and issuing flood advisories with lead time of 120 hours. Besides, the scheme intends to create an integrated data bank to tackle coastal erosion in a scientific manner keeping in view long term perspective and challenges of climate change. The Committee note that the scheme of Flood Forecasting has been merged with this scheme from FY 2018-19. They have been informed that DWRIS along with other flagship schemes of DoWR, RD & GR such as PMKSY, RBM, FMBAP, RRR of Water Bodies, etc. is being managed by field offices with the total sanctioned staff strength of 6965 as on 31.12.2022 (both technical and non-technical groups). Out of these 6965 posts, 4863 post are work-charged staff. Further, out of these 4863 posts of work-charge staff, 3044 posts have been abolished. As on 31.12.2022, only 3217 posts have been filled up. The Committee find that there had been severe shortage of manpower (both technical and non-technical) at field set-up especially at sites for implementing the various activities of DWRIS. However, situation in recent years has improved with mandate received for outsourcing of support & supervisory services at HO sites. Approval has also been received for hiring of other non-technical services at those sites & offices. Keeping in view the importance of the DWRIS in collecting and analysing important data for developing a robust information system on water resources, the Committee recommend the Department to fill up the vacant post expeditiously for smooth functioning of the DWRIS Scheme. The Committee also recommend the Department to initiate recruitment process well in advance taking into account retirement of personnel and assessing the requirements of manpower so that works of the Scheme are not affected on this count.

Reply of the Government

CWC with DoWR, RD & GR is working towards filling up existing vacancies in all Groups A, B & C sanctioned posts in a mission mode. Lately, there had been severe shortage of manpower (both technical and non-technical) at field set-up especially at sites for implementing the various activities of DWRIS. However, situation in recent year has improved with mandate received for outsourcing of support & supervisory services at HO sites. Approval has also been received for hiring for other non-technical services at those sites & offices.

(O.M. NO. G-30012/2/2023-Bud/26 dated 12.06.2023)

CHAPTER III

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

NIL

CHAPTER IV

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

RECOMMENDATION PARA NO. 5

Mission Amrit Sarovar

The Committee observe that the Amrit Sarovar Mission has been launched by Hon'ble Prime Minister in addition to the existing Repair, Renovation and Restoration (RRR) schemes. The Department has informed that the water bodies which are included under the RRR scheme and are likely to be completed by August, 2023, have been identified to be included as Amrit Sarovars in consultation with the State Governments concerned. The Committee note that a total of 608 water bodies under RRR scheme have been identified for implementation as Amrit Sarovars. Out of these, 211 water bodies have so far been renovated. The Committee take note that no separate dedicated fund has been proposed under Amrit Sarovar initiative. The Repair, Renovation and Restoration (RRR) of Water Bodies schemes are funded under PMKSY-HKPP scheme. The Committee note that the details on the work relating to Amrit Sarovar in the State of Manipur are yet to be added on Amrit Sarovar portal. Keeping in view the better monitoring for fruitful results, the Committee urge upon the Department to coordinate not only with Manipur but also with all the States where Mission Amrit Sarovar has been undertaken to provide/update all relevant information in a time bound manner on the portal of Amrit Sarovar.

Reply of the Government

The observation of the Committee has been noted for compliance, through the nodal Ministry for Mission Amrit Sarovar, i.e., Ministry of Rural Development.

(O.M. NO. G-30012/2/2023-Bud/26 dated 12.06.2023)

Comment of the Committee

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

RECOMMENDATION PARA NO. 9

Safety of Dams

The Committee note that as per the National Register of Large Dams-2019, there are 234 functional large dams in India which are more than 100 years old. The Committee take note of list as furnished by the Department, of failures from such old large dams which are as follows: Tigras Project in Madhya Pradesh (completion in the year 1917 and failure in the year 1917 itself), Ashti Project in Maharashtra (completion in 1883 and failure in 1933), Khadakwasla Project in Maharashtra (completion in 1880 and failure in 1961), Jamunia Project in Madhya Pradesh (completion in 1921 and failure in 2002) and Jaswant Nagar Project in Rajasthan (completion in 1889 and failure in 2007). The Committee observe that some of them, as per the National Register of Large Dams – 2019, are more than 300 years old and so far none of these dams have been decommissioned, however, the Department has stated that the dams are normally designed for 100 years of useful age and their functional life also gets decreased with progressive reservoir sedimentation concurrently reducing project benefits. The Department further states that there is no mechanism to assess the viable lifespan and

performance of the dams and these dams are mostly owned by State Governments /Public Sector Undertakings/Private Agencies which carry out the Operation and Maintenance (O&M) works of the dams in their jurisdiction. Furthermore, realizing the importance of dam safety, a Dam Safety Act has been notified in the year 2021 to provide for surveillance, inspection, operation and maintenance of the specified dam for prevention of dam failure related disasters and to provide for institutional mechanism to ensure their safe functioning and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto. In view of the foregoing, the Committee recommend the Department to take suitable measures for evolving a viable mechanism to assess the lives and operations of the dams and also persuade the States to decommission those dams which have outlived their lifespan and may pose a severe threat to life and infrastructure in case of any failure. The Committee would like to be apprised of the steps taken by the Department in this regard within three months from presentation of this Report.

