

**15**

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON WATER RESOURCES  
(2021-22)**

**SEVENTEENTH LOK SABHA**

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

**DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (2022-23)**

**FIFTEENTH REPORT**



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT**

**NEW DELHI**

March, 2022 / Chaitra, 1944 (Saka)

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**REJUVENATION**

**DEMANDS FOR GRANTS**  
**(2022-23)**

*Presented to Lok Sabha on 23.03.2022*  
*Laid on the Table of Rajya Sabha on 23.03.2022*



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT**  
**NEW DELHI**

March, 2022 / Chaitra, 1944 (Saka)

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**COMPOSITON OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON WATER RESOURCES  
(2021-22)**

**Dr. Sanjay Jaiswal** - **Chairperson**

**LOK SABHA**

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

**RAJYA SABHA**

22. Sardar Balwinder Singh Bhunder
23. Shri Harshvardhan Singh Dungarpur
24. Dr. Kirodi Lal Meena
25. Smt. Mausam Noor
26. Shri Arun Singh
27. Shri Subhash Chandra Singh
28. Shri Rewati Raman Singh
29. Shri Pradeep Tamta
30. **Vacant**
31. **Vacant**

**SECRETARIAT**

1. Shri M.K. Madhusudhan - Joint Secretary
2. Shri Khakhai Zou - Director
3. Shri R.C. Sharma - Additional Director
4. Shri Gaurav Jain - Assistant Committee Officer

## **INTRODUCTION**

I, the Chairperson, Standing Committee on Water Resources (2021-22) having been authorized by the Committee to submit the Report on their behalf, present the Fifteenth Report on Demands for Grants (2022-23) of the Ministry of Jal Shakti - Department of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation.

2. The Demands for Grants have been examined by the Committee under Rule 331E(1)(a) of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha.

3. The Committee took evidence of the representatives of the Ministry of Jal Shakti - Department of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation on 22.2.2022.

4. The Report was considered and adopted by the Committee at their sitting held on 15.3.2022.

5. The Committee wish to express their thanks to the representatives of the Ministry of Jal Shakti - Department of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation for providing them the requisite written material and for making oral depositions before the Committee in connection with the examination of the subject.

6. The Committee would also like to place on record their sense of deep appreciation for the assistance rendered to them by the officials of the Lok Sabha Secretariat attached to the Committee.

**NEW DELHI**  
**15 March, 2022**  
**24 Phalgun, 1943 (Saka)**

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

## ABBREVIATIONS

Atal Jal	:	Atal Bhujal Yojana
AIBP	:	Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme
AIIB	:	Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank
AMRUT	:	Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation
Appx.	:	Approximately
BBMB	:	Bhakra Beas Management Board
BCM	:	Billion Cubic Meter
BE	:	Budget Estimate
BOD	:	Biochemical Oxygen Demand
CA	:	Central Assistance
CAD	:	Command Area Development
CAMPA	:	Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority
CADWM	:	Command Area Development and Water Management Programme
CCA	:	Culturable command area
CCEA	:	Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs
CEDAR	:	Centre for Ecology Development & Research
CEE	:	Committee on Establishment Expenditure
CoE	:	Centre of Excellence
CGF	:	Clean Ganga Fund
CGWB	:	Central Ground Water Board
CM	:	Chief Minister
COD	:	Chemical Oxygen Demand
CPMU	:	Central Project Management Unit
CSMRS	:	Central Soil and Materials Research Station
CSR	:	Corporate Social Responsibility
CSS	:	Centrally Sponsored Schemes
CWC	:	Central Water Commission
CWRDM	:	Centre for Water Resources Development and Management
CWPRS	:	Central Water and Power Research Station
DDP	:	Desert Development Programme
DoDWS	:	Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation
DFG	:	Demands for Grants
DO	:	Dissolved Oxygen
DoWR, RD & GR	:	Department of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation
DPR	:	Detailed Project Report
DRIP	:	Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Programme
DVC	:	Damodar Valley Corporation
DWRIS	:	Development of Water Resources Information System
EAP	:	Externally Aided Project Component
EAP	:	Emergency Action Plan
EBR	:	Extra Budgetary Resources
EC	:	Electrical Conductivity
EFC	:	Expenditure Finance Committee
EPC	:	Engineering, Procurement and Construction
FRs	:	Feasibility Reports

FSSM	:	Fecal Sludge and Septage Management
FMBAP	:	Flood Management and Border Areas Programme
FMP	:	Flood Management Programme
FY	:	Financial Year
FR	:	Feasibility Report
GD	:	Gauge & Discharge
GLOF	:	Glacial Lake Outburst Flood
GST	:	Goods and Services Tax
GWM&R	:	Ground Water Management and Regulation
GOI	:	Government of India
Ha	:	Hectare
HFL	:	Highest Flood Level
HKKP	:	Har Khet Ko Pani
HO	:	Hydrological Observation
HRD	:	Human Resource Development
IAs	:	Implementing Agencies
ICAR	:	Indian Council of Agricultural Research
IEBR	:	Internal External Budgetary Resources
IIT	:	Indian Institute of Technology
IIHL	:	Individual Household Latrines
ILR	:	Interlinking of Rivers
IOCL	:	Indian Oil Corporation Limited
I.P.	:	Irrigation Potential
ISRWD	:	Inter-State River Water Disputes
ISO	:	International Standards of Organization
JJM	:	Jal Jeevan Mission
JSA	:	Jal Shakti Abhiyan
KLD	:	Kilo Litres Per Day
LA	:	Land Acquisition
LS	:	Lok Sabha
LTIF	:	Long Term Irrigation Fund
MIDH	:	Mission on Integrated Development of Horticulture
MI	:	Minor Irrigation
MLD	:	Million Litres Per Day
MMI	:	Major / Medium Irrigation
MoDW&S	:	Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation
MoEF&CC	:	Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
MoJS	:	Ministry of Jal Shakti
MoWR	:	Ministry of Water Resources
MoWR, RD & GR	:	Ministry of Water Resources River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation
NABARD	:	National Bank for Agricultural and Rural Development
NAPCC	:	National Action Plan on Climate Change
NAQUIM	:	National Aquifer Mapping & Management Programme
NBWUE	:	National Bureau of Water Use Efficiency
NCIWRD	:	National Commission on Integrated Water Resources Development
NPV	:	Net Present Value
NGP	:	National Ganga Plan
NGRBA	:	National Ganga River Basin Authority



NHAI	:	National Highways Authority of India
NHP	:	National Hydrology Project
NITI Ayog	:	National Institution for Transforming India Ayog
NMCG	:	National Mission for Clean Ganga
NMSHE	:	National Mission for Sustainable Himalayan Ecosystem
NP	:	National Project
NPP	:	National Perspective Plan
NPMU	:	National Project Monitoring Unit
NRCD	:	National River Conservation Directorate
NRCP	:	National River Conservation Plan
NRIs	:	Non Resident Indians (NRIs),
NWDA	:	National Water Development Agency
NWIC	:	National Water informatics Centre
NWM	:	National Water Mission
ODF	:	Open Defecation Free
O&M	:	Operation and Maintenance
PDMC	:	Per Drop More Crop
PIO	:	Persons of Indian Origin
PIP	:	Public Interaction Programmes
PL	:	Price List
PMKSY	:	Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana
PMO	:	Prime Minister Office
PPP	:	Public-Private Partnership
PSU	:	Public Sector Undertakings
PWD	:	Public Works Department
RBC	:	Right Bank Canal
RBM	:	River Basin Management
RE	:	Revised Estimate
RMBA	:	River Management Activities & Works related to Border Areas
RMIS	:	Rationalization of Minor Irrigation Statistics
RRR	:	Repair, Renovation and Restoration
R&D	:	Research and Development
SFC	:	Standing Finance Committee
SNA	:	Single Nodal Account
SMI	:	Surface Minor Irrigation
SPMU	:	State Project Monitoring Unit
STPs	:	Sewage Treatment Plants
SWM	:	Solid Waste Management
TAMC	:	Technical Assistance and Management Consultancy
TC	:	Technical Committee
TDS	:	Total Dissolved Solids
TPGVA	:	Third Party Government Verification Agency
UGPL	:	Underground Pipeline
ULBs	:	Urban Local Bodies
UTs	:	Union Territories
WSPs	:	Water Security Plans
World Bank	:	World Bank
WRD	:	Water Resources Department
WQ	:	Water Quality Stations

**REPORT  
PART - I**

**BACKGROUND ANALYSIS**

1.1 Water is essential for sustenance of life. It is a limited resource. Water resources of the country are required to be harnessed judiciously to meet the growing requirement of our developing economy. Therefore, development, conservation and management of water resources are crucial.

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

**Salient features of the Union Budget (2022-23) with regard to Water Resources Sector**

1.3 On being asked about the Salient features of the Union Budget (2022-23) with regard to Water Resources Sector, the Department in their written reply stated as under:-

*“Union Budget 2022-23 features Ken Betwa project and Other River Linking Projects. The relevant paras of the Budget Speech 2022-23 are as follows:*

- a) *“Implementation of the Ken-Betwa Link Project, at an estimated cost of Rs. 44,605 crore will be taken up. This is aimed at providing irrigation benefits to 9.08 lakh hectare of farmers' lands, drinking water supply for 62 lakh people, 103 MW of Hydro, and 27 MW of solar power. Allocations of ` 4,300 crore in RE 2021-22 and ` 1,400 crore in 2022-23 have been made for this project.*
- b) *Draft DPRs of five river links, namely Damanganga-Pinjal, Par-TapiNarmada, Godavari-Krishna, Krishna-Pennar and Pennar-Cauvery have been finalized. Once a consensus is reached among the beneficiary states, the Centre will provide support for implementation.”*

Total Budget allocation (Net) for FY 2022-23 in relation to DoWR, RD & GR is Rs. 18967.88 crore”.

**Budgetary Allocations for FY 2022-23**

1.4 The detailed Demands for Grants in Demand No. 62 of the DoWR, RD & GR were laid on the Table of Lok Sabha on 10 February 2022. A total budgetary Provision of Rs. 18967.88 crore has been made for the fiscal year 2022-23. The following table shows the allocation of Budget for the DoWR, RD & GR during the last four years:-

**DoWR, RD & GR - Allocation and Expenditure**

(Rs. in crore)

Year	BE	RE	Actual
2018-19	8860.00	7612.52	7422.08
2019-20	8245.25	7518.21	7418.60
2020-21	8960.39	7262.09	7232.09
2021-22	9022.57	18008.70	6327.04*

\* till 31 December 2021.

1.5 The following table shows the amount surrendered by the DoWR, RD & GR to the Ministry of Finance at the end of financial years during the last four years:-

(Rs in crore)

Year	BE	RE	Actuals	Amount surrendered*
<b>2018-19</b>	8860.00	7612.52	7422.08	1467.14
<b>2019-20</b>	8245.25	7518.21	7418.60	700.39
<b>2020-21</b>	8960.39	7262.09	7232.09	1695.30

\*The figures depicting ‘amount surrendered’ are in Gross while the figures depicting BE, RE and Actuals are in net terms.

