

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

SEVENTEENTH LOK SABHA

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

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (2019-20)

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

SIXTH REPORT



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI**

February, 2021 / Magha, 1942 (Saka)

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(2019-20)**

**(Action Taken by the Government on the Observations / Recommendations
contained in the First Report on ‘Demands for Grants (2019-20) of the Ministry of Jal
Shakti - Department of Water Resource, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation)**

Presented to Lok Sabha on 9.2.2021

Laid on the Table of Rajya Sabha on 9.2.2021



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI**

February, 2021 / Magha, 1942 (Saka)

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COMPOSITON OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON WATER RESOURCES

(2020-21)

Dr. Sanjay Jaiswal - Chairperson

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3. Shri Bhagirath Chaudhary
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5. Shri Nihal Chand Chauhan
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15. Shri Hasmukhbhai Somabhai Patel
16. Shri Sanjay Kaka Patil

17. Vacant*

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29. Shri Subhash Chandra Singh
30. Shri Rewati Raman Singh
31. Shri Pradeep Tamta

* Shri D.S. Rathore, MP, LS ceased to be a Member w.e.f 28.12.2020

SECRETARIAT

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

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairperson, Standing Committee on Water Resources (2020-21) having been authorized by the Committee to submit the Report on their behalf, present this Sixth Report on Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations of the Committee contained in their First Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants (2019-20) relating to the Ministry of Jal Shakti (Department of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation).

2. The First Report of the Committee was presented to Lok Sabha and laid on the table of Rajya Sabha on 5 December 2019. The Action Taken replies of the Government to all the recommendations contained in the Report were received in this Secretariat on 17 March, 2020.

3. The draft Report was considered and adopted by the Committee at their sitting held on 6.11.2020.

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

New Delhi
3 February 2021
14 Magha, 1942 (Saka)

Dr. SANJAY JAISWAL
Chairperson
Standing Committee on Water Resources

CHAPTER I

REPORT

This Report of the Standing Committee on Water Resources deals with the Action Taken by the Government on the observations / recommendations contained in their First Report (17th Lok Sabha) on the Demands for Grants (2019-20) of the Ministry of Jal Shakti – Department of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation, which was presented to Lok Sabha on 5 December, 2019. Action Taken Notes in respect of all the 14 observations/recommendations, have been received from the Government and these been categorized as under:

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

Para Nos. 4,6,7,8,9,11,12, 13 and 14

(Total –9)

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

Para Nos. NIL

(Total – NIL)

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

Para Nos. 1,2,3,5 and 10

(Total – 5)

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

Para Nos. NIL

(Total – NIL)

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

A. Allocation of funds for 2019-20

Recommendation 1(Para No. 2.1)

3. The Committee observed that for the fiscal year 2019-20, the total budgetary allocation for the Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation was Rs. 8245.25 crore, out of which, Rs. 7853.78 crore had been allocated under the 'Revenue Section' and Rs. 391.47 crore under the 'Capital Section'. The total budgetary provision of the Department for the fiscal year 2019-20 was Rs. 8245.25 crore which was around Rs. 614.75 crore lower than that of the previous fiscal year which had been attributed to reduction in allocations under the National Ganga Plan (NGP) and the availability of unspent balances with the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) due to slow off-take by the States. The Committee also noted that there was an additional provision of Extra Budgetary Resources (EBR) of Rs. 8217.79 crore as borrowing from the National Bank for Agricultural and Rural Development (NABARD) which was almost equal to the budgetary provision of the Department. Though, EBR of Rs. 4882 crore had been approved by the Ministry of Finance, till 31.10.2019, no amount had been raised by the Department. The Committee regretted to note that accretion of borrowings from NABARD would increase the committed liability of the Government in the form of payment of interest along with principal amount and, therefore, would adversely impact the Schemes/Programmes of the Government in the long run. The Committee, therefore, strongly recommended that dependence on EBR for meeting the requirement of additional funds for various Schemes/Programmes in the field of water resources, especially, the National Mission for Clean Ganga be avoided. The inclusive conservation, management and development of water resources which included conjunctive use of surface and ground water, rejuvenation of river Ganga, flood management including drainage, flood-proofing, water logging, sea erosion, dam safety, etc., would only be possible when adequate funds were provided to the Department without incurring huge liability of repayment of loans and/or interest.

4. The Ministry in its action taken note has replied as follows: -

"Details of Extra Budgetary Resources (EBR) approved in FY 2019-20, raised so far and as anticipated for the balance of FY 2019-20 are indicated below.

(Rs. in crore)

Component	EBRs approved in FY 2019-20	EBR raised till date (03.03.20)	During March 2020	Total EBRs expected to be raised in FY 2019-20
Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme	3200.00	1738.77	904.00	2642.77
Rajasthan Feeder - Sirhind Feeder	196.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Polavaram Irrigation Project	1850.00	1850.00	2235.00	4085.00
Shahpur Kandi	150.00	60.00	0.00	60.00
Har Khet to Panki (HKKP) – Command Area Development & Water Management (CADWM) component under Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana (PMKSY)	1000.00	164.00	96.00	260.00
North Koel Reservoir Project	336.00	0.53	75.00	75.53
Total	6732.00	3813.30	3310.00	7123.30

In 2016-17, 99 ongoing AIBP projects were prioritized under PMKSY for completion by December 2019 along with their CADWM works. The arrangement of funds for these projects, both CA and State Share, was made through NABARD under Long Term Irrigation Fund (LTIF). Out of the 18 states concerned, 12 states signed Memorandum of Agreement to avail the State Share from NABARD and 9 States availed State Share during 2016-17 to 2019-20.

Earlier completion of various Major & Medium Irrigation (MMI)/ Extension, Renovation and Modernization (ERM) projects included under Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) got delayed due to limitation of budgetary allocations and resultant non-availability/ mismatch of Central & State Share. Simultaneous availability of the CA and State Share from NABARD under LTIF has paced up the progress of the Projects. AIBP works of 40 priority projects have been completed by the State Governments, and additional irrigation potential of 18.16 lakh hectare has been created. Since 2016-17, annually, the AIBP works of 13 projects have been completed under PMKSY-AIBP against the average of 7 projects per year earlier. Similarly, annual rate of creation of irrigation potential now is 6 lakh hectares (ha) against the 4.5 lakh hectare per annum earlier.

Also factoring in monsoon duration in India, funds under PMKSY-AIBP are required between September-March. However, less expenditure during first six months leads to reduction at Revised Estimate (RE) stage as per procedure adopted by Ministry of Finance based on expenditure during first six months. This affects fund availability at a stage when the requirement is more. Under LTIF, funds are available throughout the year as and when required based on pace of works and not stalled for reasons of non-availability of funds.

Overall an amount of Rs.44718.61 crore (including state share) has been leveraged from LTIF since 2016-17. A payment of Rs. 3809.31 crore has been made towards debt servicing during this period. The entire budgetary allocation of Department during the period is Rs.30293.85 crore. Moreover, it would not have been possible to divert the entire budget for these projects alone. Thus, not only timely funding but larger funding has been made available through LTIF funding mechanism.

As regards impact of debt servicing on other schemes of Department, the arrangement may not be considered to be one which is eroding budget availability for other schemes. In fact, during funding period, effective budget has rather increased due to borrowing from NABARD and obviating need for diversion of budgetary allocations to LTIF funded components".

5. Notwithstanding the fact that availability of funds through NABARD under Long Term Irrigation Fund (LTIF) has helped in fast pacing the execution of the projects which was earlier absent due to limitation of budgetary allocations and resultant non-availability/mismatch of Central and State share , the Committee are concerned to note that as against Rs.44718.61 crore (including state share) which had been borrowed from LTIF since 2016-17, only Rs. 3809.31 crore has been paid towards debt servicing during this period. On the other hand, the entire budgetary allocation of Department during the period is Rs.30293.85 crore. Clearly, the borrowing from LTIF is much more than the entire budget allocation of the Department *i.e. approximately 148%* of the total budgetary allocation. Evidently, the borrowing is a huge component of the entire funding arrangement of the Projects and reaffirms the apprehension of the Committee that accretion of borrowing from NABARD would definitely increase the committed liability of the Government and additional provisions have to be made for servicing the same in future. Therefore, the Committee reiterate that concerted efforts must be made by the Department to obtain adequate budgetary provisions without resorting to Extra Budgetary Resources through borrowings, which would incur huge liability on the Department in terms of repayment of loan and interest.

B. Under-utilization of Budgetary Allocations

Recommendation 2 (Para No. 2.2, 2.3 and 2.4)

6. The Committee found that the Department had not been able to utilize the budgetary provisions allocated to them, year after year. During the fiscal year 2016-17, Rs. 4714.13 crore out of Rs. 6201.21 crore (BE), i.e., 76% was actually spent. Similarly, during the fiscal year 2017-18, Rs. 6887.00 crore (BE) was allocated, out of which the Department could utilize only Rs. 5313.48 crore, i.e., 77%. During the year, 2018-19, Rs. 7418.98, crore out of Rs. 8860.00 crore (BE) i.e., 84% was utilized by the Department. Thus, the incessant under utilization of budgetary allocations had been a recurring issue with the Department. On the other hand, the Committee found that the borrowings from NABARD had increased substantially.

7. The Committee observed that the Department had spelled out various reasons for under utilization of funds under the various Schemes/Programmes which *inter alia* included the following:-

- I. Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Programme (DRIP)
 - (i) Non-award of tenders of Hydro-mechanical of Panchet due to poor response of bidders.
 - (ii) Delayed start of project by the Civil Contractor.
 - (iii) Non-finalization of material for grouting works at Konar Dams, and other contractual issues.
- II. River Basin Management (RBM)
 - (i) Difficulties in collection and transportation of boulders to work sites due to ban on blasting boulder quarries.
 - (ii) Disturbances/resistance by the local organizations/residents.
 - (iii) Unseasonal rainfall and high flood level of river.
 - (iv) Unavailability of forest clearances.
 - (v) Lack of consensus among various States on inter-linking of Rivers Programme.
- III. Development of Water Resources Information System (DWRIS)
 - (i) Non-finalisation of tenders for outsourcing of manpower services for HO sites.
 - (ii) Under-utilization of funds in the National Water Mission Scheme, primarily, due to absence of full time Mission Director.
 - (iii) Shortage of manpower to carry out the activities contemplated under National Water Mission Scheme.