Reply of the Government

Well maintained and operated dams, if continued to be giving meaningful service, can have long life. Earthen Dams are generally constructed using locally available materials and can be compared to natural geological landforms having very long life. Similarly, other type of dams also, if maintained/ rehabilitated from time to time, they will also serve the purpose for a long time.

Loss of useful storage of Dam reservoirs with time can also be managed by proper sediment management such as flushing by low level sluices, removal of accumulated sediments (if found techno economically and environmentally feasible) as well as Catchment Area Treatment etc. If a project, even after its designed useful age, is serving its benefits and is structurally safe, it is not advisable to decommission such dam. Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Project Phase II and III(2021-2031), is a continuing Scheme of DRIP-I(2012-2021), being implemented under overall coordination and supervision of Ministry of Jal Shakti. The objective of Scheme is to improve safety and operational performance of selected dams in participating States along with Dam Safety Institutional Strengthening.

It has provision for physical rehabilitation of 736 dams located in 19 States, to improve hydrological, structural and operational safety of selected dams, which in turn would help in enhancing the lives of these dams to serve the intended benefits. In addition to dam rehabilitation activities, the Scheme has provision for other important activities including publication of technical Guidelines and Manuals in dam safety areas, capacity building of academic Institutions, Central agencies as well as participating Implementing Agencies, preparation of dam specific Emergency Action Plan as well as O&M Manuals to improve climate and disaster resilience. These activities would also contribute in improving the Institutional mechanism to deal with safety and performance of the given dams.

Also, there is need based provision for de-siltation of selected reservoirs. Other sediment management approach such as Catchment area treatment may also be taken up under the Scheme.

To meet concerns of safety related to ageing dams, DSA 2021 has been enacted and has come into force w.e.f 30.12.2021. Consequent upon enactment of National Dam Safety Act, 2021 and in pursuance of the provisions therein, National Dam Safety Authority (NDSA) has been set up.

To ensure long term sustainability of capacity building of dam owners, Ministry of Jal Shakti has decided to support identified academic institution to provide technical support to dam owners through the establishment of Centre of Excellence. In this regard a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) was signed between central water commission and IIT Roorkee for Dams under the Dam Rehabilitation and improvement project Phase II and III at IIT Roorkee.

As per Section 30-31, (Chapter VII) DSA 2021, for each specified dam, the owner shall, within the operation and maintenance establishment, provide a dam safety unit consisting of such competent levels of engineers as may be specified by the regulations. Every owner of a specified dam shall undertake every year, through their dam safety unit, a pre-monsoon and post-monsoon inspections in respect of each such dam and also during and after every flood, earthquake or any other natural or man-made calamities, or if any sign of distress or unusual behavior is noticed in the dam. Remedial measures shall be initiated by the concerned SDSOs if the dams are found to be in distressed condition.

As per Section 36-37, (Chapter VIII), DSA 2021, in respect of the existing dam, emergency action plan shall be prepared within five years from the date of commencement of this Act and thereafter update such plans at regular intervals.

As per section 38, Chapter IX, DSA 2021, the owner of a specified dam shall make or cause to be made comprehensive dam safety evaluation of each specified dam through an independent panel of experts, shall be conducted within five years from the date of commencement of this Act, and thereafter carried out at regular intervals as may be specified by the regulations, which includes review and analysis of available data on the design, construction, operation, maintenance and performance of the structure along with general assessment of hydrologic and hydraulic conditions with mandatory review of design floods as specified by the regulations.

Therefore, as per relevant provisions of DSA 2021, the safety concerns of ageing dams are adequately addressed.