1.6 The Department have furnished the following reasons for surrendering the Budgetary allocations to the Ministry of Finance:-

- (i) *“Restrictions and lockdown in connection with COVID-19 pandemic. The time of such restrictions were different at different places. As a result even if one unit was ready to execute the works/programme, the same was not permitted at the place of work.*
- (ii) *There were delay in the award of contracts due to poor response by the bidders, due to which implementation of the planned activities got delayed, leading to under-utilization of financial allocation”.*

1.7 On being further asked about the reasons for surrendering the budgetary resources by the Department, the representative of the Department during the oral evidence on the subject held on 22.2.2022 stated as follows:

*“A question was asked about surrender of money during 2020-21. It was asked whether it was really because of COVID-19 or whether it was because of shortcomings in the implementation of programmes. I would like to submit that 2020-21 was a very tough year for the people and the Government. The Government’s revenues were affected in that year. There was a complete lockdown and the economy turned into negative growth. That is why the Ministry of Finance had issued strict orders curtailing the expenditure. In fact, monthly ceilings were imposed. My own understanding is that several Ministries’ and Departments’ Budgets were affected because of that. So, my submission would be that it was because of these extraordinary circumstances that our Budget was reduced. We did utilise 99.75 per cent of the reduced Budget. In 2021 -22, that is during the current financial year there was no complete lockdown and activities have proceeded even though the second wave of COVID has affected the world. Still, it was not like 2020-21 position. So, the situation would be better as we go along”.*

### **Analysis of Demands for Grants**

1.8 A total budgetary Provision of Rs. 18967.88 crore has been made for the year 2022-23. The following table shows the total Budget allocation of the DoWR, RD & GR for the year 2022-23:

#### **Total Allocations (2022-23)**

*(Rs. in crore)*

Revenue	18548.05
Capital	419.83
<b>Total</b>	<b>18967.88</b>

1.9 The following table shows the comparative analysis of the Demands for Grants (BE) for fiscal year 2022-23 viz-a-viz 2021-22:

*(Rs. in crore)*

<b>Year</b>	<b>Revenue (BE)</b>	<b>Capital (BE)</b>	<b>Total</b>
2021-22	8700.80	321.77	9022.57
2022-23	18548.05	419.83	18967.88

1.10 Budgetary Allocations of Central Sector Schemes/Projects; Centrally Sponsored Schemes; and Establishment Expenditure of the Centre (BE) for fiscal year 2022-23 viz-a-viz 2021-22:

(Rs in crore)

Sl. No.	Item(s)	2021-22		2022-23	% increase/decrease in 2022-23 over 2021-22 (RE)
		BE	RE	BE	
1.	Central Sector Schemes/Projects	2456.02	2940.80	5220.86	77.53
2.	Centrally Sponsored Schemes	5688.49	14022.24	12605.12	(-) 10.10
3.	Establishment Expenditure of the Centre	878.06	1045.66	1141.90	9.2
4.	<b>Total</b>	9022.57	18008.70	18967.88	5.3

1.11 The Central Sector Schemes/Projects have witnessed a rise of 77.53% appx. from Rs. 2,940.80 crore (RE) for FY 2021-22 to Rs 5,220.86 crore (BE) in FY 2022-23. However, the Centrally Sponsored Schemes have seen a cut of appx. 10.10% from Rs. 14022.24 crore (RE) level for FY 2021-22 to Rs. 12605.12 crore (BE) level in FY 2022-23. The overall budgetary allocation for FY 2022-23 has shown increase of approx. 5.3% viz.-a-viz. RE allocations of Rs. 18008.70 crore for FY 2021-22. However, in comparison to BE allocations for FY 2021-22 which was just Rs. 9022.57 crore, the BE allocations of Rs. 18967.88 crore for FY 2022-23 has shown a massive hike of appx. 110%.

1.12 On being asked the reasons for necessitating such a big hike in the budgetary allocation for Financial Year (FY) 2022-23 vis-à-vis FY 2021-22, the Department in a written reply stated as under:

*“The addition of new projects under schemes, namely, ‘Interlinking of Rivers’, ‘Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme and special/National Projects (PMKSY-AIBP)’ and ‘Command Area Development and Water Management (CADWM)’ and enhancement in the budgetary allocations of a few existing schemes necessitated the hike in budgetary allocations for FY 2022-23 vis-à-vis FY 2021-22. The details are provided below:*

- a. *Interlinking of Rivers: For Interlinking of Rivers (Ken-Betwa Link Project), an amount of Rs 1400 cr has been allocated for the year 2022-23.*
- b. *Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme and special/National Projects (PMKSY-AIBP) and Command Area Development and Water Management (CADWM): For Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme and special/National Projects (PMKSY-AIBP) and Command Area Development and Water Management (CADWM) scheme, an amount of Rs.4281.69 cr has been allocated for the FY 2022-23. Till the year 2020-21, the Central share for the projects under PMKSY-AIBP & CADWM was raised through long term loan from NABARD. From the current year, Government has decided to provide the central share through budgetary support instead of raising loan from NABARD.*
- c. *Namami Gange Mission II: For Namami Gange Programme, the budgetary allocation for FY 2021-22 was Rs.1,450.02 crore. The budgetary allocation for FY 2022-23 for Namami Gange Programme is Rs.2,800.00 crore. The increase in the BE allocation is due to the*

requirement of funds from various agencies for the various on-going projects, which are at the different stages of completion.

- d. *Ground Water Management and Regulation: Allocation in respect of ground water management and regulation scheme for the year 2022-23 has been increased in view of the fact that the NAQUIM studies are targeted to be completed by 2023. Enhanced expenditure is anticipated for the completion of NAQUIM related activities.*
  - e. *Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Project (DRIP): For Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Project (DRIP), during FY 2021-22, the allocated BE is Rs 25 Cr, whereas for FY 2022-23 the BE is Rs 100 Cr in respect of Central component of Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Project (DRIP) Phase II. This externally funded new Scheme DRIP Phase II has become effective in October 2021. The budgetary outlay for FY 21-22 included the payment liabilities of closed earlier World Bank funded Scheme DRIP (March 2021). This includes payment of Consultancy Services, payment of already procured equipments under DRIP by Central Soil and Materials Research Station (CSMRS) and Central Water and Power Research Station (CWPRS). In FY 2022-23, the increase in financial outlay is due to major provision for advance payment of new Central Project Management Unit (CPMU) Consultant, which is currently under advance stage of procurement, advance payment to IIT Roorkee for proposed Centre of Excellence (CoE) under new DRIP Phase II, minor provision for payment towards equipments already procured under earlier program DRIP, but their installation and commissioning got delayed due to COVID pandemic. Hence, there is significant increase in the proposed BE allocation for FY 22-23.*
  - f. *Flood Management and Border Areas Programme (FMBAP): In relation to Flood Management and Border Areas Programme (FMBAP), the allocation has been enhanced to Rs. 450 crores in the BE 2022-23 in respect of FMBAP for funding of new flood management projects under Flood Management component of FMBAP.*
  - g. *Atal Bhujal Yojana (ATAL JAL): The Atal Bhujal Yojana (ATAL JAL) Scheme was launched on 01.04.2020. The initial two years (2020-21 & 2021-22) were adversely impacted due to circumstances beyond control due to outbreak of COVID-19. It is envisaged that the scheme will perform to its full potential during FY 2022-23 hence budgetary allocation of Rs. 700 crore has been proposed.*
  - h. *Servicing of loans from NABARD: There is an increment of Rs. 985 crore in servicing of loans from NABARD under PMKSY for BE 2022-23 vis-à-vis BE 2021-22.*
  - i. *National Hydrology Project (NHP): The allocation has been enhanced to Rs. 800 crores in the BE 2022-23 in respect of National Hydrology Project (NHP) against the budget allocation of Rs. 200 crore for the FY 2021-22.*
  - j. *For Special Package for Irrigation Projects to address agrarian distress in districts of Vidarbha and Marathwada and other chronically drought prone areas of rest of Maharashtra, the budgetary allocations enhanced from Rs. 400 crore in FY 2021-22 to Rs. 800 crore in FY 2022-23”.*
- 1.13 When further asked the reasons for rising the allocations by Rs. 8986.13 crore (hike of 99.59%) at RE stage for FY 2021-22 in comparison to the allocation of just Rs. 9022.57 crore at BE stage, the Department stated as under:-

*“The major hike (approx. Rs. 8000 crore) at RE level has occurred due to the addition of new schemes, namely, ‘Interlinking of Rivers’, ‘Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme and special/National Projects (PMKSY-AIBP)’ and ‘Command Area Development and Water Management (CADWM)’. Furthermore, the need of additional funds in a few existing schemes also necessitated the hike at RE level. The details are provided below:*

- a. Interlinking of Rivers: Govt. of India has approved the implementation of Ken-Betwa Link Project with an estimated cost of Rs. 44605 Cr at year 2020-21 price level and central support of Rs.39317 Cr through a Special Purpose Vehicle. Allocation of Rs. 4300 crore has been made in RE 2021-22 for this purpose.*
- b. PMKSY-AIBP & CADWM: Till the year 2020-21, the Central share for the projects under PMKSY-AIBP & CADWM was raised through long term loan from NABARD. From the current year, Government has decided to provide the central share through budgetary support instead of raising loan from NABARD. Therefore,an allocation of Rs. 3700 cr has been made at the RE stage.*
- c. Namami Gange Mission II: For Namami Gange Programme the budgetary allocation for FY 2021-22 was Rs.1,450.02 crore. The revised allocation for FY 2021-22 for Namami Gange Programme is Rs.1,900.00 crore. The increase in the RE allocation is due to the requirement of funds from various agencies for the various on-going projects, which are at the different stages of completion.*
- d. National Hydrology Project (NHP):The allocation has been enhanced to Rs.412 crores at RE stage in respect of National Hydrology Project (NHP) against the Budget allocation of Rs. 200 crore for the FY 2021-22.*
- e. For Special Package for Irrigation Projects to address agrarian distress in districts of Vidarbha and Marathawada and other chronically drought prone areas of rest of Maharashtra, the RE has been enhanced to Rs. 600 crore from BE 2021-22 of Rs. 400 crore.”*

### **Implementation of Schemes/Programmes**

1.14 The Committee note from the information submitted by the Ministry that most of the major Schemes under the Department have witnessed meagre utilization of their budgetary allocations in fiscal year 2021-22. Till three quarters of FY 2021-22 i.e. 31.12.2021, the overall utilization of the Department is only 35% apprx. of the budgetary allocations of Rs. 18008.70 crore at RE level for FY 2021-22. Similarly other important Schemes of the Department like Flood Management and Border Areas Programme (FMBAP), National River Conservation Plan - Other Basins, Atal Bhujal Yojana, Research & Development and Implementation of National Water Mission, Namami Gange Programme and Ground Water Management and Regulation Scheme have seen utilization of just 35.13, 6.69, 34.04, 41.04, 49.30, 50.00 and 55.51 percent respectively of their allocated budgetary allocations at RE level for FY 2021-22 in first three quarters.