8. While taking note of the various problems as furnished by the Department which were responsible for under utilizations of funds under various Schemes/Programmes, the Committee were of the view that lack of optimum utilization of resources had been a continual issue with the Department. The Committee, therefore, recommended that the Department should take all necessary steps to overcome the aforementioned hindrances which had hampered faster implementation and consequent under utilization of available resources.

9. The Ministry in its action taken note has replied as follows: -

"Details of Budget Estimates (BE) and Revised Estimates (RE) level allocations and expenditure during 2016-17 to 2019-20 are indicated in table below.

(Rs. in crore)

Financial Year	Budget Estimates (BE)	Revised Estimates (RE)	Expenditure	Expenditure as % of BE	Expenditure as % of RE
2016-17	6201.21	4755.5	4714.13	76%	99%
2017-18	6887	7660	5313.48	77%	69%
2018-19	8860	7612.52	7422.08	84%	97%
2019-20	8245.25	7518.21	6921.92	84%	92%
Note	Expenditure in FY 2019-20 is as of 29.02.2020				

The department has been able to utilise funds provided at RE level consistently, except in FY 2017-18, where savings of Rs.1600 crore occurred due to non-release of funds to National Mission for Clean Ganga(NMCG) under Namami Gange programme. The release could not be made as NMCG had large unspent balance available with it, owing to less demands from the riparian states/agencies. In addition, savings of Rs.533 crore occurred due to less demand under debt servicing of NABARD loan due to less drawl of loan/demand by the States. Borrowings from NABARD under LTIF are directly linked to physical progress of projects and consequent demands from the States and has picked up in later years. As already mentioned, this has resulted in faster completion of irrigation projects (13 projects against the average of 7 projects per year earlier) and increase in rate of creation of irrigation potential (6 lakh ha against the 4.5 lakh ha per annum earlier).

The recommendation of Committee has been noted and this Department has taken remedial measures as under for improving utilisation under the identified schemes.

- i. The lack of optimum utilization by Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC) has been taken up with the Ministry of Power at Secretary Level for appropriate action. Pace of implementation including award of works under the scheme is being monitored regularly at Department and Central Water Commission(CWC) levels.*

- ii. *The investigation works under the River Basin Management (RBM) scheme are mainly lying in the north-eastern and Jammu & Kashmir region. Apart from issues of remote location of the work sites and limited working season available because of prolonged monsoon, these works are also affected due to local disturbance/resistance. The Department intends to develop awareness raising programs and better dialogue with the executing agencies and the public in the affected areas.*
- iii. *Under Development of Water Resources Information System (DWRIS) scheme, necessary action for finalization of tenders for outsourcing of manpower for Hydrological Observation (HO) sites has been taken. The tenders for outsourcing of manpower for HO sites have been awarded by CWC.*

The Department is committed to optimal utilisation of budgetary grants available to Department".

10. The Committee find that barring FY 2017-18, the Department has by and large been able to utilize funds in consonance with the RE provisions, during the financial period 2016- 17 to 2019-2020. However, the Committee are constrained to note that there has always been underutilization of funds vis a vis BE provisions, which shows that there were unrealistic projections at the stage of BE ,which were always revised at the RE stage. The Committee are perturbed to note that on one hand Department resorts to borrowing from NABARD while on the other hand there is constantly under -utilization of funds against BE allocations , purportedly due to several hindrances in the implementation of schemes such as Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Programme (DRIP), River Basin Management (RBM) and Development of Water Resources Information System (DWRIS). The Committee recommend that the Department should impress upon the executing agencies for implementing the Projects at a faster pace for better utilization of funds as well as timely completion of the Projects. Further, the Department should regularly monitor the Projects, at periodical intervals, to evaluate their progress and also re-assess the budgetary allocations in order to ensure prudent utilization of the available resources.

C. Special Package to other chronically Drought Prone Areas of the Country

Recommendation 3 (Para No. 2.5 and 2.6)

11. The Committee noted that in July 2018, the Government of India had approved a Special Package to provide Central Assistance of Rs.3831.41 crore to complete 83 Surface Minor Irrigation (SMI) projects and 8 Major/ Medium Irrigation Projects in suicide prone Districts in Vidarbha and Marathwada regions of the State of Maharashtra requiring overall balance cost of Rs.13651.61 crore as on 1.4.2018.

12. While, the Committee appreciated the efforts of the Government to provide the much needed relief to address the agrarian distress in Vidarbha and Marathwada and other chronically drought prone areas of rest of Maharashtra, the Committee also desired that the Department should consider expanding the scope of this Package to other regions of the country facing similar challenges.

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

"At present, the scope of Special Package is restricted to completion of 83 Surface Minor Irrigation (SMI) and 8 Major/ Medium Irrigation(MMI) projects in Vidarbha, Marathwada & chronically drought prone areas of rest of Maharashtra, as approved by the Union Cabinet on 18.07.2018. The scheme was taken up keeping in view of peculiar conditions of the said areas and envisages Central Assistance (CA) of 25% for projects included in the package.

However, scheme for funding projects in other States is already operational. 99 Major/ Medium Irrigation projects from 18 different States have been prioritized for completion under Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayi Yojana (PMKSY). Further, SMI and Repair, Renovation & Restoration (RRR) of Water Bodies schemes from various States are being provided funds under PMKSY- Har Khet Ko Paani (HKKP) component.

Another two projects namely Shahpur Kandi Dam (National) Project and Relining of Sirhind Feeder- Rajasthan Feeder (benefitting Punjab & Rajasthan) have also been taken up separately for central funding through LTIF route".

14. The Committee were informed that at present, the scope of Special Package is restricted to completion of Surface Minor Irrigation(SMI) and Major/ Medium Irrigation(MMI) projects in Vidarbha, Marathwada & chronically drought prone areas of rest of Maharashtra and that the scheme was taken up keeping in view of peculiar conditions of the said areas, and in respect of other States, 99 Major/ Medium Irrigation projects from 18 different States have been prioritized for completion under Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayi Yojana (PMKSY) and further, SMI and Repair, Renovation & Restoration (RRR) of Water Bodies schemes from various States are being provided funds under PMKSY- Har Khet Ko Paani (HKKP) component. The Committee while appreciating the scheme for funding Minor, Medium/Major irrigation projects in different States under PMKSY, however desire that the feasibility of formulating a special package on the lines of Maharashtra, be examined in consultation with other Ministries/Departments, so that other chronically Drought Prone Regions/districts of the country which are in dire need of irrigational facilities are benefited by the package.

D. River Basin Management

Recommendation 5 (2.9, 2.10 and 2.11)

15. The Committee noted that the National Water Policy - 2012 emphasized the need for comprehensive legislation for optimum development of inter-State rivers and river valleys to facilitate inter-State coordination for ensuring scientific planning of land and water resources by reckoning basin/sub-basin as a Unit with unified perspectives of water in all its forms (*including precipitation, soil moisture, ground and surface water*) and ensuring a holistic and balanced development of both the catchment and the command areas.

16. In pursuance thereof, Justice Dobia Committee had submitted its Report which included a draft Bill, namely, the River Basin Management Bill, for amending the existing River Boards Act, 1956. It was further examined by a three-member Group. The Group finalized the Draft of River Basin Management Bill, 2017 and submitted to the Ministry of Jal Shakti. Thereafter, the draft had been finalized by the Ministry. The draft Bill was under consideration of the Ministry of Jal Shakti.

17. Considering all the aforesaid chronology of events, the Committee were of the view that enactment of the proposed legislation would result in optimum integrated development and management of inter-State River waters with basin approach and would result in change of environment from the one of 'conflicts' to that of 'cooperation'. The Committee, therefore, recommended the Ministry to take expeditious measures for the enactment of the proposed River Basin Act, to enable the establishment of the River Basin Authority and management of water resources of each river basin in a holistic manner. The Committee desired to be apprised of the specific timelines fixed for the purpose.

18. The Ministry in its action taken note has replied as follows:-

"On the Draft River Basin Management Bill, 2018, prepared by this Department, the Legislative Department, Ministry of Law & Justice (MoL&J) recommended holding pre-legislative consultations. Accordingly, States & UTs and Central Ministries/Departments have been requested for comments on Draft RBM Bill, 2018.

The Department/Ministry is making all efforts so that the Bill is enacted, however, specific timelines cannot be assigned at this stage, as it involves consultations with various State Governments/other stake holders. The draft Bill, after incorporating suggestions as appropriate of the State Governments and other stake holders, will be finalized in consultation with MoL&J".

19. The Committee were informed that the department have sought suggestions from States & UTs and Central Ministries/Departments on the Draft River Basin Management Bill, 2018 and on receipt of the same they will be duly incorporated in the bill and thereafter, the Bill will be finalized in consultation with the Ministry of Law and Justice. The Committee note that the Department has expressed its inability to give any specific timelines as it involves consultations with various State Governments/other stake holders. However, the Committee are of the view that since considerable time has already been elapsed in the deliberations and consultation process by a number of Committees and Groups of Experts on the conceptual framework for management of River Basins in the country, the Committee, are of the considered opinion that further delay cannot be brooked in the enactment of this Bill, particularly given the precarious state of deepening water crisis in the country which necessitates integrated management of river Basins, beyond the geographical boundaries of States. The Committee, therefore, reiterate that the proposed Bill may be brought before the Parliament without any further delay and passed by the parliament expeditiously.