(O.M. NO. G-30012/2/2023-Bud/26 dated 12.06.2023)

Comment of the Committee

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

RECOMMENDATION NO. 12

E-flow for river Yamuna

The Committee observe that a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed by the Chief Ministers of Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, and National Capital Territory of Delhi on 12th May, 1994 regarding allocation of utilizable surface flow of river Yamuna upto Okhla Barrage (Upper Yamuna) among the co-basin States. The MoU stipulates that 'A minimum flow in proportion of completion of upstream storages going upto 10 cumec shall be maintained downstream of Tajewala and Okhla Headworks throughout the year from ecological considerations, as upstream storages are built up progressively in a phased manner'. Further, the Principal Bench of the National Green Tribunal (NGT) directed that the State of Haryana shall release 10 Cumec water directly into main stream of river Yamuna from Hathinikund Barrage and maintain e-flow of river till Wazirabad. The Committee note that as per the water

released data, the minimum 10 Cumec (352 cusec) as stipulated in the MoU is being released downstreams of Hathinikund Barrage and Okhla Barrage throughout the year.

The Committee observe that storage as stipulated by the 1994 MoU among the States for maintaining minimum flow in the river Yamuna throughout the year has not been built so far. Even the Department has reasoned that less flow at Wazirabad during dry period is one of the major issues that impedes cleaning of river Yamuna. The Committee, therefore, recommend the Department to make all out efforts in cooperation with the concerned States to build the storage capacity. Further, the Committee also urge upon the Department to consider defining e-flow for the river Yamuna on the line of the river Ganga in order to maintain the health of the river and also its ecosystem.

Reply of the Government

There are three National Projects, planned in the upstream of the Yamuna River. The status of these three projects is as follows:

iv. Renukaji Dam Project-

Renukaji Dam Project has been conceived as a storage project on Giri River (a tributary of river Yamuna) in Sirmour District of Himachal Pradesh. The project envisages construction of 148 m. high rock filled dam for supply of 23 cumec (498 MCM) water to Delhi for 9 months from October to June and other basin States. The project will also generate 40 MW (2x20 MW) of power during peak flow. The live storage of Renukaji MPP is 498 MCM. The Project was declared as a National Project in 2008. The Agreement has been signed amongst six basin States of Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, NCT of Delhi and Rajasthan on the construction of Renukaji Dam Project on 11.01.2019. The project has been approved for implementation with central assistance from Gol in December 2021.

v. Lakhwar Multi-Purpose Project

Lakhwar Multi-Purpose Project is situated on Yamuna River in Dehradun district of Uttarakhand. It envisages construction of 204 m. high concrete dam with underground power house with installed capacity of 300 MW along with construction of Katapather Barrage about 13.6 km downstream of Lakhwar dam. The live storage of the Lakhwar MPP is 330.66 MCM. The Project was declared as a National Project in 2008 wherein 90% of the cost of water component shall be provided as grant assistance by Gol. The Agreement has been signed amongst six basin States of Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, NCT of Delhi and Rajasthan on the construction of Lakhwar Project on 28.08.2018. The project has been approved for implementation with central assistance from Gol in December 2021.

vi. Kishau Multi-Purpose Project-

Kishau Multi-Purpose Project has been identified as a National Project in Feb' 2008. The project is a storage scheme located on river Tons (tributary of river Yamuna) in Dehradun district of Uttarakhand & Sirmour district of Himachal Pradesh. The Live Storage of the Project is 1,324 MCM and Gross Storage of the Project is 1,824 MCM. Hydropower with installed capacity of 660 MW has also been envisaged. Efforts are being made by DoWR, RD & GR for agreement among the party States viz. Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and NCT and Delhi for its implementation.

As regards defining the flow of river Yamuna, a study report titled “Environmental flow assessment for Yamuna River from Hathnikund barrage to Okhla barrage” was submitted by NIH (Roorkee). There have been certain observations with regard to surface and sub-surface interactions etc. which are equally important. Efforts are being made to arrive at a consensus between stakeholding States.

(O.M. NO. G-30012/2/2023-Bud/26 dated 12.06.2023)

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

RECOMMENDATION PARA NO. 14

Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP)

The Committee note that Ninety-Nine (99) ongoing Major/Medium Irrigation projects (and 7 phases) spread in 18 States were identified during 2016-17, in consultation with the States, to be completed in phases. Central Assistance to these projects is being provided through budgetary resources whereas State Share for these projects is being provided from NABARD under LTIF. Out of these 99 projects and 7 phases (Total- 106), 50 projects have been reported to be completed so far. Further, out of balance projects, 23 projects have seen progress of more than 90 % and 14 projects between 80 to 90 %. Ultimate Irrigation Potential of these 99 projects is 76.03 Lakh Ha. out of which 41.39 Lakh Ha. had been created upto 31.03.2016. During 2016-2022, additional potential of 24.35 Lakh ha. has been created through these projects. The Committee observe from the information furnished by the Department that the budgetary allocation for Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme and National/special Projects for FY 2022-23 was Rs. 3237.69 crore (BE) which was reduced to Rs. 1800 crore at RE stage for FY 2022-23. However, till 31 December, 2022, no expenditure has been spent under this Programme. The Committee note that the Department has not furnished specific reply to their query with regard to the reasons for not spending a single penny under such an important Scheme during first three quarters of FY 2022-23. Keeping in view the importance of AIBP for the agriculture sector of the country, the Committee, therefore, recommend the Department to act proactively and monitor the pace of actual expenditure and flow of funds under such an important Scheme in order to ensure optimum utilization of budgetary allocations. The Committee also urge the Department to identify the factors/reasons which restricted them from utilizing the funds and take suitable remedial action accordingly.