1.15 In response to a query regarding the reasons for meagre utilization of the budgetary allocations of the major Schemes under the Department 22 in the first three quarters of FY 2021-22.

*“While there had been maximum utilization of funds under many schemes such as Namami Gange, NRCP, SMI & RRR, NHP and Special package to Maharashtra, there have been shortfall under few schemes. The reasons for underutilization of budgetary funds vis-à-vis BE allocations during the last two financial years i.e.2019-20 and 2021-2022 are mainly attributable to the following: -*

- (a) Restrictions and lockdown in connection with COVID-19. The time of such restrictions were different at different places. As a result even in one unit is ready to execute the works/programme, the same was not permitted at the place of work.*
- (b) Delay in the award of contracts due to poor response by the bidders, due to which implementation of the planned activities got delayed, leading to under-utilization of financial allocation.*
- (c) Till 2020- 2021, CA release for PMKSY AIBP, CADWM and three special projects was through Extra Budgetary Resources and no budgetary allocation was made towards this. Ministry of Finance has conveyed that from 2021-22 onwards, release for PMKSY AIBP, CADWM and three special projects shall be through budgetary resources. Due to non-availability of allocation at BE stage, approval for release from Contingency Fund was granted by Ministry of Finance in November 2021 leading to lesser release in the earlier quarters of this financial year.*
- (d) The ongoing Flood Management & Border Areas Programme (FMBAP) is for providing central assistance to ongoing projects only. The central assistance to projects could not be released in first three quarters of the FY 2021-22 due to delay in compliance by the States in designating of Single Nodal Agency as per directions of Department of Expenditure on revised procedure for release of funds to States for Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) & monitoring utilization of the funds. States could not allocate State’s budget share in respect of ongoing projects of FMBAP due to paucity in State’s funds in prevailing covid situation. During the FY 2021-22, due to Covid-19 situation there were insufficient budgetary allocation by the States and there was slow progress of works. Non submission of audited statement of expenditure by State Government is another reason for lesser spending in initial quarters of FY 2021-22. As far as RMBA component of FMBAP is concerned it is for meeting expenditures on Bilateral India- Nepal and India- Bangladesh Cooperation meetings. The bilateral cooperation physical meetings could not be held due to prevailing covid situation Further, the progress in the investigations for Sapta Kosi High Dam and Sun Kosi Storage cum diversion scheme are concerned, due to resistance from local people in Nepal was less during the past years and hence under budgetary utilization. The DPR of the Pancheshwar Multipurpose Project is under finalization through discussions between the Government of India and Government of Nepal and lesser funds have been utilized in the past years. Therefore, in view of above there was lesser utilization of funds only under RMBA component of FMBAP”.*

### **Water Resources Scenario**

1.16 The average annual water availability of any region or country is largely dependent upon hydrometeorological and geological factors. As per the “Reassessment of Water Availability in Basins Using Space Inputs” report – 2020, the total water availability of India received through



precipitation of about 3880 Billion Cubic Meter (BCM) per annum. After evaporation, 1999.20 BCM water is available as natural run-off. Due to geological and other factors, the utilisable water availability is limited to 1126 BCM per annum comprising 690 BCM of surface water and 436 BCM of replenishable ground water. Out of this, the water potential utilised is around 695 BCM, comprising 450 BCM of surface water and 245 BCM of ground water. Total requirement of the country for different usage for high demand scenario for the years 2025 and 2050 has been assessed at 843 BCM and 1180 BCM respectively. Water availability per person is dependent on population of the country and for India, per capita water availability in the country is reducing progressively. The average annual per capita water availability in the years 2001 and 2011 was assessed as 1816 cubic meters and 1545 cubic meters respectively which may further reduce due to increase in population. Annual per capita water availability of less than 1700 cubic meters is considered as water stressed condition whereas annual per capita water availability below 1000 cubic meters is considered as a water scarcity condition.

1.17 The Department of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation in a written note furnished to the Committee have stated that total water requirement of the country for different uses for High Demand scenario for the years 2025 and 2050 as assessed by National Commission on Integrated Water Resources Development (NCIWRD-1999) constituted by Ministry of Water Resources, is given below:

S. No.	Total Water Requirement for Different Uses (in BCM)		
	Uses	Year 2025 (High Demand Scenario)	Year 2050 (High Demand Scenario)
1	Irrigation	611	807
2	Domestic	62	111
3	Industries	67	81
4	Power	33	70
5	Others	70	111
	Total	843	1180

1.18 In response to a query about the over-exploitation of ground water in many parts of the country due to availability of subsidized or free electricity to the farmers, the Department in its written reply stated as under:

*“The availability of subsidized or free electricity to the farmers may lead to indiscriminate extraction of ground water. The department has advised States/UTs to review their*

*free/subsidized electricity policy to farmers, bring suitable water pricing policy and may work further towards crop rotation/diversification/other initiatives to reduce over-dependence on groundwater.”*

1.19 When asked further regarding the steps taken by the Department in cooperation with States to persuade farmers to shift from paddy and wheat cultivation to cultivation of less-water consuming crops, the Department stated as under:

*“CGWB has been sharing ground water management plans with State Governments through State Ground Water Coordination Committees and with district authorities. These management plans, wherever relevant, contain recommendations for change in cropping patterns.*

*To facilitate the dissemination of ground water management plans at the grassroots level, CGWB also organizes Public Interaction Programmes (PIP). So far, 998 public interaction programmes have been conducted by CGWB in which nearly 85000 persons participated.”*

1.20 Further, the Committee have been apprised by the Department that presently there is no proposal under consideration to formulate a comprehensive financial package for encouraging farmers to shift to less water intensive crops in coordination and cooperation with Ministry of Agriculture and other Departments.

### **The India Easement Act, 1882**

1.21 In response to a query about 'the India Easement Act, 1882' and its impact on ground water table, the Department stated as follows:

*“As per the Indian Easement Act, 1882, An easement is a right which the owner or occupier of certain land possesses, as such, for the beneficial enjoyment of that land, to do and continue to do something, or to prevent and continue to prevent something being done, in or upon, or in respect of, certain other land not his own.*

*The beneficial enjoyment includes right of way, right to conduct water, to receive light, air without obstruction, to graze cattle etc. Thus, the Act is not restricted to water only and in respect of water too, it covers both surface and ground water.*

*The provision 7(g) of the said act, states –*

*“The right of every owner of land to collect and dispose within his own limits of all water under the land which does not pass in a defined channel and all water on its surface which does not pass in a defined channel.”*

*The above mentioned clause is interpreted as right of the land owner over the groundwater within his/her land jurisdiction. This many times lead to indiscriminate extraction and consequently effecting the ground water level not only in the land where extraction is occurring but also in the adjoining lands, particularly those in the downstream of groundwater flow direction. Further, the direct links between rights to groundwater and land ownership excludes the vast number of landless people from a direct stake in the resource. Amendment of India Easement Act, 1882 is beyond the purview of CGWB.”*

## **Interlinking of Rivers**

1.22 On being asked about the reasons for allocating a large amount of Rs. 4300 crore for this project at RE stage for FY 2021-22 when the BE allocation under this Head for fiscal year 2021-22 was nil, the Department in their written reply stated as follows:

*“A tripartite agreement has been signed between States of MP and UP with Union Govt. on 22<sup>nd</sup> March, 2021 for the implementation of Ken-Betwa link, in the august presence of Hon’ble Prime Minister.*

*Subsequently Union Cabinet has accorded approval for the implementation of Ken-Betwa Link Project at an estimated cost of Rs. 44,605 crore with Central support of Rs. 39,317 crore on 08<sup>th</sup> December 2021. The Cabinet also approved formation of a Special Purpose Vehicle for its implementation.*

*A Budget allocation of Rs. 4300 crore in RE 2021-22 and Rs.1400 crore in year 2022-23 has been made. Initially, the focus shall be on land acquisition and environment management plan. For taking the stage-II forest clearance for Daudhan dam, a large sum is required to be paid to the forest department in Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA) fund towards Net Present Value (NPV) and compensatory afforestation at the earliest. Accordingly, the provision of Rs 4300 crore has been sought under RE of FY 2021-22. The part of this allocation shall be utilized for the land acquisition also. In FY 2022-23, the provision of 1400 crore shall be largely used for land acquisition and EMP. If required, more budget shall be sought in the RE 2022-23.”*

1.23 On being asked about how many projects/works have been envisaged by the Department under this head and how many of them are being implemented, till date, the Department in a written reply stated as follows:

*“The Finance Minister in her budget speech has stated that draft detailed project report of five river links, namely Damanganga-Pinjal, Par-Tapi-Narmada, Godavari-Krishna, Krishna-Pennar, and Pennar-Cauvery have been finalized. Once a consensus is reached among the beneficiary States, the Centre will provide support for implementation.*

*Under National Perspective Plan (NPP), National Water Development Agency (NWDA) has identified 30 links (16 under Peninsular Component and 14 under Himalayan Component) for preparation of Feasibility Reports (FRs) under Inter-linking of Rivers Project. Pre-Feasibility studies of all links under NPP have been completed. The Feasibility Reports (FRs) of 24 links and Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) of 8 link projects under NPP have been completed. During 2021, Union Cabinet has approved implementation of Ken-Betwa Link project, first ILR project of the country and action is initiated by the Ministry to implement the project.”*

1.24 In response to a query regarding the major problems/hindrances/bottlenecks in the implementation of interlinking of rivers and how the Government proposes to overcome them, the Department replied as under: -

*“The implementation of the ILR link projects depends upon the consensus among the concerned States. Usually, water surplus States are not agreeing to share their surplus water to deficit Basins indicating that the water is not surplus. The interlinking of rivers programme is being pursued based on the principle of consensus and agreement amongst*

*the concerned States. Interlinking project would reach the implementation stage once agreement amongst party States is reached on water sharing and for its implementation and all requisite statutory clearances are obtained. Consistent efforts are being made to reach consensus among party States for implementation of the ILR projects.”*

### **Namami Gange**

1.25 The Department of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation in a written note furnished to the Committee have stated that the Government of India (GOI) has launched the Namami Gange Program to accomplish the twin objectives of effective abatement of pollution, conservation and rejuvenation of the National River Ganga and its tributaries. Namami Gange has been renamed as Namami Gange Mission II includes National Ganga Plan, National River Conservation Plan and Ghat Works for Beautification of River Front. The fund for the Namami Gange Mission II is allocated under the two budget heads, viz. (i) Externally Aided Project Component (EAP), (ii) Non Externally Aided Projects Component (Non EAP) of National Ganga Plan (NGP). During FY 2022-23, a total of Rs.2800 crore has been provided at BE level for aforesaid components.