E. Namami Gange Programme

Recommendation 8 (Para No. 2.18 and 2.19)

20. The Committee observed that under the Namami Gange Programme, till 31 August 2019, a total of 299 projects were sanctioned at an estimated cost of Rs. 28543.47 crore, out of which, 106 projects had been completed. Out of these 299 Projects, 150 belonged to Sewerage Infrastructure. However, only 43 of these Projects had been completed. The Committee further noted that against the sewerage treatment capacity of 3729.92 Million Litres Per Day (MLD), only 575.84 MLD of STP capacity had been created till 31 May 2019. The Secretary, Department of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation during the oral evidence held on 23 October 2019 accepted under utilization of funds under this Programme with a caveat that in next two years, all the sewage infrastructure projects including those projects relating to industrial effluents, would be completed.

21. Keeping in view of the fact that 'Namami Gange' Project was approved by the Cabinet in 2015 with allocation of Rs. 20,000 crore to be spent till the year 2020, the Committee were disappointed with the slow pace of the implementation of the Projects resulting in incurring of lower expenditure. The Committee were of the view that the projects needed to be executed in a time bound manner as otherwise it would result in cost and time overrun. The Committee hoped that the Department would now tighten their belt and leave no stone unturned to complete all the sanctioned projects under this Programme within the given time frame.

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

"As on 31st January, 2020, a total of 310 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 at a total cost of Rs 28,791 crore, 116 projects have been completed and balance projects are at various stages of execution and tendering. Expenditure on completed and under progress project is Rs.8,956 crore till date.

Under Namami Gange Programme, the Sewerage Infrastructure projects are sanctioned with 15 years of cost for Operation & Maintenance (O&M). The expenditure related to O&M will be utilized annually in a phased manner, for 15 years, after the execution of the projects during the O&M phase. Secondly, Sewerage Infrastructure projects sanctioned under Hybrid Annuity Mode (HAM), expenditure of only 40% of capital expenditure (capex) will be incurred during the project execution and balance 60% of capex and cost towards O&M will be spent in a phased manner annually during operation and maintenance of the project. Considering the above a total of 30% of the total sanctioned cost will be spent in a phased manner during O&M of the projects.

Namami Gange Programme(NGP) is spread over different sectors and involves several agencies. Therefore, implementation level bottlenecks and procedural delays are inherent. Attempt has, however, been made by National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) to expeditiously resolve these issues and improve the pace of implementation of programme. Now, the programme has gained momentum and utilization of funds has substantially picked up since FY 2017-18.

Out of a total of 152 sewerage sector projects, 97 projects have been sanctioned since 2017 after NMCG was notified as an authority and suitable institutional strengthening took place. As against 28 projects for 462.85 MLD in 2014, multifold increase has taken place with addition of 124 sewage projects for capacity creation of 4393.45 MLD over the years.

Physical and financial progress of projects sanctioned in captured in tables below.

Year	Number of Sanctioned Projects	Sanctioned Cost (Rs. in crore)	Number of Completed projects
Till March, 2014	72	4,608	16
2014-15	21	3,184	10
2015-16	7	584	2
2016-17	60	2,678	11
2017-18	40	9,547	10
2018-19	92	7,781	39
2019-20 (Till date)	18	409	28
Total	310	28791	116

Amount Disbursed by NMCG

Sl. No.	Year	(Rs. in crore)
1.	2014-15	170.99
2.	2015-16	602.60
3.	2016-17	1062.81
4.	2017-18	1625.01
5.	2018-19	2626.54
6.	2019-20 (till date)	2278.84*
	Total	8366.79

*Targeted as Rs.2650 crore by end of March, 2020.

As evident from above, utilization of funds has improved over the years and likely to improve further as a large number of projects are currently under way at various stages".

23. The Committee note that as on 31st January, 2020, a total of 310 projects have been sanctioned under Namami Gange programme for various activities at a total cost of Rs 28,791 crore, out of which 116 projects have been completed and rest of the projects are at various stages of execution and tendering. The Department has informed that notwithstanding various bottlenecks and involvement of multiple agencies, National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) has made concerted efforts to resolve the underlying issues for speedy implementation of the programme as a result of which there was a substantial increase in utilization of funds and sanctioning of sewage projects since FY 2017-18. The Committee note with satisfaction there was a visible and marked improvement in the implementation of programme since NMCG was notified as an authority. The Committee express the hope that the remaining projects under the programme are taken up and completed expeditiously in a time bound manner, and ensure that there are no cost and time overruns.

F. Ground Water Management and Regulation

Recommendation 10 (Para No. 2.23 and 2.24)

24. The Committee observed that Ground Water Management and Regulation (GWM&R) Scheme, a Central Sector Scheme of the Ministry of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation had been under implementation since 12th (2012-17). The Scheme has been operational during the fiscal year 2017-2020 with an outlay of Rs. 1164 crore. The Committee also noted that the budgetary allocation for this Scheme for the fiscal year 2019-20 vis-a-vis 2018-19 had been considerably reduced. As per the Department's submission, it was because of the fact that the targets envisaged for data generation was more for the year 2018-19 vis-a-vis 2019-20.

25. Taking note of the fact that at the time when the country was facing a crisis in terms of fast depleting groundwater level, the Committee were of the view that instead of seeking reduced allocation for such an important Scheme, the Department should seek to augment the budgetary support for this and formulate the pragmatic short term and long policies/programmes in consultation with the respective State Governments so that the country, as a whole could come out from this quagmire. The Committee also urged the Ministry to constitute an Expert Committee for the purpose of identifying the specific locations/regions where the problem of depleting the groundwater level at rapid pace not only persists but also increasing by leaps and bounds. The Expert Committee should use the available technology, including the satellite feeds, to collate the data on real time basis which could also be made available in the public domain.

26. The Ministry in its action taken note has replied as follows:-

"Water being a State subject, initiatives on water management including conservation and water harvesting in the Country is primarily States' responsibility. Further, to supplement the efforts of the State Governments, Government of India provides technical and financial assistance to encourage sustainable development and efficient management of water resources through various schemes and programmes.

A number of States have carried out notable work in the field of water conservation/harvesting, such as 'Mukhyamantri Jal Swavlamban Abhiyan' in Rajasthan, 'Jalyukt Shibir' in Maharashtra, 'Sujalam Sufalam Abhiyan' in Gujarat, 'Mission Kakatiya' in Telangana, 'Neeru Chettu' in Andhra Pradesh, 'Jal Jeevan Hariyali' in Bihar, 'Jal Hi Jeevan' in Haryana among others.

Further, as per recommendations of the Committee while examining the subject 'Rainwater Harvesting works', a Committee for preparing & finalizing a master plan for artificial recharge to groundwater in India has been constituted by the Department with representatives of Stake-holder Ministries and State Governments. The report of the Committee is expected by 31 Mar 2020.

Central Ground Water Board would make use of budget allocated to it at RE 2019-20 stage".

27. The Committee note from the Action Taken Reply that no specific reply has been given by the Department for identifying the specific regions where the problem of depleting groundwater is most acute. The reply merely mentions that a Committee has been entrusted with preparing & finalizing a master plan for artificial recharge to groundwater in the country whose report is expected by 31 March 2020. The Committee would therefore reiterate that measures should be taken to set up an expert committee for specifying the regions where the groundwater level is diminishing at an alarming pace. They would also like to be apprised of the findings of the Report of the Committee entrusted with preparing a master plan for artificial recharge of groundwater in the country

G. Aquifer Mapping

Recommendation 11 (Para No. 2.25 and 2.26)

28. The Committee observed that earlier, the objective of the then Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation (*now rechristened as the Ministry of Jal Shakti*) was to undertake the 'Aquifer Mapping' of 23 lakh square kilometers by 2020, which was subsequently revised to 12.9 lakh square kilometers to be completed by 2020, i.e., a decrease of 44%. It was further reduced to 10.3 lakh square kilometers to be completed by the year 2020, i.e., a further decrease of 20%. As far as physical achievement was concerned, the Committee further noted that as on August 2019, only 5.2 lakh square kilometers of 'Aquifer Mapping' had been undertaken against the target of 6.6 lakh square kilometers. The Committee also noted from the reply of the Department that the targets had been revised by the CGWB in consultation with the Ministry in view of the urgency of the requirement and manpower position in CGWB, etc. Further, to expedite the preparation of Aquifer Management Plan, recently M/s. WAPCOS Ltd., has been hired by the CGWB.

29. Keeping in view the importance of 'Aquifer Mapping' which is a multidisciplinary scientific process, wherein, a combination of geological, hydro-geological, geo-physical, hydrological, and quality data are integrated to characterize the quantity, quality and movement of ground water in aquifers, primarily undertaken by State Ground Water Department(s)/Central Ground Water Board, the Committee urged the Department to make concerted efforts so that this Programme did not suffer due to lack of manpower in the CGWB and further liaise with the State Governments to complete the Project within the given time frame so as to obviate further revision/reduction of targets.

30. The Ministry in its action taken note has replied as follows:-

"National Aquifer Mapping (NAQUIM) program is being implemented by Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) since 2012. CGWB has completed aquifer mapping/management plan for 11.8 Lakh SqKM till date out of total mappable area of 24.8 Lakh Sq KM in the country. Further, they have targeted to complete aquifer mapping for the entire country by 2023. The information gathered from NAQUIM outcomes are shared with State Governments for undertaking suitable interventions.

As far as deficiency of manpower is concerned, CGWB has planned to hire consultants/young professionals to achieve the desired result".

31. The Committee note that Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) has been implementing National Aquifer Mapping Programme (NAQUIM) since 2012, under which so far, aquifer mapping/management plan for 11.8 Lakh SqKM out of total mappable area of 24.8 Lakh Sq KM in the country, has been completed. The aquifer mapping for the entire country is estimated to be completed by the year 2023. Further, the CGWB has planned to hire consultants/young professionals to address the issue of deficit manpower. Taking into account the need of scientific management of groundwater resources for sustainability and their efficient utilization, the Committee express the hope that the Department would make all out steps for expeditious completion of the programme within the stipulated time period and ensure that there are no cost overruns as well.