Reply of the Government

The budgetary allocation for Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme and National / Special Projects for FY 2022-23 was Rs. 3,237.69 crore (BE) which was reduced to Rs. 1,800 crore at RE stage for FY 2022-23. The final expenditure under the scheme in the FY 2022-23 is Rs. 668.61 crore.

Major reasons for reduction in the outlay, are as follows:-

(i). Change in appraisal/approval mechanism for inclusions of new projects under PMKSY-AIBP:-So far, inclusion of additional projects under PMKSY-AIBP was possible through multi-stage intra-Ministry approval process. However, the appraisal/ approval process is required to be aligned with the Department of Expenditure guidelines, which

requires inter-Ministerial consultations, approval of Public Investment Board/ SFC and in several cases, the approval of CCEA. While earlier, the entire process could be completed in a month or so, the revised procedure now takes 4-6 months at least. This year, DoWR, RD&GR has been able to seek approvals for inclusion of only one small project (total central assistance Rs. 50 crore) under AIBP so far, as against 5 projects having central assistance of about Rs. 1,280 crores approved during Dec., 2021 (when extension of PMKSY was approved) to March, 2022 last year. Further, inclusion of projects having major requirements of central assistance (total Rs. 2,000 crore), namely, Jamrani Project of Uttarakhand and Bodwad Parisar Sinchai Yojana Stage-I, are presently under process, due to which the central assistance cannot be provisioned at this stage.

(ii). Less Utilisations by National projects: Lakhwar multipurpose project of Uttarakhand and Renukaji project of Himachal Pradesh are in preliminary stage of implementation. The two projects had projected major requirement of central assistance during the current financial year. However, while in case of Lakhwar project the tendering could be completed only recently, Renukaji project is still in its pre-construction stage. Further, the two projects are also struggling with the State share component to be collected from all co-basin States, which is to be essentially reflected in the Single Nodal Agency account to enable release of next installment of central assistance. As a result, these projects could avail central assistance of Rs. 38.58 crore only, which is hardly 5% of the projected requirements.

(iii). Complexities involved in Single Nodal Agency (SNA) system: Single Nodal Agency (SNA) system has been made mandatory for all centrally sponsored schemes. However, there are many complex issues involved in its implementation by the States, due to which in a large number of cases, the release does not take place even after the necessary approvals have been obtained. In such cases, special action is required from PFMS Section of Min. of Finance, or Department of Expenditure, or both, which is again a time consuming process. Another fall-out of this delay is that the States are not able to claim the four installments in a year stipulated by SNA guidelines.

In 2016, with the launch of PMKSY-AIBP, 99 prioritized projects were included for time bound implementation and assured central assistance through NABARD. So far, 50 out of these projects have been completed. However, in the balance 49 projects, there is a major chunk of about 28 projects which are held up due to court cases or protests by locals. Thus, the central assistance availed is much less than the projected requirement on account of the above.

(O.M. NO. G-30012/2/2023-Bud/26 dated 12.06.2023)

Comment of the Committee

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

CHAPTER V

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

NIL

NEW DELHI
08 August, 2023
17 Sravana,(Saka)

Shri Parbatbhai Savabhai Patel
Chairperson,
Standing Committee on Water Resources

ANNEXURE – II

[Vide Para 4 of the Introduction]

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

(i)	Total number of Recommendations/Observations	15
(ii)	Recommendation/Observations which have been accepted by the Government Recommendation Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, 13 and 15	Total – 11 Percentage– 73.33 %
(iii)	Recommendations/Observations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of the Government's replies Recommendation Nos. NIL	Total – 00 Percentage – Nil
(iv)	Recommendations/Observations in respect of which replies of the Government have not been accepted by the Committee Recommendation Nos. Recommendation Nos. 5, 9, 12 and 14	Total – 4 Percentage – 26.66%
(v)	Recommendation/Observation in respect of which final reply of the Government is still awaited Para Nos. NIL	Total – 00 Percentage – Nil