1.26 When asked about the salient features of Namami Gange Mission II, the Department in its written reply stated as under:

*“Details are as given below:*

- (i) Accelerated interventions on tributaries with a view to carrying out wholesome rejuvenation of the entire Ganga basin.*
- (ii) Convergence of existing schemes of Central and State Govt. with the Namami Gange Program and introduction of new interventions.*
- (iii) Scaling up PPP development efforts and ‘one city one operator’ model for better sustainability and governance.*
- (iv) Enhanced focus on Fecal Sludge and Septage Management (FSSM) in all ULBs and rural areas and implement decentralized wastewater treatment system in non-sewered small and medium towns.*
- (v) Develop ‘circular economy’ model focusing on reclaim, reuse, recycling and responsible manufacturing in addition to waste management (E.g.: IOCL in Mathura, in Power Plants, irrigation, etc.).*
- (vi) Prioritize Municipal Solid Waste particularly its safe processing and disposal in large and priority towns.*
- (vii) Establish Ganga Innovation Hub (G-hub) for empowering technology providers and start-ups to provide practical solutions in the areas of sludge management, organic farming, FSSM, etc.*

(viii) Develop a basin level integrated urban water resource management strategy focusing on reducing consumption of surface and ground water, minimizing wastage and recycling wastewater.

(ix) NMCG to develop of a multidisciplinary cadre along the lines of National Highway Authority of India (NHAI).”

1.27 Under Namami Gange Program, so far, a total of 363 projects have been sanctioned at an estimated cost of Rs. 30841.53 Cr, out of which 177 projects have been completed and made operational. Rest of the projects are at various stages of implementation. Details of the projects sanctioned and completed sector-wise for the period up to 31 Dec 2021 are tabulated here below:

Sl. No.	Projects Undertaken	No of Projects Sanctioned	Projects Completed	Sanctioned Cost (Rs in Cr)
1	Sewerage Infrastructure and Modular STPs *	161	74	24977.82
2	Ghats , Crematoria & RFD	89	64	1541.33
3	Ghats Cleaning**	4	0	51.63
4	River Surface Cleaning**	1	1	33.53
5	Institutional Development Projects (Including GKC and Industrial Wastewater Treatment)	24	2	1462.13
6	Research ,Public Outreach etc	24	5	284.1
7	Biodiversity Conservation	9	6	164.06
8	Afforestation	32	20	470.49
9	Bioremediation	13	2	235.89
10	Composite Ecological Task Force and Ganga Mitra	5	3	199.29
11	Construction of toilets and other sanitation works in association with DoDWS#	1	0	1421.26
	<b>Total</b>	<b>363</b>	<b>177</b>	<b>30841.53</b>

\* This includes one project for construction of Modular Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs) for decentralized treatment

\*\*Projects included in Sl. 3&4 are service contract-based projects.

# These projects are taken up with DoDWS for development of Individual Household Latrines (IHHLs) and Solid Waste Management (SWM) in the villages along Ganga. All these villages are now declared Open Defecation Free (ODF).

1.28 Cleaning of river is a continuous process and GOI is supplementing the efforts of the State Governments in addressing the challenges of pollution of river Ganga by providing financial and technical assistance. Since 2011, towards cleaning of Ganga, 161 Sewerage infrastructure projects 1 modular STP (117 on main stem of Ganga and 44 on tributaries of Ganga) have been taken up with a sanctioned cost of Rs. 24977.82 crore for creation of new sewage treatment capacity of 3,988.39 MLD, rehabilitation of 1035.59 MLD capacity and laying of around 5277.29 Km sewerage network. As on Dec 2021, 74 of these projects have been completed resulting in creation of 1079.56 MLD of STP capacity and laying of 3806.68 Km sewerage network. Projects for further addition of 3944.42 MLD treatment capacity have also been taken up and are

at various stages of implementation. The pace of these projects has gathered momentum and all efforts are being made to complete these projects well within the respective timelines.

1.29 When asked the reasons for the constant underutilization of budgetary allocations under this Scheme vis-à-vis BE allocations, the Department in its written reply stated as under:

*“The details of budgetary allocations and utilization thereof during the last four years by National Mission for Clean Ganga are as under:-*

<b>Year</b>	<b>BE</b>	<b>RE</b>	<b>Actual</b>
2017-18	2550.00	3023.42	1423.21
2018-19	3070.00	2370.00	2307.5
2019-20	1970.00	1553.44	1553.40
2020-21	1640.02	1300.00	1300.00
2021-22	1450.02	1900.00	950.01 <sup>#</sup>

*From the above table, it may be seen that utilization of funds by National Mission for Clean Ganga increased over the years. During the financial year 2020-21, due to COVID pandemic the pace of expenditure was on the lower side.”*

1.30 In response to a query regarding the mechanism to ensure full utilization of funds especially Schemes like Namami Gange Programme, the representative of the Department during the oral evidence on the subject held on 22.2.2022 stated as follows:

*“Sir, we have taken note of the concern that you have raised. When the project is implemented, restoration of roads which has been affected, is part of the project, and if we give money to RDC and other agency to do that, as you have rightly said, it is our outlook to see that that restoration has been done properly. So, we have taken note of that and we will be concentrating on that aspect”.*

### **National River Conservation Plan - Other Basins**

1.31 The Department of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation in a written note furnished to the Committee have stated that the scheme was shifted from Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change in Budget 2019-20 (Regular) pursuant to formation of Ministry of Jal Shakti and amendment in Allocation of Business Rules, 1961 vide Cabinet Secretariat notification dated 14.06.2019. Financial assistance is provided to State Governments on cost sharing basis between the Central & State Governments for conservation of rivers under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of ‘National River Conservation Plan (NRCP)’. Proposals for projects received from the State Government outside “Ganga basin” are funded for taking up pollution abatement works in towns along various rivers, and are considered for financial assistance on a cost sharing basis under the NRCP-other basins subject to their conformity with

the scheme guidelines, pollution status, prioritizations, appraisal by independent institutions and availability of Plan funds. During FY 2022-23, Rs.250.68 crore has been provided at BE level.

**National River Conservation Plan - Other Basins - Allocation and Expenditure**

*(Rs. in crore)*

<b>Year</b>	<b>BE</b>	<b>RE</b>	<b>Actual</b>
2019-20	196.00	153.01	135.86
2020-21	220.00	100.00	99.87
2021-22	100.00	232.68	79.21*

\* till 31 December 2021

1.32 As per the information furnished by the Department, NRCP is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme with sharing of Capex between Central and State/Union Territories (UTs) Governments and Opex is borne 100% by the State/Union Territories (UTs) Governments. Also total outlay for 15<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission period i.e. from 2021-22 to 2025-26 is Rs.1252 crore entailing average allocation of Rs.225 crore per year. For 2022-23, allocation is considered sufficient for carrying out this Programme. If needed additional allocation will be sought at RE stage. The Committee have been further apprised by the Department that NRCP covers 34 rivers in 77 towns spread over 16 States in the country.

1.33 In this connection, it would be appropriate to recapitulate the chronology of events regarding efforts for enhancing the budgetary provisions for this Scheme. During the examination of the DFG (2020-21), on the query of meager allocation under this Scheme, it was informed by the Department that higher allocations under this Scheme would be sought when approval to revised Scheme is obtained.

**Atal Bhujal Yojana**

*(Rs. in crore)*

<b>Year</b>	<b>BE</b>	<b>RE</b>	<b>Actual</b>
2020-21	200.00	125.00	123.03
2021-22	330.00	330.00	135.46*

\* till 31 December 2021

1.34 The Department of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation in a written note furnished to the Committee have stated that the major objective of the Atal Bhujal Yojana is to improve the management of groundwater resources with community participation and convergence of ongoing schemes in select water stressed areas in identified states viz. Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh. The Scheme has been implemented from 01.04.2020. The scheme is being implemented in 8774 Gram

Panchayats in 222 Blocks/ Taluks of 81 districts in the participating States. Atal Jal is targeted at sustainable ground water management, mainly through convergence among various on-going schemes with the active involvement of local communities and stakeholders. This will ensure that in the Scheme area, the funds allocated by the Central and State governments are spent judiciously to ensure long term sustainability of ground water resources. The scheme has been designed as a pilot with the principal objective of strengthening the institutional framework for participatory ground water management. During FY 2022-23, Rs.700.00 crore has been provided under the scheme at BE level.

1.35 In response to a query regarding constant underutilization of funds under this important Scheme, the Department in its written submission furnished as follows:-

*“Due to impact of COVID-19, the ground level activities in various States was hampered, therefore, total allocation for Atal Bhujal Yojana for FY 2020-21 was reduced to Rs. 125 crore at RE stage. Out of which, expenditure of Rs. 123.03 crore was done. For FY 2021-22, focus was on preparation of community-led Water Security Plans. Due to various restrictions placed by participating states on public gatherings in view of COVID-19, this activity was delayed. Consequently, the verification by Third Party Government Verification Agency was also delayed. As a result, the total expenditure during the first three quarters was not as per expectations”.*

1.36 As per the information furnished by the Department, after two years, almost all the States have their institutional structure in place and are ready to implement the scheme. Majority of the proposed funds under 2022-23 will be used for incentives to be released to the States. For example, there are 8774 Gram Panchayats where Water Security Plans (WSPs) are to be prepared. Out of which, as of 25<sup>th</sup> January, 2021, 3187 WSPs were prepared which were physically verified by Third Party Government Verification Agency (TPGVA) and based upon that incentive money will be released during this FY. As on date, another 327 WSPs have also been prepared, taking the total to 3414 WSPs. The target is to complete entire WSPs by May, 2022. Incentive funds for the same will have to be released @Rs. 7.86 Lakhs per WSP. Besides, all procurement related activities, which have been initiated in this FY are to be completed in 22-23. Further, since all the States have now established their institutional structure, committed expenditure on the IS & CB (Institutional Structure& Capacity Building) part will also get increased in the new FY 22-23.

1.37 Further, on being asked about the scope of expanding the scope of Atal Bhujal Yojana, the representative of the Department during the oral evidence on the subject held on 22.2.2022 stated as follows:

*“An issue was also raised about Atal Bhujal Yojana. It is now being implemented in identified areas in seven States. We are seeing how it can be extended to more areas. In this respect, we are going to conduct a mid-term*



*review of the Atal Bhujal Yojana and we will also get learning from that. On the basis of that, the Government will take a view regarding the expansion of this scheme”.*

### **Inter-State Water Disputes Tribunals**

1.38 The Parliament enacted Inter-State River Water Disputes (ISRWD) Act, 1956 under Article 262 of the Constitution, for adjudication of disputes relating to waters of inter-State rivers and river valleys thereof. In order to further streamline the adjudication of inter-State river water disputes, the Inter-State River Water Disputes (Amendment) Bill, 2019 was introduced in Lok Sabha on 25.07.2019. The Bill has been considered and passed by Lok Sabha on 31.07.2019. The Bill envisages to establish a single Tribunal with permanent establishment, permanent office space and infrastructure so as to obviate with the need to set up a separate tribunal for each water dispute which is invariably a time-consuming process.