H. National Projects

Recommendation 14 (Para No. 2.32, 2.33 and 2.34)

32. The Committee wished to recall that in the year 2008, the Union Cabinet gave its consent to the proposal of the then Ministry of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation for implementation of National Projects with Central Assistance of 90% of the cost of the project. So far, 16 projects had been selected under the Scheme of National Projects. Out of these 16 National Projects, five projects, namely, Polavaram Irrigation Project (Andhra Pradesh), Saryu Nahar Pariyojana (Uttar Pradesh), Gosikhurd Irrigation Project (Maharashtra), Teesta Barrage Project (West Bengal) & Shahpurkandi Dam Project (Punjab) had been taken up for execution which were at various stages of construction. Funding proposal for rest of 11 Projects would be taken up once the Project Authorities obtain all the requisite clearances including the 'Statutory Clearances'.

33. The Committee noted from the reply of the Department that the construction of National Project is in domain of State Governments. These National Projects like any other irrigation project faced the problems of Land Acquisition, Resettlement and Rehabilitation (R&R) issues, inadequate funds, contractual issue, delay in Railway/ Highway crossings, geological locations, etc., which unnecessarily delayed the completion of projects, thereby, resulting in enormous cost escalation.

34. The Committee had observed that there was a considerable increase in the cost of these projects like for Polavaram Irrigation Project, where, the Estimated Cost at the time of inclusion it in the category of National Project was Rs. 10151.04 crore at the price level of 2005-06. However, the revised cost of this Project had pegged to Rs. 55,548.87 crore at the price level of 2017-18. Similarly, other Projects had also witnessed substantial hike in their costs. The Committee were concerned about this exorbitant increase in cost of these Projects and would like to know as to what proportion of the increase in the estimated cost was due to their overrun of these Projects. The Committee, also, recommended the

Department to take urgent steps to resolutely overcome all the problems encompassed in these Projects so that these Projects could be completed within their given time frame and without having any further cost escalation.

35. The Ministry in its action taken note has replied as follows:-

"The cost escalation in the National Projects (NP) that have been taken up for funding, so far, can be seen from the table below:

(Rs. in crore)

S. No.	Project Name	Earlier Approved Cost of components under National Project	Presently Approved Cost of components under National Project
1	Polavaram	16010.45 (PL 2010-11)	55548.87 (PL 2017-18)
2	SaryuNahar	3011.53 (PL 2008)	5803.61 (PL 2016)
3	Gosikhurd	4315.96 (PL 2007-08)	12770.09 (PL 2012-13)
4	ShahpurKandi	2285.81 (PL 2008)	2715.70 (PL 2018)
5	Teesta Barrage	2988.61 (PL 2008)	*

* *The project is not progressing since 2014-15 due to LA issues. No proposal in this regard has been submitted by the State Government since then.*

State Government of Andhra Pradesh has informed that the major cost overrun in case of Polavaram Project is due to the implementation of New R&R Act 2013 w.e.f 01.01.2014 which has effected the cost of Land Acquisition (LA) and Rehabilitation & Resettlement (R&R) and increased the project cost drastically.

Saryu Nahar and Gosikhurd projects are among the 99 projects prioritized under PMKSY-AIBP for completion along with their CADWM works. Funds for these projects are being provided from Long Tem Irrigation Fund (LTIF) through NABARD. Time to time Monitoring of these projects is done along with other PMKSY priority projects for their time bound completion. As informed by the concerned State Governments, AIBP works of Saryu Nahar and Gosikhurd project are likely to be completed by March'21 and March'23, respectively.

Further, Shahpur Kandi Dam project has also been taken up for funding under LTIF through NABARD, as approved by Union Cabinet on 06.12.2018. The project is being actively monitored so that the project works are completed by June 2022".

36. The Committee note with concern that there has been a steep escalation of the cost in respect of four out of five projects that were taken up by the Govt for execution viz. Polavaram Irrigation Project (Andhra Pradesh), Saryu Nahar Pariyojana (Uttar Pradesh), Gosikhurd Irrigation Project (Maharashtra), & Shahpurkandi Dam Project (Punjab).The Ministry have stated that progress of these Projects are being regularly monitored by concerned agencies so that these Projects are completed within their stipulated timeframe. The Committee express the hope that the projects are completed as per the schedule and that there no cost and time overruns. The Committee are dismayed to learn that in case of Teesta barrage project, desired progress has not been made since 2014-15 due to Land Acquisition issues. Keeping in view the national importance of multipurpose project like Teesta Barrage Project, the Committee urge that that the Department should work in close collaboration with the State Govt. and render them all possible assistance in removing the underlying impending/barriers which is hindering the progress of this Project, so that the work on the project is commenced without any delay.

CHAPTER - II

OBSERVATIONS / RECOMMENDATIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE GOVERNMENT

Recommendation 4 (Para No. 2.7 and 2.8)

Distribution of Legislative Power between the Union and the States

The Committee note that in accordance with the constitutional Division of Jurisdictions, the subject 'Water' comes under the State List. However, in order to ensure a National Perspective on Water Management and to avoid inter-State disputes, urgent need was felt to bring 'Water' under the Concurrent List of the Constitution of India. As a sequel to this, the Standing Committee on Water Resources, in its various earlier Reports, had reiterated the relevant recommendation.

Notwithstanding this, the Committee find from the reply of the Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation that the Ministry of Law and Justice had been consulted by the Department in this regard. The Legislative Department, Government of India was of the view that there exists a carefully crafted and delicate balance between the two Entries (Entry 56 of List I and entry 17 of List II), it would be wise not to remove/transfer entry 17 from the State List which includes 'Water' to the Concurrent List. However, it would be pragmatic to have a separate entry under the Concurrent List to deal with matters relating to water conservation, water preservation, water management, etc. Since this important aspect has not been resolved, till date, the Committee, once again, recommend that concrete and time-bound measures be initiated by the Government to bring a separate Entry under the Concurrent List, as opined by the Ministry of Law and Justice, for dealing with water conservation, water preservation, water management, etc. in order to achieve the objective of better conservation, development and management of water resources.

Reply of the Government

The recommendation of the Committee has been noted.

(O.M. No. LAFEAS-SCWR023/18/2019-SCWR dated 05.12.2019)

Recommendation 6 (Para No.2.12, 2.13 and 2.14)

Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Programme (DRIP)

The Committee note that the DRIP is a World Bank funded Scheme which aims at rehabilitation and improvement of about 223 large Dams in seven States (Kerala - 53, Madhya Pradesh - 50, Odisha - 26, Tamil Nadu - 89, Karnataka - 22, Jharkhand - 3 and Uttarakhand - 5). Earlier, the total project cost was around Rs. 2100 crore and it was scheduled to be completed within six years from its launching, *i.e.*, 18th April, 2012. However, the Government of India had approved the revised cost of DRIP amounting to Rs. 3446 crore and the revised year of completion is now June, 2020.

The Committee also observe from the reply of the Department that the allocation in 2018-19 (BE) was Rs 124 crore which was subsequently reduced to Rs 75 crore at (RE) due to slow progress of activities of CWC including Comprehensive Risk Assessment of 4 Dams, Capacity building of IIT Kanpur and CWRDM Kozhikode and contractual issues with the Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC). The Committee are astonished to find that the Department has not been able to utilise even that amount of Rs. 75 crore allocated in 2018-19 at RE stage and only Rs. 49.45 crore had been utilized by the Department during the fiscal year 2018-19. The Committee further note that the important bottlenecks being witnessed by the Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation include the frequent transfer of officials of State Project Management Units by the State Implementing Agencies, limited operational capacity of a few of the partner agencies regarding issues related to preparation of bid documents, evaluation as well as contract management, etc. The Committee also find that out of 198 Dam projects, the rehabilitation work in respect of 147 Dams have been completed. However, no tangible progress in respect of rehabilitation work has been made by the Uttarakhand Jal Vidyut Nigam Ltd (UJVNL) and the Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC).

The Committee, therefore, recommend the Department to make all concerted efforts to overcome all the obstacles as narrated above so that the entire Programme could be completed within a given time frame. The Committee further urge the Department to actively persuade the Uttarakhand Jal Vidyut Nigam Ltd (UJVNL) and the Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC) so that the rehabilitation work under their jurisdiction could be completed in the right earnest.

Reply of the Government:

The Department is making all efforts to ensure successful completion of components of Uttarakhand Jal Vidyut Nigam Ltd (UJVNL) and Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC) under Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Programme (DRIP).

The issues are being addressed through Project Monitoring Mechanism i.e. National Level Steering Committee (NLSC) headed by Secretary, DWR, RD&GR; Technical Committee (TC) under Member, CWC and World Bank for appropriate remedial actions. The matter is being pursued regularly with senior/top level management of these organizations.

The lack of optimum utilization by Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC) has been taken up with the Ministry of Power at secretary level for appropriate action.

(O.M. No. LAFEAS-SCWR023/18/2019-SCWR dated 05.12.2019)

Recommendation 7 (Para No. 2.15, 2.16 and 2.17)

Dam Safety

The Committee observe that the Dam Safety Bill 2018 was introduced in the Parliament in December, 2018. However, with the dissolution of the Lok Sabha, the Bill was lapsed. Subsequently, the Dam Safety Bill, 2019 was again introduced in the Parliament and passed by the Lok Sabha on 2.08.2019. In this context, the Department has apprised the Committee that it will be considered by the Rajya Sabha in the next session of Parliament.

The Committee find it laudable that the Dam Safety Bill, 2019 provides for proper surveillance, inspection, operation and maintenance of all specified Dams in the country to ensure their safe functioning. The Bill also provides for constitution of a National Committee on Dam Safety which shall evolve Dam safety policies and recommend necessary regulations as may be required for the purpose. It also provides for establishment of National Dam Safety Authority as a regulatory body which shall discharge functions to implement the Policy, Guidelines and Standards for Dam safety in the country. It further addresses various issues concerning Dam safety including inspection of Dams, Emergency Action Plan, comprehensive Dam safety review, Instrumentation and Safety Manuals, etc. It unequivocally lays the onus of Dam safety on the Dam owner and provides for penal provisions for commission and omission of certain specified acts.

Taking note of the fact that there are around 5745 Dams in the country (5334 functional and 411 under construction) and many of these Dams necessitate immediate measures to reinforce their safety, the Committee hope that the Department would be able to enact this Act at the earliest.