1.39 To a question regarding number of Inter-State Water Disputes Tribunals presently operating in the country, the Department replied as under:

*“Presently, five (05) numbers of Inter-State Water Disputes Tribunals are in operation in the country. Name of these 5 ongoing Water Disputes Tribunals are as under:*

- 1. Ravi & Beas Water Tribunal;*
- 2. Krishna Water Disputes Tribunal (KWDT-II);*
- 3. Vansadhara Water Disputes Tribunal (wound up on 10<sup>th</sup> March, 2022);*
- 4. Mahadayi Water Disputes Tribunal; and*
- 5. Mahanadi Water Disputes Tribunal.”*

1.40 When further asked by the Committee about the total/cumulative expenditure spent so far on the Inter-State Water Disputes Tribunals since their commencement till 31 December 2021, the Department stated as under:

*The total/cumulative expenditure on the Tribunals till 31.12.2021 is as under:-*

( Rs. In Crore)

<b>Sr. No.</b>	<b>Name of Tribunal</b>	<b>Cumulative Expenditure till 31.12.2021</b>
1.	Ravi Beas Water Dispute Tribunal	17.55
2.	Vansadhara Water Dispute Tribunal*	20.02
3.	Mahadayi Water Dispute Tribunal	27.84
4.	Krishna Water Dispute Tribunal -II	34.30
5.	Mahanadi Water Dispute Tribunal	06.60
<b>Total</b>		<b>106.31</b>

**\* wound up on 10<sup>th</sup> March, 2022**

1.41 On being asked about the salient features of the Inter-State River Water Disputes (Amendment) Bill, 2019 and its present status, the Department in its written reply stated as under:-

*“The Inter-State River Water Disputes (Amendment) Bill, 2019 proposed to set up a single, permanent Tribunal to adjudicate all inter-State river water disputes replacing existing Tribunals so as to obviate with the need to set up a separate tribunal for each water dispute which is invariably a time-consuming process. The Bill was introduced in Lok Sabha on 25.07.2019 and was subsequently passed by the House on 31.07.2019. The Bill would next be taken up for consideration in Rajya Sabha.*

*Pursuant to passage of the Bill in Lok Sabha, it has been observed that further amendment is required in clause-3 (related to Section-4 of ISRWD Act, 1956) of the proposed Bill. The issue in question pertains to the intention that in case a Tribunal is already in existence after the Act comes into force, the concerned bench of the single tribunal shall proceed to deal with such dispute from the stage at which it is transferred. However, this aspect has only been specifically mentioned in the context of the Ravi Beas Waters Tribunal in clause-12 of the Bill and not as a general principle in clause 3.*

*The issue was discussed with the Solicitor General of India and consequently it was decided by this Ministry that before the Bill is taken up for consideration in Rajya Sabha, clause-3 of the Bill (related to section-4 of ISRWD Act, 1956) needs to be amended by adding the following in the last line at the end of line 17 after the word ‘Tribunal’ - “and the Tribunal shall proceed to deal with such water disputes from the stage at which it was so transferred.”*

*In view of the above, it is not possible to set a definite time frame for passage of the Bill.”*

**Special Package for Irrigation Projects to address agrarian distress in districts of Vidarbha and Marathwada and other chronically drought prone areas of rest of Maharashtra**

1.42 The Department of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation in a written note furnished to the Committee have stated that the Special Package approved during the meeting of the CCEA on 18.07.2018 provides Central Assistance to complete 83 Surface Minor Irrigation (SMI) projects and 8 Major / Medium Irrigation (MMI) Projects in drought prone districts in

Vidarbha, Marathwada and rest of Maharashtra in phases up to 2023-24. The overall balance cost of the said projects as on 1.4.2018 is estimated to be Rs.13651.61 crore. Total CA is estimated to be Rs. 3831.41 crore including reimbursement for expenditure during 2017-18. The Ultimate Irrigation Potential of the projects under the Special Package is 4.06 L Ha out of which an irrigation potential of 0.33 L Ha has been created up to 03/2018. An additional irrigation potential of 0.97 L Ha has been created during 2018-21. During FY 2022-23, Rs.800.00 crore has been provided at BE level.

1.43 On being asked about the challenges or hindrances being faced by the Department in execution of this Programme, the Department replied as under:

*“Generally, land acquisition, court cases, resettlement & rehabilitation and Railway and Highway crossings are the bottlenecks that hinder the progress of projects. To resolve the issue of Land Acquisition (LA) and increase water conveyance efficiency, use of Underground Pipeline (UGPL) has been actively promoted. Guidelines for Planning and Design of Piped Irrigation Network were released by this Ministry in July’2017. To resolve issues of Railway and Highway crossings in projects a Nodal officer mechanism has been established among DoWR, RD & GR, Railways& NHAI.”*

1.44 Further, the Department have appraised the Committee that presently there is no proposal for extending this Special Package to other parts/regions of the country facing similar challenges.

### **Irrigation Census**

1.45 The Department of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation in a written note furnished to the Committee have stated that the ‘Rationalization of Minor Irrigation Statistics’ (RMIS) was launched in 1987-88 in the DoWR, RD &GR, MoJS, with 100% central assistance to the states/UTs. In 2017-18, the scheme was renamed as “Irrigation Census” and brought under the Centrally sponsored umbrella scheme, “PMKSY and other schemes”. The main objective of the Irrigation Census scheme is to build up a comprehensive and reliable database in the Minor Irrigation (MI) sector for effective planning and policy making. The major activity under the scheme is the Census of Minor Irrigation Schemes and Census of Water Bodies conducted in the States/UTs covering all ground water, surface water schemes and water bodies. So far, five Minor Irrigation Census (1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>&5<sup>th</sup>) with Reference Years 1986-87, 1993-94, 2000-01, 2006-07 and 2013-14 have been conducted. Presently, the 6th MI census and 1st census of Water bodies with reference year 2017-18 are in advance stages of completion. Standing Finance Committee (SFC) in November, 2021 had approved the “Irrigation Census” scheme for implementation during 2021-22 to 2025-26 with a total allocation of Rs.237 cr. During FY 2022-23, Rs.52.78 crore has been provided under the scheme at BE level.

1.46 When further asked about the problems/constraints being faced by the Department in execution of 'Minor Irrigation Census & Census of Water Bodies' Scheme, the Department in its written submission stated as follows:

*“As per the revised procedure issued by Department of Expenditure for release of funds to States for the Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) and monitoring utilization of the funds released, opening of Single Nodal Account (SNA) of the Nodal Department was made mandatory for release of funds under CSS after 01.07.2021. Releases to State Governments got delayed due to delay in the implementation of the new procedure by States.”*

### **Flood Management and Border Areas Programme (FMBAP)**

1.47 The Department of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation in a written note furnished to the Committee have stated that the “Flood Management Programme (FMP)” and “River Management Activities & Works related to Border Areas (RMBA)” under operation during XII Five Year Plan by Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation were merged as “Flood Management and Border Areas Programme (FMBAP)” for the period 2017-18 to 2019-20 and further extended upto December, 2021. FMBAP Scheme was approved for completion of the spillover works in respect of 83 ongoing projects as well as for outstanding payments of the completed works which were included earlier under FMP during XI & XII Plan. The Scheme had a provision only for clearing the committed liabilities of ongoing and completed projects as per extant XI/ XII Plan guidelines and no new project was to be included under FM component of FMBAP Scheme till then. So far, Central Assistance amounting to Rs. 6450.26 Crores has been released to Union Territories/State Government under this Programme since its inception in XI Plan. The 415 projects completed under this Programme has given protection to an area of around 4.994 mha and protected a population of about 52.21 million. During FY 2022-23, Rs.450.00 crore has been provided under the scheme at BE level.

1.48 On being asked about the reasons for huge under utilization of budgetary provisions in the first three quarters of FY 2021-22 under this Scheme, the Department in a written reply stated as under:

*“The ongoing Flood Management & Border Areas Programme (FMBAP) is for providing central assistance to ongoing projects only. The central assistance to projects could not be released in first three quarters of the FY 2021-22 due to delay in compliance by the States in designating of Single Nodal Agency as per directions of Department of Expenditure on revised procedure for release of funds to States for Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) & monitoring utilization of the funds. States could not allocate State's budget share in respect of ongoing projects of FMBAP due to paucity in State's funds in prevailing covid situation. During the FY 2021-22, due to Covid-19 situation there were insufficient budgetary allocation by the States and there was slow progress of works. Non submission of audited statement of expenditure by State Government is another reason for lesser spending in initial quarters of FY 2021-22. As far as RMBA component of FMBAP is concerned it is for meeting expenditures on Bilateral India- Nepal and India- Bangladesh*

*Cooperation meetings. The bilateral cooperation physical meetings could not be held due to prevailing covid situation. Further, the progress in the investigations for Sapta Kosi High Dam and Sun Kosi Storage cum diversion scheme are concerned, due to resistance from local people in Nepal was less during the past years and hence under budgetary utilization. The DPR of the Pancheshwar Multipurpose Project is under finalization through discussions between the Government of India and Government of Nepal and lesser funds have been utilized in the past years. Therefore, in view of above there was lesser utilization of funds only under RMBA component of FMBAP. However, funding proposals from the States have been received in the last quarter in the FMP component of FMBAP of FY 2021-22 and would be able to utilize entire RE allocated to FMBAP Scheme.”*

1.49 When asked about the proposal to frame a National Embankment Policy in view the limitations of embankments in controlling the impacts of floods due to frequent Breach of embankments, the Department stated as under:

*“Flood management including erosion control falls within the purview of the States. Flood management and anti-erosion projects are formulated and implemented by concerned State Governments as per their priority. The Union Government supplements the efforts of the States by providing technical guidance and promotional financial assistance for management of floods in critical areas. Embankments as any other civil structures require proper upkeep and regular maintenance for serving the intended purpose. Regular review meetings are held with State Government Officers to sensitize about the issue of upkeep and maintenance of embankments in States. Normally, State Government carries out pre-monsoon and post-monsoon repairs and maintenance of embankments as per their approved protocol. However, paucity of funds is normally cited as the main reason by States for not maintaining the embankments as per requirement. There is no proposal under consideration of this department to provide financial assistance to the States for upkeep and maintenance of embankments.”*

### **Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Project (DRIP)**

1.50 The Department of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation in a written note furnished to the Committee have stated that the Ministry of Jal Shakti, Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation (DoWR, RD & GR) initiated World Bank assisted Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Project (DRIP) in April 2012, with an objective to improve safety and operational performance of selected dams along with institutional strengthening with system wide management approach. The overall coordination and supervision was entrusted to Central Water Commission. The physical rehabilitation activities have been completed for 99% (221 out of 223 dams) of the dam portfolio. The rehabilitation at balanced two dam projects was under progress and would be completed under new Scheme DRIP Phase II. In addition to these two dams spill over activities including some other miscellaneous activities amounting to Rs. 150 Cr have been undertaken under new DRIP Phase II. These were recommended by Ministry to DEA and World Bank to consider under new DRIP Phase II so that already incurred expenditure shall not become infructuous. The new externally aided Scheme DRIP Phase II and Phase III has been approved by Govt. of India. This Scheme has rehabilitation

provision of 736 dams at the budget outlay of Rs 10211 Cr, having 10 year duration, to be implemented in two phases of 6 years duration with two years overlap. Nineteen (19) States, and three Central Agencies are part of this Scheme. The Phase II of Scheme has co-financing provision, wherein external assistance of USD 500 million, is equally shared by the World Bank and Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB). The Scheme has been declared effective by World Bank in October 2021. Under DRIP Phase II, out of project cost of Rs 5107 Cr, the cumulative expenditure as on December, 2021 is Rs 76 Cr. During FY 2022-23, Rs.100.00 crore has been provided at BE level.

**Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Programme (DRIP) - - Allocation and Expenditure**

(Rs. in crore)

Year	BE	RE	Actual
2018-19	124.00	75.00	49.32
2019-20	89.37	52.00	41.61
2020-21	55.00	30.00	30.51
2021-22	25.00	25.00	13.01*

\* till 31 December 2021.

1.51 When asked to enumerate the reasons for under utilization of funds under this Scheme particularly in comparison to Budgetary allocations (BE), the Department replied as under:

*“The BE allocation during FY 21-22 in respect of Central component of DRIP is Rs 25 Cr. The utilisation so far is Rs 13.34 Cr. The details of agency wise BE and expenditure is given as under:*

(Rs. In crore)

Agency	BE 2021-22	Expenditure (as on 31.01.2022)
CWC	10.66	9.86
CSMRS	10.14	3.05
CWPRS	4.2	0.43
Total	25	13.34

*The major provision is related to quarterly payment and reimbursement of GST Invoices of CPMU Consultant. The BE provision 2021-22 in respect of CPMU Consultant was proposed keeping in view the closure of Consultancy Contract by June 2021. However, later the Consultancy Contract was extended upto December 2021. To meet the payment liabilities on account of extension, adequate financial provisions were proposed in RE 21-22.*

*The expenditure vis a vis RE 2021-22 is approximately 47%. Further the expenditure has been little slow due to delay in payment of few liabilities viz DC-DR system(part of Main and Back up Server), COVID restrictions due to which travel bills were not as per initially planned, delay in approval of payment of E&M Services of Library Building etc.*

*Further, in respect of Central Soil and Materials Research Station (CSMRS), the expenditure is very less in comparison to BE allocations. The reasons for under utilization of allocated provision are Non-materialization of International Training program for officials of CSMRS, due to COVID. Also as DRIP has been officially closed in March 2021, and as part of spill over activities agreed for loan disbursement by World Bank under DRIP-2, only payment liabilities created up to March 31, 2021 can be met through the allocated budget. The CSMRS was not able to place requisite procurement orders before March 31, 2021, in order to enable them incur the planned expenditure. Also, the financial progress has been slow even in the case of already procured equipments (committed liabilities).*

*In respect of CWPRS, payment provision for already procured equipment under recently closed DRIP by Central Water and Power Research Station (CWPRS) exists. Due to COVID-19 impacts, the delivery, installation, testing and commissioning got delayed, which adversely impacted expenditure progress. The major planned expenditure was towards already procured Well Logging equipment costing Rs 2.5 Cr, which could not materialize due to delay in delivery installation and commissioning due to COVID impacts.”*

### **Central Ground Water Board**

1.52 The Department of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation in a written note furnished to the Committee have stated that Central Ground Water Board (CGWB), is a multi disciplinary scientific organization with a mandate to develop and disseminate technologies and monitor and implement national policies for the scientific and sustainable development and management of groundwater resources, including exploration, assessment, conservation, augmentation, protection from pollution, and distribution, based on principles of economic and ecological efficiency and equity. CGWB, being the national apex organization, is vested with the responsibilities to carry out scientific studies, exploration aided by drilling, monitoring of ground water regime, assessment, augmentation, management and regulation of ground water resources. During FY 2022-23, Rs. 282.00 crore has been provided at BE level.

1.53 On being enquired about the total staff strength of CGWB (both technical and non technical groups) and its adequacy to handle its activities properly, the Department in a written note submitted as under:-

*“The total Sanctioned staff strength of CGWB (both technical and non-technical group) is 4017. Out of 4017 sanctioned strength; 2717 posts are filled and 1300 posts are vacant. Around 30% posts are vacant, therefore the present strength of CGWB is not adequate.*

*The following steps have been/are being taken by CGWB to strengthen its manpower*

- 1. Requisition for filling up 942 posts through direct recruitment has been initiated and submitted to UPSC / SSC / CGWB.*
- 2. Action has been taken/being taken to fill up the promotional vacancies.*
- 3. To fulfill the immediate requirement of CGWB, the young professionals and consultants are engaged on a contractual basis.”*

1.54 When further asked about shortage of human resources in Scientific and Engineering categories in CGWB and its Regional and Divisional offices, the Department replied as under:

*“Out of 882 Sanctioned Strength in Scientific category, 545 is filled and 337 is vacant. Similarly, out of 1868 Sanctioned Strength in Engineering category 1338 is filled and 530 is vacant.*

*To fulfill the immediate requirement of CGWB, the young professionals and consultants are engaged on a contractual basis Technical staffs (Scientific and Engineering) are not being deputed for administrative work.”*

1.55 On being enquired about the proposed number of observation wells (by the end of the XII Plan period i.e. 2012-17) to measure ground water level and their status as on 31 December 2021:

*“CGWB had a network of around 15000 monitoring wells in the year 2012. It was proposed to increase monitoring wells by 35000 through in-house as well as through participatory mode. Activities under the participatory ground water management component of the scheme for 2012-17 could not take off. However, as a part of in-house activities, CGWB established nearly 7000 additional monitoring wells during this period. As of 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021, the total monitoring wells of CGWB is 22800.”*

1.56 The Committee have been apprised that DoWR, RD&GR circulated a Model Bill to all the States/UTs for regulation and development of ground water. However, so far only 19 States/UTs have enacted the Model Bill for regulation and development of ground water so far.

#### **National Aquifer Mapping and Management (NAQUIM)**

1.57 The Department of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation in a written note furnished to the Committee have stated that the National Aquifer Mapping and Management (NAQUIM) programme is the major component of the Ground Water Management and Regulation (GWM&R) Scheme. Objectives of NAQUIM studies include delineation and characterization of aquifers, preparation of ground water management plans, implementing of demonstrative projects on aquifer rejuvenation, conducting public interaction programmes for disseminating the tenets of the Aquifer management plans at the grass-root level. Major activities include exploratory drilling, geophysical investigations, water level monitoring, water quality analysis, preparation of management plans, etc.

1.58 On being further asked about the initial targets/area set to be mapped under NAQUIM and area mapped and reports finalized till 31 December 2021, the Department stated as under:

*“The total geographical area of the country is nearly 32.8 lakh square km. Of this, nearly 25 lakh sq km was identified to be covered under NAQUIM studies.*

*As on 31st December 2021, an area of 18.7 lakh sq km (18.97 covered upto 31<sup>st</sup> January 2022) has been covered and reports in respect of 11.25 lakh sq km have been finalized and placed on the CGWB website.”*



## **Rain Water Harvesting**

1.59 On being asked about the activities being applied by the Department to popularize the rain water harvesting in the country, the Department in its written submission stated as under:

*“Hon’ble Prime Minister has written a letter to all Sarpanch on 08.06.2019 regarding the importance of water conservation and harvesting and exhorted them to adopt all appropriate measures to make water conservation a mass movement.*

*Government of India launched Jal Shakti Abhiyan (JSA) in 2019, 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. ‘Jal Shakti Abhiyan – Catch the Rain’ campaign was launched by Hon’ble Prime Minister of India on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2021 in all districts in the country.*

*Best practices of water conservation by various entities including private persons, NGOs, PSUs etc. have been compiled and put on the web site of the Ministry for the benefit of general public. An interactive link on best practices has also been created for receiving inputs from public, which, after necessary evaluation/validation are put on the website for the benefit of the public.*

*Department of Water Resources, RD& GR has instituted National Water awards to incentivize good practices in water conservation and ground water recharge.*

*Mass awareness programmes (Trainings, Seminars, Workshops, Exhibitions, etc.) are conducted from time to time each year under the information, Education & Communication (IEC) Scheme of DoWR, RD & GR in various parts of the country to promote rain water harvesting and artificial recharge to ground water.*

*CGWB has carried out various demonstrative artificial recharge studies to replicate the work at feasible locations by the State Governments.*

*Besides, CGWB also brought out following documentations in an attempt to disseminate the experiences gained during various ground water augmentation projects implemented by the Board in the country and also hosted in CGWB website. (<http://cgwb.gov.in/Manuals-Guidelines.html>)*

*CGWB has prepared a Master Plan for Artificial Recharge to Groundwater- 2020 in consultation with States/UTs which is a macro level plan indicating various structures for the different terrain conditions of the country including estimated cost. The Master Plan envisages construction of about 1.42 crore Rain water harvesting and artificial recharge structures in the country to harness 185 Billion Cubic Metre (BCM) of monsoon rainfall.*

*In addition to above, both the State Governments and the Central Government have taken important initiatives to popularize the rain water harvesting in the country through various schemes.”*

1.60 On being asked about the difficulties being faced by the Department in popularizing and practicing rain water harvesting in the country, the Department replied as under:

*“Water being a State subject, CGWB is acting as an advisory body and not an implementing agency. Therefore, active participation and cooperation by State Agencies in Artificial Recharge / Rainwater Harvesting projects are very important for the success of the rainwater harvesting programme in the country.*

*CGWB is a multifaceted organization dealing with different aspects of ground water resources and management and artificial recharge is one of the many activities of CGWB. The manpower constraint may be a major problem for the department.”*

1.61 In response to a query regarding the targets set and timelines drawn to increase the adoption and propagation of Rain Water Harvesting technology in the country, the Department in a written reply stated as under:

*“In its effort to propagate the message of sustainable management of ground water including findings of NAQUIM studies and rainwater harvesting, CGWB carries out Public Interaction Programmes. During 2017-21, CGWB had a target of conducting 348 such programmes against which 700 programmes were organized. During 2021-23, CGWB has a target of organizing 600 such programme and so far 298 such programme have been organized.*

*Besides, the Central Government has taken various measures for sustainable ground water management including promotion of rain water harvesting in the country such as Jal Shakti Abhiyan, Master plan for artificial recharge to ground water recharge – 2020, Manual on artificial recharge to ground water, Model bill, Model Building Bye-laws, Guidelines of CGWA with pan India applicability, National water award, Water Heroes Contest, etc. However, CGWB has not set any target and timeline drawn to increase the adoption and propagation of Rain Water Harvesting technology in the country.”*

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**PART II**  
**OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS**

**Budget Analysis**

2.1 The Committee are happy to note that in comparison to Budgetary Estimates (BE) allocations of Rs. 9022.57 crore for Financial Year (FY) 2021-22, the BE allocations of Rs. 18967.88 crore for FY 2022-23 has shown a massive hike of appx. 110%. However, the overall budgetary allocation for FY 2022-23 has shown increase of approx. 5% vis-a-vis Revised Estimates (RE) allocations of Rs. 18008.70 crore for FY 2021-22. The budgetary allocation of Rs. 18967.88 crore includes Rs. 18548.05 crore under Revenue section and Rs. 419.83 crore under Capital section. The massive increase in budgetary allocations for FY 2022-23 vis-a-vis BE allocations for FY 2021-22 is because till the year 2020-21, the Central share for the projects under PMKSY-AIBP & CADWM was raised through long term loan from NABARD, however, from the current year, the same is being funded through budgetary support instead of raising loan from NABARD. Moreover, an amount of Rs. 1,400 crore has been set aside for the project of interlinking of rivers. In this regard, the Committee would like to point out that the Committee in their earlier Demand For Grants (DFG) Reports have always flagged the issue of increasing committed liability of the Department on account of huge borrowing and servicing of loans, which has been a large proportion of the budgetary allocation resulting in impairing the leverage of the Department in financing its ambitious and important projects to a large extent. The Committee commend the Department for their persistent efforts in pursuing the matter with Ministry of Finance which has resulted in this enhanced budgetary allocation.