Reply of the Government:

The Dam Safety Bill, 2019 was introduced in Lok Sabha on 29th July 2019 and passed by Lok Sabha on 2nd August 2019. The Bill is likely to be introduced in Rajya Sabha in near future.

The Department is making all efforts for early enactment of the Bill.

(O.M. No. LAFEAS-SCWR023/18/2019-SCWR dated 05.12.2019)

Recommendation 8 (Para No. 2.18 and 2.19)

Namami Gange Programme

The Committee observe that under the Namami Gange Programme, till 31 August 2019, a total of 299 projects have been sanctioned at an estimated cost of Rs. 28543.47 crore, out of which, 106 projects have been completed. Out of these 299 Projects, 150 belong to Sewerage Infrastructure. However, only 43 of these Projects have been completed. The Committee further note that against the sewerage treatment capacity of 3729.92 Million Litres Per Day (MLD), only 575.84 MLD of STP capacity has been created till 31 May 2019. The Secretary, Department of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation during the oral evidence held on 23 October 2019 accepted under utilization of funds under this Programme with a caveat that in next two years, all the sewage infrastructure projects including those projects relating to industrial effluents, would be completed.

Keeping in view of the fact that 'Namami Gange' Project was approved by the Cabinet in 2015 with allocation of Rs. 20,000 crore to be spent till the year 2020, the Committee are disappointed with the slow pace of the implementation of the Projects resulting in incurring of lower expenditure. The Committee are of the view that the projects need to be executed in a time bound manner as otherwise it would result in cost and time overrun. The Committee hope that the Department will now tighten their belt and leave no stone unturned to complete all the sanctioned projects under this Programme within the given time frame.

Reply of the Government:

As on 31st January, 2020, a total of 310 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 at a total cost of Rs 28,791 crore, 116 projects have been completed and balance projects are at various stages of execution and tendering. Expenditure on completed and under progress project is Rs.8,956 crore till date.

Under Namami Gange Programme, the Sewerage Infrastructure projects are sanctioned with 15 years of cost for Operation & Maintenance (O&M). The expenditure related to O&M will be utilized annually in a phased manner, for 15 years, after the execution of the projects during the O&M phase. Secondly, Sewerage Infrastructure projects sanctioned under Hybrid Annuity Mode (HAM), expenditure of only 40% of capital expenditure (capex) will be incurred during the project execution and balance 60% of capex and cost towards O&M will be spent in a phased manner annually during operation and maintenance of the project. Considering the above a total of 30% of the total sanctioned cost will be spent in a phased manner during O&M of the projects.

Namami Gange Programme(NGP) is spread over different sectors and involves several agencies. Therefore, implementation level bottlenecks and procedural delays are inherent. Attempt has, however, been made by National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) to expeditiously resolve these issues and improve the pace of implementation of programme. Now, the programme has gained momentum and utilization of funds has substantially picked up since FY 2017-18.

Out of a total of 152 sewerage sector projects, 97 projects have been sanctioned since 2017 after NMCG was notified as an authority and suitable institutional strengthening took place. As against 28 projects for 462.85 MLD in 2014, multifold increase has taken place with addition of 124 sewage projects for capacity creation of 4393.45 MLD over the years. Physical and financial progress of projects sanctioned is captured in tables below.

Year	Number of Sanctioned Projects	Sanctioned Cost (Rs. in crore)	Number of Completed projects
Till March, 2014	72	4,608	16
2014-15	21	3,184	10
2015-16	7	584	2
2016-17	60	2,678	11
2017-18	40	9,547	10
2018-19	92	7,781	39
2019-20 (Till date)	18	409	28
Total	310	28791	116

Amount Disbursed by NMCG

Sl. No.	Year	(Rs. in crore)
1.	2014-15	170.99
2.	2015-16	602.60
3.	2016-17	1062.81
4.	2017-18	1625.01
5.	2018-19	2626.54
6.	2019-20 (till date)	2278.84*
	Total	8366.79

*Targeted as Rs.2650 crore by end of March, 2020.

As evident from above, utilization of funds has improved over the years and likely to improve further as a large number of projects are currently under way at various stages.

(O.M. No. LAFEAS-SCWR023/18/2019-SCWR dated 05.12.2019)

Comment of the Committee

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

Recommendation 9 (Para No. 2.20, 2.21 and 2.22)

Inter-linking of Rivers

The Committee observe that no inter-linking of Rivers (ILR) Project has reached the execution stage. However, under the Himalayan component, Pre-Feasibility Report (PFR) of fourteen links, Feasibility Report (FR) (Indian portion) of two links and draft FR of seven links have been completed. Under Peninsular Component, PFR of 16 Links, FR of 14 links and Detailed Project Report (DPR)s of 6 links have also been completed.

The Committee also note that major hindrances in the implementation of ILR Projects include the need for arriving at a consensus amongst the States concerned for water sharing and disturbing the existing allocation as per Awards, requirement of power to lift waters as proposed in link proposals, etc. Implementation of the ILR Projects also involves obtaining various Statutory Clearances which include Forest and Wild life clearance by the Ministry of Environment & Forests and Climate Change, etc. Other issues related to implementation of ILR Projects are land acquisition, resettlement and rehabilitation of the displaced population. The Committee further take note of the fact that a 'Special Committee on Inter-linking of Rivers' was constituted in September, 2014 under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Minister of WR, RD & GR (*now Ministry of Jal Shakti*). Besides, a Task Force for Inter-linking of Rivers was set up by the then MoWR, RD & GR in April, 2015.

The Committee note that lack of consensus amongst various States is a major hurdle in the ambitious Project of Interlinking of Rivers. In order to speed up the implementation of Inter-linking of Rivers (ILR) Programme and to arrive at a consensus on the link proposals

between the States, the Committee, recommend the Department to make concerted and time-bound efforts to bring all the concerned States on board to evolve the consensus so that this Project could be implemented without any further delay.

Reply of the Government:

The Government is pursuing the Inter Linking of Rivers (ILR) program in a consultative manner. A “Special Committee on Interlinking of Rivers” has been constituted in September, 2014 under the Chairmanship of Hon’ble Minister of WR, RD & GR (now Ministry of Jal Shakti) for the implementation of ILR programme. Views and observations on the ILR programme received from various State Governments, experts and other stakeholders are discussed in the meetings of the Special Committee for Interlinking of Rivers. Seventeen meetings of the Special Committee for ILR have been held, so far. Further, a Task Force for Interlinking of Rivers has been constituted by MoWR, RD & GR (now Jal Shakti). Eleven meetings of the Task Force for ILR have been held so far. Vigorous efforts have been made for generating consensus amongst the concerned States.

Out of four priority links, namely, Ken-Betwa link project, Damanganga-Pinjal link project, Par-Tapi-Narmada link project and Godavari-Cauvery link project, the issues regarding sharing of water between Madhya Pradesh (MP) and Uttar Pradesh (UP) on Ken-Betwa link project, Maharashtra and Gujarat on Damanganga-Pinjal and Par-Tapi-Narmada link projects are being sorted out to arrive at a consensus among the party States for signing of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for implementation of the projects. Moreover, the draft Detailed Project Report (DPR) of Godavari-Cauvery link project has been circulated to the party States and the DPR of the project will be prepared after receipt of comments of the party States.

(O.M. No. LAFEAS-SCWR023/18/2019-SCWR dated 05.12.2019)

Recommendation 11 (Para No. 2.25 and 2.26)

Aquifer Mapping

The Committee observe that earlier, the objective of the then Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation (*now rechristened as the Ministry of Jal Shakti*) was to undertake the 'Aquifer Mapping' of 23 lakh square kilometers by 2020, which was subsequently revised to 12.9 lakh square kilometers to be completed by 2020, i.e., a decrease of 44%. Now, it has been further reduced to 10.3 lakh square kilometers to be completed by the year 2020, i.e., a further decrease of 20%. As far as physical achievement is concerned, the Committee further note that as on August 2019, only 5.2 lakh square kilometers of 'Aquifer Mapping' has been undertaken against the target of 6.6 lakh square kilometers. The Committee also note from the reply of the Department that the targets are revised by the CGWB in consultation with the Ministry in view of the urgency of the requirement and manpower position in CGWB, etc. Further, to expedite the preparation of Aquifer Management Plan, recently M/s. WAPCOS Ltd., has been hired by the CGWB.

Keeping in view the importance of 'Aquifer Mapping' which is a multidisciplinary scientific process, wherein, a combination of geological, hydro-geological, geo-physical, hydrological, and quality data are integrated to characterize the quantity, quality and movement of ground water in aquifers, primarily undertaken by State Ground Water Department(s)/Central Ground Water Board, the Committee urge the Department to make concerted efforts so that this Programme does not suffer due to lack of manpower in the CGWB and further liaise with the State Governments to complete the Project within the given time frame so as to obviate further revision/reduction of targets.

Reply of the Government:

National Aquifer Mapping (NAQUIM) program is being implemented by Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) since 2012. CGWB has completed aquifer mapping/management plan for 11.8 Lakh SqKM till date out of total mappable area of 24.8 Lakh Sq KM in the country. Further, they have targeted to complete aquifer mapping for the entire country by 2023. The information gathered from NAQUIM outcomes are shared with State Governments for undertaking suitable interventions.

As far as deficiency of manpower is concerned, CGWB has planned to hire consultants/young professionals to achieve the desired result.

(O.M. No. LAFEAS-SCWR023/18/2019-SCWR dated 05.12.2019)

Comment of the Committee

(Please see Para No. 31 of Chapter – I of the Report)

Recommendation 12 (Para No. 2.27, 2.28 and 2.29)

Need to improve Water Use Efficiency

The Committee note that the DoWR, RD & GR have concurred that 'Water Use Efficiency' in the irrigated agriculture is relatively low in the country resulting in high use of water for crop production when compared to many other countries. According to the Department, the main reason for this includes cultivation of crops without taking into consideration the agro-climatic conditions and the availability of water in the area. Further, various other factors such as procurement policy of the Government, market accessibility, etc., also play an important role in determining the prevailing cropping pattern. The availability of free or highly subsidized power, existing agronomic practices and customary use of flood irrigation, etc., also encourage excessive use of water in the agriculture sector.