However, at the same time, the Committee observe with concern that there is a continuous tendency on the part of the Department to surrender the budgetary allocations at the end of fiscal year. While, in 2018-19, against the budgetary allocation of Rs. 8860/- crore, the amount surrendered was Rs. 1467.14 crore, similarly in FY 2020-21, an amount of Rs. 1695.30 crore was surrendered against allocation of Rs. 8960.39 crore. Even in FY 2021-22, only Rs. 6327.04 crore has been spent in first three quarters against the RE allocation of Rs. 18008.70 crore. The Committee further observe that utilization of funds on many important Schemes of the Department like Flood Management and Border Areas Programme (FMBAP), National River Conservation Plan - Other Basins, Atal Bhujal Yojana, Research & Development and Implementation of National Water Mission, Namami Gange Programme and Ground Water Management and Regulation Scheme have been negligible as compared to the budgetary allocations at RE level for FY 2021-22 (upto 31.12.2021). The Committee also observe that the Department has spelled out various reasons for under utilization of funds under the various Schemes/Programmes which *inter alia* include restrictions and lockdown in connection with COVID-19; delay in the award of contracts due to poor response by the bidders, due to which implementation of the planned activities got delayed; non submission of audited statement of expenditure by State Governments; and delay in compliance by the States in designating of Single Nodal Agency as per directions of Department of Expenditure on revised procedure for release of funds to States for

Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) & monitoring utilization of the funds. The Committee express their concern over the under utilization of budgetary allocations of such a magnitude under different Schemes of the Department towards the major part of the Financial Year and feel that it is not a one off event and has become a continuous trend as indicated by recurring surrender of allocated funds by the Department to the Ministry of Finance. The Committee are therefore constrained to take the view that the Department has been lackadaisical in implementation of various programmes/schemes run by it, thus resulting in surrendering of such large amount of funds. The Committee do not appreciate the manner in which the Department has been surrendering the unspent balances year after year. The Committee are apprehensive that going by the earlier trend of the Department in surrendering the budgetary allocations, the Department would not be able to fully utilize the increased allocations in FY 2021-22. Taking into account the growing population and rising water needs of a fast developing nation as well as the indications of the impact of climate change resulting in great strain on availability of utilizable water, huge underutilization and subsequent surrendering of funds does not auger well for development and conservation of water sector of India. The Committee, therefore, recommend the Department to adhere to monthly and quarterly expenditure plans from fiscal year 2022-23 strictly. The Committee also recommend that the pace of expenditure and flow of funds under the various Schemes should be monitored at regular intervals so as to avoid such huge surrender of funds.

(Recommendation No. 1)

2.2 The Committee are dismayed to find wide disparity between BE and RE estimations in respect of the budgetary allocations of the Department. While in the FY 2018-19, the BE was pegged at Rs. 8860/- crore, it was reduced to Rs. 7612.52 crore at RE stage, similarly in Fiscal year 2020-21, the BE of Rs. 8960.39 crore was reduced to Rs. 7262.09 crore at RE level. Further, the Committee find that in comparison to BE allocations for FY 2021-22 which was just Rs. 9022.57 crore, the budgetary allocations of Rs. 18008.70 crore at RE stage for FY 2021-22 has shown a massive hike of appx. 99.59%. The Department have attributed the reasons to enhancement in the budgetary allocations at RE stage in FY 2021-22, to the addition of new projects under schemes, namely, 'Interlinking of Rivers', 'Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme and special/National Projects (PMKSY-AIBP)' and 'Command Area Development and Water Management (CADWM)' and the need of additional funds for a few existing schemes. Though, the Committee are glad to note increased allocation for the Department at RE stage for FY 2021-22, however, such a hike also indicates the lack of foresight and planning on the part of the Department in projecting their estimates at BE stage. The Committee are of the view that such a disproportionate level of budgetary allocations at RE stage jeopardizes the sanctity of initial budgetary allocations at BE stage. The Committee recommend that the Department maintains budgetary discipline, conduct proper pre-Budget planning and exercises thoroughly, and make necessary changes to its budgetary estimations procedure so that prudent and realistic budgetary allocations are projected / made at the BE stage itself in order to avoid disproportionate budgetary estimations at RE stage. As regards actual utilization, the Committee note that as on 31.12.2021, only Rs. 6327.04 could be spent by the Department and Rs. 11681 crore is yet to be spent. The Department has informed that Rs. 4300 crore earmarked for Ken-Betwa link project is to be utilized during the financial year. Besides a number of proposals under

Namami Gange, AIBP, CADWM, SMI & RRR are ready for release. The Committee urge upon the Ministry to formulate monthly expenditure management plans followed by its close monitoring so as to ensure that the balanced fund is fully utilized by the end of the fiscal year.

(Recommendation No. 2)

### Water Resources Scenario

2.3 The Committee note that water availability per person is dependent on population of the country and the per capita water availability in the country is reducing progressively. The average annual per capita water availability in the years 2001 and 2011 was assessed as 1816 cubic meters and 1545 cubic meters respectively, which may further reduce due to increase in population. Annual per capita water availability of less than 1700 cubic meters is considered as water stressed condition, whereas annual per capita water availability below 1000 cubic meters is considered as a water scarcity condition. The Committee further note with concern that the biggest water consuming sector in the country is the agriculture, followed by domestic and industrial sector(s). The Committee have been informed that the Department has taken various steps to increase the per capita water availability, viz., launching of Jal Shakti Abhiyan, formulation of National Perspective Plan (NPP), implementation of National Aquifer Mapping and Management (NAQUIM), Atal Bhujal Yojana (ATAL JAL) etc. Notwithstanding these measures, the Committee are of the view that there is an urgent need to decrease the water consumption in the agriculture sector. The Committee believe that crop diversification and crop planning accompanied with application of modern technologies like moisture sensor will be of significant help in improving the per capita water availability by producing more with less usage of water. The Committee therefore recommend that the Department takes pro-active steps and work in close collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture and Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) in order to achieve the goal of decreasing the usage of water in agriculture sector. Further, keeping in view the fact that subsidized electricity and fertilizer have encouraged farmers to grow water-intensive crops even in the areas having water scarcity, the Committee are of the considered opinion that institutional changes are the need of the hour. The Committee, therefore, urge the Department to work in close collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Power and the concerned States to explore the option of having energy efficient pricing which may become an important tool for sustainable management of groundwater resources.

(Recommendation No. 3)

### Interlinking of Rivers

2.4 The Committee note that Union Cabinet has accorded approval for the implementation of Ken-Betwa Link Project at an estimated cost of Rs. 44,605 crore with Central support of Rs. 39,317 crore and also approved formation of a Special Purpose Vehicle for its implementation. Further, budgetary allocation of Rs. 4300 crore in RE 2021-22 and Rs.1400 crore in year 2022-23 has been made for this programme with focus on land acquisition and environment management plan at the initial stage. The Committee also note

that the Finance Minister in her budget speech has stated that draft detailed project report of five river links, namely Damanganga-Pinjal, Par-Tapi-Narmada, Godavari-Krishna, Krishna-Pennar, and Pennar-Cauvery have been finalized. The Ministry has stated that once a consensus is reached among the beneficiary States, the Centre will provide support for implementation. However, the Committee observe that the main problem in execution of interlinking of rivers projects is the lack of consensus among the different States for implementation of this Project. The Committee are of the view that Interlinking of rivers will go a long way not only in eliminating the impacts of famines and recurring devastating floods to a great extent but also provides a much needed viable solution to the problems of dependence of Indian agriculture on monsoon. Nevertheless, the Committee are also aware that interlinking of rivers is a complicated issue as sensitivity and emotions are attached with the subject 'water' in respective States and Inter-State nature of the rivers make it difficult for the States to arrive at a mutually agreed decision. Under such a scenario, the role of the Union Government assumes critical importance and the Committee feel that it is high time that Union Government intervenes pro-actively and engage all the stakeholders in addressing the contentious issues. In this regard, the Committee call upon the Department to redesign its strategies according to the socio-political and economic realities of the regions where the Department wishes to implement inter-linking of rivers project. The Department may also in consultation with the Ministry of Finance work out some solution in form of providing various concessions like devolution of larger share of tax resources and grants, tax relief, tax holidays etc. to encourage the States to opt for this important Scheme.

(Recommendation No. 4)

### Namami Gange Programme

2.5 The Committee note that the Government of India (GOI) has launched the Namami Gange Programme to accomplish the twin objectives of effective abatement of pollution, conservation and rejuvenation of the river Ganga and its tributaries. The Committee further note that under the Namami Gange Programme, as on 31.12.2021, a total of 363 Projects have been sanctioned at an estimated cost of Rs. 30841.53 crore, out of which, 177 projects have been completed and made operational, and rest of the projects are at various stages of implementation. Further, out of these 363 Projects, 161 pertains to Sewerage Infrastructure, and only 74 of these Projects have since been completed. While appreciating the ambitious Programme of Namami Gange, which aims at cleaning and rejuvenating river Ganga, the Committee are disappointed to note the slow progress of the Projects particularly the projects related to the sewerage infrastructure which the Committee believe is the focal point and mainstay of Namami Gange Programme. In view of this, the Committee recommend that Department should take all possible steps to streamline and improve their monitoring mechanism and strive to remove the hindrances / bottlenecks faced in the implementation of the projects, so that all the pending projects are completed within the defined timeline so as to obviate the possibility of cost and time over-runs.