The Committee also note from the submissions made by the Department that various measures have been initiated by the Government to improve the 'Water Use Efficiency' in agriculture sector in the country which includes PMKSY- Per Drop More Crop, aiming at water use efficiency through micro irrigation, institution of 'National Water Awards' for rewarding best practices for water conservation and enhancing water use efficiency. States like Punjab, Haryana and Maharashtra have also taken initiatives for reducing the water demand in the agriculture sector. The Department also proposes to set up 'National Bureau of Water Use Efficiency' (NBWUE) for improving the 'Water Use Efficiency' across various sectors, namely, irrigation, drinking water supply, power generation, industry, etc.

While applauding the various initiatives taken by the Government to improve the 'Water Use Efficiency', the Committee also note that setting up of proposed National Bureau of Water Use Efficiency has been on the Department's agenda for a long time. However, the Committee are worried to find that this is still waiting to become a reality despite Committee's earlier recommendations to expedite the same. The Committee, therefore, again recommend for setting up of the 'National Bureau of Water Use Efficiency' with statutory powers at the earliest which could, undoubtedly, play an important role in improving the 'Water Use Efficiency' by making the users accountable for the rampant wastage of water.

Reply of the Government:

In India, 85-89% of water usage is for agricultural purposes and about 5% usage is for drinking and domestic purposes. Hence, even a small percentage saving of water in agricultural usage will have a significant impact in water availability for drinking and domestic purposes.

National Water Mission has launched a campaign called '**SahiFasal**' on 14.11.2019 to **nudge** farmers in the water stressed areas to *grow crops* which are *not water intensive*, but *use water very efficiently*; and are *economically remunerative*; are *healthy and nutritious*; suited to the agro-climatic-hydro characteristics of the area; and are environmentally friendly. Creating awareness among farmers on appropriate crops, micro-irrigation, soil moisture conservation etc; weaning them away from water intensive crops like paddy, sugarcane etc to crops like corn, maize etc which require less water; assisting policy makers to frame policies that make effective pricing of inputs (water and electricity); improve procurement and market for these alternate crops; create appropriate storage them etc ultimately leading to increase in the income of farmers are the key elements of "**SahiFasal**"

Under SahiFasal, series of workshops are being organized in the water stressed areas of the country. NWM has so far organised 4 workshops on '**SahiFasal**' in – Amritsar on 14.11.2019, New Delhi on 26-27.11.2019, Aurangabad on 13.01.2020 and Kurukshetra on 14.02.2020.

The strategies for increasing water use efficiency as envisaged in NWM are multi-disciplinary tasks which involve high level of coordination with different agencies and institutions. The tasks, which have country wide ramifications, need to be initiated, planned and executed by a Central Agency suitably empowered to do so. It is, therefore, proposed to set up a "**National Bureau of Water Use Efficiency (NBWUE)**". The proposed Bureau will have the overall responsibility of improving water use efficiency across various sectors namely irrigation, drinking water supply, power generation, industries, cities etc. in the whole country.

Draft note for Committee on Establishment Expenditure (Draft CEE Note) has been prepared and circulated to the concerned Ministries/ Departments for inter-ministerial consultation and the CEE Note shall be sent for appraisal of Committee soon. Thereafter, the note will be submitted for consideration of the Cabinet.

(O.M. No. LAFEAS-SCWR023/18/2019-SCWR dated 05.12.2019)

Recommendation 13 (Para No. 2.30 and 2.31)

Implementation of the Recommendations of the Expert Group

The Committee have been apprised by the Department that a Multi-Disciplinary Expert Committee was set up for identifying the successfully implemented 'Innovative Water Recharge/Conservation Techniques/Technologies' which submitted its Report in January 2018. The important recommendations of the Committee, *inter-alia*, include the need to replicate several innovative and cost effective technologies practiced in various projects, adoption of good traditional practices of water conservation and recharge of ground water at the farm and field level, identifying the appropriate intervention which are considered suitable for the area based on its hydrogeology, rainfall, agro-climatic conditions as well as prioritizing the area to be taken up first based on the scarcity of availability of water, enhancing the community participation and its capacity building.

Keeping in view of the preservation and careful management of water as a sustainable resources to protect the water environment and to meet the current and future human demand, the Committee desire that the Ministry should take all possible measures to implement the recommendations of this Multi-Disciplinary Expert Committee. The Committee would like to be apprised of the exact contours of the Action Plan in this regard.

Reply of the Government:

The Expert Committee had recommended in its report about the replication of structures on the basis of the success stories of water conservation measures implemented in various states. One of the major recommendations of the committee was participation of community in these activities.

Water being a State subject, initiatives on water management including conservation and water harvesting in the Country is primarily States' responsibility. Government of India provides technical and financial assistance to encourage sustainable development and efficient management of water resources through various schemes and programmes to supplement the efforts of the State Governments.

A number of States have done notable work in the field of water conservation/harvesting viz. 'Mukhyamantri Jal Swavlamban Abhiyan' in Rajasthan, 'Jalyukt Shibir' in Maharashtra, 'Sujalam Sufalam Abhiyan' in Gujarat, 'Mission Kakatiya' in Telangana, 'Neeru Chettu' in Andhra Pradesh, 'Jal Jeevan Hariyali' in Bihar, 'Jal Hi Jeevan' in Haryana among others. Government of India launched Jal Shakti Abhiyan (JSA), a time bound campaign with a mission mode approach intended to improve water availability including ground water conditions in the water stressed blocks of 256 districts in India. In this regard, teams of officers from Central Government along-with technical officers from Ministry of Jal Shakti were deputed to visit water stressed districts and to work in close collaboration with district level officials to undertake suitable interventions. JSA has led to huge awareness generation among stake-holders.

Government of India has approved Atal Bhujal Yojana (Atal Jal), a Rs. 6000 Crore Central Sector Scheme, for sustainable management of ground water resources with community participation. Atal Jal is being implemented in 78 water stressed districts of Seven States viz. Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh.

Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers Welfare is implementing Per Drop More Crop (PDMC) component of Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) which is operational from 2015-16 in the Country. The PMKSY-PDMC mainly focuses on water use efficiency at farm level through precision/micro irrigation. Besides promoting precision irrigation (Drip and Sprinkler Irrigation System) & better on-farm water management practices (to optimize the use of available water resources), this component also supports micro level water storage or, water conservation/management activities to supplement Micro Irrigation.

The Ministry of Rural Development in consultation and agreement with the Department of Water Resources, RD & GR and the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare has developed an actionable framework for Natural Resources Management (NRM), titled "Mission Water Conservation" to ensure gainful utilization of funds. The Framework strives to ensure synergies in Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY), erstwhile Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) (now PMKSY-Watershed Development

Component) and Command Area Development & Water Management (CAD&WM), given their common objectives. Types of common works undertaken under these programmes/schemes are water conservation and management, water harvesting, soil and moisture conservation, groundwater recharge, flood protection, land development, command area development & watershed management.

CGWB has also undertaken initiatives like Bridge Cum Bhandara (Maharashtra); projects for harvesting of the runoff water in stream to store at suitable locations for augmenting recharge to the ground water in some aspirational districts of Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and Telangana; Convergence with MGNREGS in Water Stressed areas (technical guidance in selection of sites & design of artificial recharge structures in priority areas in 9 Blocks in 8 States as a pilot study); creating awareness on water conservation to motivate people for community participation through public interaction programmes, outreach programmes/workshops, and mass awareness programme in tribal areas of Bihar, Himachal Pradesh, Manipur, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.

(O.M. No. LAFEAS-SCWR023/18/2019-SCWR dated 05.12.2019)

Recommendation 14 (Para No. 2.32, 2.33 and 2.34)

National Projects

The Committee wish to recall that in the year 2008, the Union Cabinet gave its consent to the proposal of the then Ministry of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation for implementation of National Projects with Central Assistance of 90% of the cost of the project. So far, 16 projects have been selected under the Scheme of National Projects. Out of these 16 National Projects, five projects, namely, Polavaram Irrigation Project (Andhra Pradesh), Saryu Nahar Pariyojana (Uttar Pradesh), Gosikhurd Irrigation Project (Maharashtra), Teesta Barrage Project (West Bengal) & Shahpurkandi Dam Project (Punjab) have been taken up for execution which are at various stages of construction. Funding proposal for rest of 11 Projects would be taken up once the Project Authorities obtain all the requisite clearances including the 'Statutory Clearances'.

The Committee note from the reply of the Department that the construction of National Project is in domain of State Governments. These National Projects like any other irrigation project face the problems of Land Acquisition, Resettlement and Rehabilitation (R&R) issues, inadequate funds, contractual issue, delay in Railway/ Highway crossings, geological locations, etc., which unnecessarily delay the completion of projects, thereby, resulting in enormous cost escalation.

The Committee have observed that there is a considerable increase in the cost of these projects like for Polavaram Irrigation Project, where, the Estimated Cost at the time of inclusion it in the category of National Project was Rs. 10151.04 crore at the price level of 2005-06. However, the revised cost of this Project has pegged to Rs. 55,548.87 crore at the price level of 2017-18. Similarly, other Projects have also witnessed substantial hike in their costs. The Committee are concerned about this exorbitant increase in cost of these Projects and would like to know as to what proportion of the increase in the estimated cost is due to their overrun of these Projects.

The Committee, also, recommend the Department to take urgent steps to resolutely overcome all the problems encompassed in these Projects so that these Projects could be completed within their given time frame and without having any further cost escalation.

Reply of the Government:

The cost escalation in the National Projects (NP) that have been taken up for funding, so far, can be seen from the table below:

(Rs. in crore)

S. No.	Project Name	Earlier Approved Cost of components under National Project	Presently Approved Cost of components under National Project
1	Polavaram	16010.45 (PL 2010-11)	55548.87 (PL 2017-18)
2	SaryuNahar	3011.53 (PL 2008)	5803.61 (PL 2016)
3	Gosikhurd	4315.96 (PL 2007-08)	12770.09 (PL 2012-13)
4	ShahpurKandi	2285.81 (PL 2008)	2715.70 (PL 2018)
5	Teesta Barrage	2988.61 (PL 2008)	*

* *The project is not progressing since 2014-15 due to LA issues. No proposal in this regard has been submitted by the State Government since then.*

State Government of Andhra Pradesh has informed that the major cost overrun in case of Polavaram Project is due to the implementation of New R&R Act 2013 w.e.f 01.01.2014 which has effected the cost of Land Acquisition (LA) and Rehabilitation & Resettlement (R&R) and increased the project cost drastically.

Saryu Nahar and Gosikhurd projects are among the 99 projects prioritized under PMKSY-AIBP for completion along with their CADWM works. Funds for these projects are being provided from Long Tem Irrigation Fund (LTIF) through NABARD. Time to time Monitoring of these projects is done along with other PMKSY priority projects for their time bound completion. As informed by the concerned State Governments, AIBP works of Saryu Nahar and Gosikhurd project are likely to be completed by March'21 and March'23, respectively.

Further, Shahpur Kandi Dam project has also been taken up for funding under LTIF through NABARD, as approved by Union Cabinet on 06.12.2018. The project is being actively monitored so that the project works are completed by June 2022.

(O.M. No. LAFEAS-SCWR023/18/2019-SCWR dated 05.12.2019)

Comment of the Committee
(Please see Para No. 36 of Chapter – I of the Report)

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 1 (Para No. 2.1)

Allocation of funds for 2019-20

The Committee observe that for the fiscal year 2019-20, the total budgetary allocation for the Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation is Rs. 8245.25 crore, out of which, Rs. 7853.78 crore has been allocated under the 'Revenue Section' and Rs. 391.47 crore under the 'Capital Section'. The total budgetary provision of the Department for the fiscal year 2019-20 is Rs. 8245.25 crore which is around Rs. 614.75 crore lower than that of the previous fiscal year which has been attributed to reduction in allocations under the National Ganga Plan (NGP) and the availability of unspent balances with the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) due to slow off-take by the States. The Committee also note that there is an additional provision of Extra Budgetary Resources (EBR) of Rs. 8217.79 crore as borrowing from the National Bank for Agricultural and Rural Development (NABARD) which is almost equal to the budgetary provision of the Department. Though, EBR of Rs. 4882 crore has been approved by the Ministry of Finance, till 31.10.2019, no amount has been raised by the Department. The Committee regret to note that accretion of borrowings from NABARD will increase the committed liability of the Government in the form of payment of interest along with principal amount and, therefore, would adversely impact the Schemes/Programmes of the Government in the long run. The Committee, therefore, strongly recommend that dependence on EBR for meeting the requirement of additional funds for various Schemes/Programmes in the field of water resources, especially, the National Mission for Clean Ganga be avoided. The inclusive conservation, management and development of water resources which includes conjunctive use of surface and ground water, rejuvenation of river Ganga, flood management including drainage, flood-proofing, water logging, sea erosion, dam safety, etc., would only be possible when adequate funds are provided to the Department without incurring huge liability of repayment of loans and/or interest.

Reply of the Government:

Details of Extra Budgetary Resources (EBR) approved in FY 2019-20, raised so far and as anticipated for the balance of FY 2019-20 are indicated below.

(Rs. in crore)

Component	EBRs approved in FY 2019-20	EBR raised till date (03.03.20)	During March 2020	Total EBRs expected to be raised in FY 2019-20
Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme	3200.00	1738.77	904.00	2642.77
Rajasthan Feeder - Sirhind Feeder	196.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Polavaram Irrigation Project	1850.00	1850.00	2235.00	4085.00
Shahpur Kandi	150.00	60.00	0.00	60.00
Har Khet to Panki (HKKP) – Command Area Development & Water Management (CADWM) component under Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana (PMKSY)	1000.00	164.00	96.00	260.00
North Koel Reservoir Project	336.00	0.53	75.00	75.53
Total	6732.00	3813.30	3310.00	7123.30

In 2016-17, 99 ongoing AIBP projects were prioritized under PMKSY for completion by December 2019 along with their CADWM works. The arrangement of funds for these projects, both CA and State Share, was made through NABARD under Long Term Irrigation Fund (LTIF). Out of the 18 states concerned, 12 states signed Memorandum of Agreement to avail the State Share from NABARD and 9 States availed State Share during 2016-17 to 2019-20.

Earlier completion of various Major & Medium Irrigation (MMI)/ Extension, Renovation and Modernization (ERM) projects included under Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) got delayed due to limitation of budgetary allocations and resultant non-availability/ mismatch of Central & State Share. Simultaneous availability of the CA and State Share from NABARD under LTIF has paced up the progress of the Projects. AIBP works of 40 priority projects have been completed by the State Governments, and additional irrigation potential of 18.16 lakh hectare has been created. Since 2016-17, annually, the AIBP works of 13 projects have been completed under PMKSY-AIBP against the average of 7 projects per year earlier. Similarly, annual rate of creation of irrigation potential now is 6 lakh hectares (ha) against the 4.5 lakh hectare per annum earlier.

Also factoring in monsoon duration in India, funds under PMKSY-AIBP are required between September-March. However, less expenditure during first six months leads to reduction at Revised Estimate (RE) stage as per procedure adopted by Ministry of Finance based on expenditure during first six months. This affects fund availability at a stage when the

requirement is more. Under LTIF, funds are available throughout the year as and when required based on pace of works and not stalled for reasons of non-availability of funds. Overall an amount of Rs.44718.61 crore (including state share) has been leveraged from LTIF since 2016-17. A payment of Rs. 3809.31 crore has been made towards debt servicing during this period. The entire budgetary allocation of Department during the period is Rs.30293.85 crore. Moreover, it would not have been possible to divert the entire budget for these projects alone. Thus, not only timely funding but larger funding has been made available through LTIF funding mechanism.

As regards impact of debt servicing on other schemes of Department, the arrangement may not be considered to be one which is eroding budget availability for other schemes. In fact, during funding period, effective budget has rather increased due to borrowing from NABARD and obviating need for diversion of budgetary allocations to LTIF funded components.

(O.M. No. LAFEAS-SCWR023/18/2019-SCWR dated 05.12.2019)

Comment of the Committee

(Please see Para No. 5 of Chapter – I of the Report)

Recommendation2 (Para No. 2.2, 2.3 and 2.4)

Under-utilization of Budgetary Allocations

The Committee find that the Department has not been able to utilize the budgetary provisions allocated to them, year after year. During the fiscal year 2016-17, Rs. 4714.13 crore out of Rs. 6201.21 crore (BE), i.e., 76% was actually spent. Similarly, during the fiscal year 2017-18, Rs. 6887.00 crore (BE) was allocated, out of which the Department could utilize only Rs. 5313.48 crore, i.e., 77%. During the year, 2018-19, Rs. 7418.98, crore out of Rs. 8860.00 crore (BE) i.e., 84% was utilized by the Department. Thus, the incessant under utilization of budgetary allocations has been a recurring issue with the Department. On the other hand, the Committee find that the borrowings from NABARD has increased substantially.

The Committee observe that the Department has spelled out various reasons for under utilization of funds under the various Schemes/Programmes which *inter alia* include the following:-

- I. Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Programme (DRIP)
 - (i) Non-award of tenders of Hydro-mechanical of Panchet due to poor response of bidders.
 - (ii) Delayed start of project by the Civil Contractor.
 - (iii) Non-finalization of material for grouting works at Konar Dams, and other contractual issues.

- II. River Basin Management (RBM)
 - (i) Difficulties in collection and transportation of boulders to work sites due to ban on blasting boulder quarries.
 - (ii) Disturbances/resistance by the local organizations/residents.
 - (iii) Unseasonal rainfall and high flood level of river.
 - (iv) Unavailability of forest clearances.
 - (v) Lack of consensus among various States on inter-linking of Rivers Programme.

- III. Development of Water Resources Information System (DWRIS)
 - (i) Non-finalisation of tenders for outsourcing of manpower services for HO sites.
 - (ii) Under-utilization of funds in the National Water Mission Scheme, primarily, due to absence of full time Mission Director.
 - (iii) Shortage of manpower to carry out the activities contemplated under National Water Mission Scheme.

While taking note of the various problems as furnished by the Department which are responsible for under utilizations of funds under various Schemes/Programmes, the Committee are of the view that lack of optimum utilization of resources has been a continual issue with the Department. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Department should take all necessary steps to overcome the aforementioned hindrances which have hampered faster implementation and consequent under utilization of available resources.

Reply of the Government:

Details of Budget Estimates (BE) and Revised Estimates (RE) level allocations and expenditure during 2016-17 to 2019-20 are indicated in table below.

(Rs. in crore)

Financial Year	Budget Estimates (BE)	Revised Estimates (RE)	Expenditure	Expenditure as % of BE	Expenditure as % of RE
2016-17	6201.21	4755.5	4714.13	76%	99%
2017-18	6887	7660	5313.48	77%	69%
2018-19	8860	7612.52	7422.08	84%	97%
2019-20	8245.25	7518.21	6921.92	84%	92%
Note	Expenditure in FY 2019-20 is as of 29.02.2020				

The department has been able to utilise funds provided at RE level consistently, except in FY 2017-18, where savings of Rs.1600 crore occurred due to non-release of funds to National Mission for Clean Ganga(NMCG) under Namami Gange programme. The release could not be made as NMCG had large unspent balance available with it, owing to less demands from the riparian states/agencies. In addition, savings of Rs.533 crore occurred due to less demand under debt servicing of NABARD loan due to less drawl of loan/demand by the States. Borrowings from NABARD under LTIF are directly linked to physical progress of projects and consequent demands from the States and has picked up in later years. As already mentioned, this has resulted in faster completion of irrigation projects (13 projects against the average of 7 projects per year earlier) and increase in rate of creation of irrigation potential (6 lakh ha against the 4.5 lakh ha per annum earlier).

The recommendation of Committee has been noted and this Department has taken remedial measures as under for improving utilisation under the identified schemes.

- i. The lack of optimum utilization by Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC) has been taken up with the Ministry of Power at Secretary Level for appropriate action. Pace of implementation including award of works under the scheme is being monitored regularly at Department and Central Water Commission(CWC) levels.
- ii. The investigation works under the River Basin Management (RBM) scheme are mainly lying in the north-eastern and Jammu & Kashmir region. Apart from issues of remote location of the work sites and limited working season available because of prolonged monsoon, these works are also affected due to local disturbance/resistance. The Department intends to develop awareness raising programs and better dialogue with the executing agencies and the public in the affected areas.

- iii. Under Development of Water Resources Information System (DWRIS) scheme, necessary action for finalization of tenders for outsourcing of manpower for Hydrological Observation (HO) sites has been taken. The tenders for outsourcing of manpower for HO sites have been awarded by CWC.

The Department is committed to optimal utilisation of budgetary grants available to Department.

(O.M. No. LAFEAS-SCWR023/18/2019-SCWR dated 05.12.2019)

Comment of the Committee

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

Recommendation 3 (Para No. 2.5 and 2.6)

Special Package to other chronically Drought Prone Areas of the Country

The Committee note that in July 2018, the Government of India approved a Special Package to provide Central Assistance of Rs.3831.41 crore to complete 83 Surface Minor Irrigation (SMI) projects and 8 Major/ Medium Irrigation Projects in suicide prone Districts in Vidarbha and Marathwada regions of the State of Maharashtra requiring overall balance cost of Rs.13651.61 crore as on 1.4.2018.

While, the Committee appreciate the efforts of the Government to provide the much needed relief to address the agrarian distress in Vidarbha and Marathwada and other chronically drought prone areas of rest of Maharashtra, the Committee also desire that the Department should consider expanding the scope of this Package to other regions of the country facing similar challenges.

Reply of the Government:

At present, the scope of Special Package is restricted to completion of 83 Surface Minor Irrigation (SMI) and 8 Major/ Medium Irrigation(MMI) projects in Vidarbha, Marathwada & chronically drought prone areas of rest of Maharashtra, as approved by the Union Cabinet on 18.07.2018. The scheme was taken up keeping in view of peculiar conditions of the said areas and envisages Central Assistance (CA) of 25% for projects included in the package.

However, scheme for funding projects in other States is already operational. 99 Major/ Medium Irrigation projects from 18 different States have been prioritized for completion under Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayi Yojana (PMKSY). Further, SMI and Repair, Renovation & Restoration (RRR) of Water Bodies schemes from various States are being provided funds under PMKSY- Har Khet Ko Paani (HKKP) component.

Another two projects namely Shahpur Kandi Dam (National) Project and Relining of Sirhind Feeder- Rajasthan Feeder (benefitting Punjab & Rajasthan) have also been taken up separately for central funding through LTIF route.

(O.M. No. LAFEAS-SCWR023/18/2019-SCWR dated 05.12.2019)

Comment of the Committee

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

Recommendation 5 (Para No. 2.9, 2.10 and 2.11)

River Basin Management

The Committee note that the National Water Policy - 2012 emphasizes the need for comprehensive legislation for optimum development of inter-State rivers and river valleys to facilitate inter-State coordination for ensuring scientific planning of land and water resources by reckoning basin/sub-basin as a Unit with unified perspectives of water in all its forms (*including precipitation, soil moisture, ground and surface water*) and ensuring a holistic and balanced development of both the catchment and the command areas.

In pursuance thereof, Justice Dobia Committee had submitted its Report which included a draft Bill, namely, the River Basin Management Bill, for amending the existing River Boards Act, 1956. It was further examined by a three-member Group. The Group finalized the Draft of River Basin Management Bill, 2017 and submitted to the Ministry of Jal Shakti. Thereafter, the draft has been finalized by the Ministry. The draft Bill is now under consideration of the Ministry of Jal Shakti.

Considering all the aforesaid chronology of events, the Committee are of the view that enactment of the proposed legislation would result in optimum integrated development and management of inter-State River waters with basin approach and will result in change of environment from the one of 'conflicts' to that of 'cooperation'. The Committee, therefore, recommend the Ministry to take expeditious measures for the enactment of the proposed River Basin Act, to enable the establishment of the River Basin Authority and management of water resources of each river basin in a holistic manner. The Committee desire to be apprised of the specific timelines fixed for the purpose.

Reply of the Government:

On the Draft River Basin Management Bill, 2018, prepared by this Department, the Legislative Department, Ministry of Law & Justice (MoL&J) recommended holding pre-legislative consultations. Accordingly, States & UTs and Central Ministries/Departments have been requested for comments on Draft RBM Bill, 2018.

The Department/Ministry is making all efforts so that the Bill is enacted, however, specific timelines cannot be assigned at this stage, as it involves consultations with various State Governments/other stake holders. The draft Bill, after incorporating suggestions as appropriate of the State Governments and other stake holders, will be finalized in consultation with MoL&J.

(O.M. No. LAFEAS-SCWR023/18/2019-SCWR dated 05.12.2019)

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

Recommendation10 (Para No. 2.23 and 2.24)

Ground Water Management and Regulation

The Committee observe that Ground Water Management and Regulation (GWM&R) Scheme, a Central Sector Scheme of the Ministry of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation is under implementation since 12th plan (2012-17). The Scheme has been operational during the fiscal year 2017-2020 with an outlay of Rs. 1164 crore. The Committee also note that the budgetary allocation for this Scheme for the fiscal year 2019-20 vis-a-vis 2018-19 has been considerably reduced. As per the Department's submission, it is because of the fact that the targets envisaged for data generation was more for the year 2018-19 vis-a-vis 2019-20.

Taking note of the fact that at the time when the country has been facing a crisis in terms of fast depleting groundwater level, the Committee are of the view that instead of seeking reduced allocation for such an important Scheme, the Department should seek to augment the budgetary support for this and formulate the pragmatic short term and long policies/programmes in consultation with the respective State Governments so that the country, as a whole could come out from this quagmire. The Committee also urge the Ministry to constitute an Expert Committee for the purpose of identifying the specific locations/regions where the problem of depleting the groundwater level at rapid pace not only persists but also increasing by leaps and bounds. The Expert Committee should use the available technology, including the satellite feeds, to collate the data on real time basis which could also be made available in the public domain.

Reply of the Government

Water being a State subject, initiatives on water management including conservation and water harvesting in the Country is primarily States' responsibility. Further, to supplement the efforts of the State Governments, Government of India provides technical and financial assistance to encourage sustainable development and efficient management of water resources through various schemes and programmes.

A number of States have carried out notable work in the field of water conservation/harvesting, such as 'Mukhyamantri Jal Swavlamban Abhiyan' in Rajasthan, 'Jalyukt Shibir' in Maharashtra, 'Sujalam Sufalam Abhiyan' in Gujarat, 'Mission Kakatiya' in Telangana, 'NeeruChettu' in Andhra Pradesh, 'Jal Jeevan Hariyali' in Bihar, 'Jal Hi Jeevan' in Haryana among others.

Further, as per recommendations of the Committee while examining the subject 'Rainwater Harvesting works', a Committee for preparing & finalizing a master plan for artificial recharge to groundwater in India has been constituted by the Department with representatives of Stake-holder Ministries and State Governments. The report of the Committee is expected by 31 Mar 2020.

Central Ground Water Board would make use of budget allocated to it at RE 2019-20 stage.

(O.M. No. LAFEAS-SCWR023/18/2019-SCWR dated 05.12.2019)

Comment of the Committee

(Please see Para No. 27 of Chapter – I of the Report)

CHAPTER – V

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

NIL

**New Delhi
3 February 2021
14 Magha, 1942 (Saka)**

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

**MINUTES OF THE FIRST SITTING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON WATER RESOURCES
(2020-21) HELD ON FRIDAY, 6 NOVEMBER, 2020**

The Committee sat from 1400 hours to 1430 hours in Committee Room No. 'C', Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

PRESENT

Dr. Sanjay Jaiswal – Chairperson

MEMBERS

LOK SABHA

2. Shri Kaushal Kishore
3. Shri M. Dhanush Kumar
4. Shri Hasmukhbhai Somabhai Patel
5. Shri Dipsinh Shankarsinh Rathod

RAJYA SABHA

6. Sardar Balwinder Singh Bhunder
7. Dr. Kirodi Lal Meena
8. Shri Arun Singh
9. Shri Subhash Chandra Singh
10. Shri Pradeep Tamta

SECRETARIAT

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

At the outset, the Chairperson welcomed the Members to the sitting and congratulated them on their nomination /re-nomination to the Committee for the year 2020-21.

2. *** *** *** *** *** *** ***

3. The Committee then took up for consideration four draft Reports namely draft Reports on the Action Taken by the Government on the Observations / Recommendations contained in the First and Third Reports of the Committee on "Demands for Grants (2019-20) and (2020-21)" of the Ministry of Jal Shakti (Department of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation) and draft Reports on Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/ Recommendations contained in the Second and Fourth Reports of the Committee on "Demands for Grants (2019-20) and (2020-21)" of the Ministry of Jal Shakti (Department of Drinking Water & Sanitation). After some deliberation, the Committee adopted all the draft Reports unanimously and without any changes / amendments. The Committee authorized the Chairperson to present the above four Reports to both the Houses of Parliament in the next Session of Parliament.

4. *** *** *** *** *** ***

The Committee, then, adjourned.

*** Minutes in respect of other matters kept separately.

ANNEXURE – II

[Vide Para 4 of the Introduction]

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

(i)	Total number of Recommendations/Observations	14
(ii)	Recommendation/Observations which have been accepted by the Government Recommendation Nos. 4,6,7,8,9,11,12,13 and 14	Total – 09 Percentage – 64.28%
(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. 1,2,3,5 and 10	Total – 05 Percentage – 35.71%
(v)	Recommendation/Observation in respect of which final reply of the Government is still awaited Para Nos. NIL	Total – 00 Percentage – Nil