(Recommendation No. 5)

2.6 The Committee note that Namami Gange Programme has been renamed as Namami Gange Mission II which includes National Ganga Plan, National River Conservation Plan and Ghat Works for beautification of River Front. The allocation for this Scheme has been

earmarked at Rs 2800 crore at BE stage for the fiscal year 2022-23. The salient features of Namami Gange Mission II inter alia include: accelerated interventions on tributaries, convergence of existing schemes of Central and State Governments with the Namami Gange Programme and introduction of new interventions, scaling up Public-Private Partnership (PPP) development efforts and 'one city one operator' model, enhanced focus on Fecal Sludge and Septage Management (FSSM) in all Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) and rural areas and decentralized wastewater treatment system in non-sewered small and medium towns, developing of 'circular economy' model focusing on reclaim, reuse, recycling and responsible manufacturing in addition to waste management etc. The Committee observe that though the nomenclature of the Scheme has been renamed as Namami Gange Mission II, however, under its previous version, there was recurring underutilization of funds under this Scheme vis-à-vis BE allocation. In the year 2017-18, actual expenditure was only Rs. 1423.21 crore as against budgetary allocation of Rs. 2550/- crore. Similarly, there was an expenditure of mere Rs. 2307.5 crore and Rs. 1553.40 crore vis-a-vis BE allocation of Rs. 3070/- crore and Rs. 1970/- crore during FY 2018-19 and 2019-20 respectively. The Committee also find wide disparity between BE and RE in respect of the Namami Gange Programme. The Committee feel that that continuous disparity in budgetary allocation at RE level indicates deficiency in financial planning by the Department. The Committee strongly feel that in order to make Namami Gange Mission II a success, the underlying factors which hinder the implementation of the projects under the earlier version of Namami Gange need to be overcome. Further, the Committee also desire that the Department should make efforts to put in a place a stringent monitoring mechanism to ensure that the funds allotted to different Schemes including Namami Gange Programmes are utilized to the maximum extent and there is no wastage of earmarked outlays. They also recommend the Department to maintain fiscal discipline and undertake proper pre-Budget planning and exercises so that prudent budgetary allocations are projected / made at BE stage in order to obviate huge tweaking of allocations at RE stage.

(Recommendation No. 6)

### Atal Bhujal Yojana

2.7 With a view to improve the management of groundwater resources with community participation and convergence of ongoing schemes in select water stressed areas in identified States viz. Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh, Atal Bhujal Yojana was launched by the Government in April 2020. The Committee note that in 2020-21, as against Rs. 330 crore allocated in RE stage for the scheme, only Rs. 147.21 crore has been spent as on 17.02.2022. In 2022-23, the allocation for the scheme has more than doubled to Rs. 700 crore. Explaining the reasons for hike in allocation, the Ministry stated that after two years, now almost all the States have their institutional structure in place and are ready to implement the scheme. As regards extending the scheme to other States, it has been stated that a mid-term review of the scheme and on that basis, a view will be taken for expansion of the scheme. The Committee are of the view that since all the States have now established their institutional structure, the Department during its mid-term review of this Scheme should explore every possibility of making this Scheme broad based, expanding its scope at Pan India level so that all the water scarce regions of the country may be benefited by this important Scheme.

The Committee may also be apprised of the outcome of the mid-term review of the Atal Bhujal Yojana.

(Recommendation No. 7)

### Inter-State Water Disputes Tribunals

2.8 The Committee note that presently 5 Inter-State Water Disputes Tribunals, viz. Krishna Water Disputes Tribunal, Vansadhara Water Disputes Tribunal, Mahadayi Water Disputes Tribunal, Mahanadi Water Disputes Tribunal and Ravi & Beas Waters Tribunal are in operation in the country. A cumulative expenditure of Rs. 106.31 crore has been incurred on the Tribunals till 31.12.2021. In order to further streamline the adjudication of inter-State river water disputes, the Inter-State River Water Disputes (Amendment) Bill, 2019 was introduced in Lok Sabha on 25.07.2019 and considered and passed by Lok Sabha on 31.07.2019. The Bill envisages to establish a single Tribunal with permanent establishment and infrastructure so as to obviate the need to set up a separate tribunal for water dispute in respect of each river basin which is invariably a time-consuming process. However, the Ministry has now informed that further amendment is required in clause-3 (related to Section-4 of ISRWD Act, 1956) of the proposed Bill and the issue was discussed with the Solicitor General of India and consequently it was decided by the Ministry of Jal Shakti that before the Bill is taken up for consideration in Rajya Sabha, clause-3 of the Bill (related to section-4 of ISRWD Act, 1956) needs to be amended by adding the words “and the Tribunal shall proceed to deal with such water disputes from the stage at which it was so transferred”, at the end of line 17 after the word ‘Tribunal’. In view of the above facts, the Ministry has declined to set any definite time frame for passage of the Bill. The Committee are of the considered view that multifarious tribunal/authorities will be of no use in resolving the issue of water disputes between different States. The Committee believe that a new tribunal with permanent establishment and its own permanent infrastructure as envisaged in the Bill passed by Lok Sabha in 2019 will play an important role in not only cutting down cost of establishment and other expenditures of multiple tribunals but also be of great help in facilitating faster adjudication of water disputes in a time bound manner. The Committee urge the Department to take necessary steps for early passage of ‘The Inter-State River Water Disputes (Amendment) Bill, 2019 in Rajya Sabha. The Committee would like to be apprised of the action taken in this regard by the Department within three months of presentation of this Report.

(Recommendation No. 8)

### Central Ground Water Board (CGWB)

2.9 The Committee note that the Central Ground Water Board (CGWB), a Multidisciplinary Scientific Organization has been entrusted with the onerous responsibility of developing and disseminating information technologies, monitor and implement national policies for the scientific and sustainable development and management of India's Ground Water resources including their exploitation, assessment, conservation, augmentation, protection from pollution and distribution based on principles of economic and ecological efficiency and equity. However, the Committee note with concern from the submission made by the Department that the



CGWB has been plagued by a serious problem of lack of manpower which is hampering its functioning. At present out of total sanctioned staff strength of 4017, almost 32% posts i.e., 1300 are lying vacant in the Board. Further, out of 882 Sanctioned Strength in Scientific category, only 545 posts are filled and appx. 38% (337) are vacant. Similarly, out of 1868 Sanctioned Strength in Engineering category 1338 are filled and 530 (39.61%) are vacant. The Committee are dismayed to observe such a huge shortage of human resources in CGWB in general and Scientific and Engineering categories in particular which indicates the lackadaisical attitude of the Department towards such an important organ of the Department. The Committee are of the view that such a huge shortage of manpower does not auger well for the smooth working of the CGWB. The Committee, therefore, recommend the Department to take urgent measures to fill up all the vacancies particularly in its Scientific and Engineering sections which are the backbone of CGWB, on pro-active and urgent basis at the earliest. The Committee would like to be apprised of the steps taken in this regard within three months of presentation of this Report.

(Recommendation No. 9)

2.10 From the submission of the Department, the Committee note that CGWB had a network of around 15000 monitoring wells in the year 2012. It was proposed to increase monitoring wells by 35000 through in-house as well as through participatory mode. However, as of 31<sup>st</sup>December 2021, CGWB has only 22800 monitoring wells, as the activities under the participatory ground water management component of the scheme for 2012-17 could not take off. The Committee are of the view that measurements of water levels in wells is the most fundamental indicator of the status of this resource and are critical to meaningful evaluation of the quantity and quality of groundwater and its interaction with surface water. In order to achieve this objective, the Committee recommend the Department to take effective steps to increase the number of observation wells with Digital Water Level Recorders and Telemetry to monitor the ground water level. Taking cognizance of the fact that only 19 States/UTs have enacted the Model Bill for regulation and development of ground water so far, the Committee express their disappointment that the advantages of this Model Bill in restoring and ensuring groundwater security through availability of sufficient quantity and appropriate quality of groundwater to all stakeholders in rural and urban areas remain untapped. They, therefore, urge the Department to make all concerted efforts to persuade the remaining States to enact this important Bill at the earliest. The efforts / steps taken in this regard may be apprised to the Committee within three months of presentation of the Report to Parliament.

(Recommendation No. 10)

#### Amendment to 'The India Easement Act, 1882'

2.11 The Committee note that though Government of India has taken various steps and launched some Programmes to improve the Ground water situation in the country, however, there still remains some gaps in the institutional framework, one of them being 'The India Easement Act, 1882' which is a stumbling block in ground water control. The Act prohibits the creation of easementary rights over ground water and enables the owner to have full control of the water beneath his property enabling him to

use it as deemed appropriate which also results in mining of ground water at many places leading to its over-exploitation. Taking cognizance of the dangerous depletion of water table coupled with deteriorating water quality, the Committee urge upon the Department to take necessary steps in cooperation with the Ministry of Law and Justice to amend 'the India Easement Act, 1882' on a priority basis so as to plug the much needed loophole in groundwater conservation mechanism by providing legislative and institutional backing.

(Recommendation No. 11)

### **National Aquifer Mapping and Management (NAQUIM) Programme**

2.12 The Committee observe that the National Aquifer Mapping and Management (NAQUIM) programme is the major component of the Ground Water Management and Regulation (GWM&R) Scheme. The objectives of NAQUIM studies include delineation and characterization of aquifers, preparation of ground water management plans, implementation of demonstrative projects on aquifer rejuvenation, conducting public interaction programmes for disseminating the tenets of the Aquifer management plans at the grass-root level. The Committee note that out of the total identified area of nearly 25 lakh sq. km. under NAQUIM studies as on 31st December 2021, an area of 18.7 lakh sq. km. (18.97 covered upto 31<sup>st</sup> January 2022) has been covered. The Committee are, however, concerned over the fact that Aquifer Mapping Reports in respect of only 11.25 lakh sq. km. have been finalized and placed on the CGWB website. The Committee feel that such a huge gap that exist in mapping and preparation of Aquifer Reports under such an important Scheme will undermine the whole exercise of this important and ambitious project of mapping the aquifers of the country. In view of the fact that NAQUIM is essential for sustainable management of Ground Water Resources in the country and further given the fact that output of NAQUIM are also shared with the States/UTs for suitable intervention, the Committee urge upon the Department to take necessary steps to complete the finalization of Aquifer Reports within a prescribed time limit as soon as mapping has been carried out. The steps taken in this regard may be appraised to the Committee within three months of presentation of the Report to Parliament.

(Recommendation No. 12)

### **Irrigation Census**

2.13 The Committee observe that the scheme 'Rationalization of Minor Irrigation Statistics' (RMIS) was launched in 1987-88 in the DoWR, RD &GR, Ministry of Jal Shakti (MoJS), with 100% Central assistance to the States/UTs. In 2017-18, the scheme was renamed as "Irrigation Census" and brought under the Centrally sponsored umbrella scheme, "PMKSY and other schemes" to build up a comprehensive and reliable database in the Minor Irrigation (MI) sector for effective planning and policy making. Detailed data base on Minor Irrigation works in the country has been generated through five census carried out under the Scheme so far with reference years 1986-87, 1993-94, 2000-01, 2006-07 and 2013-14 respectively. The Committee are happy to observe that the

scope of irrigation census has now been expanded to include census of water bodies with 100% Central assistance. The first census of water bodies has been launched in the States/UTs in convergence with Sixth Minor Irrigation Census. The census of water bodies *inter alia* includes collection of information on all important aspects of the water bodies, including their size, condition, status of encroachments, use, storage capacity, status of filling up of storage etc. While appreciating the steps taken by the Government to include census of water bodies with 100% Central assistance in the Irrigation Census, the Committee urge upon the Department to explore the feasibility of expanding the scope of Irrigation Census to cover medium and micro-irrigation schemes as it will help in bringing most of the irrigation schemes and their data under a single platform, which in turn will be of great use in formulating better informed schemes for the irrigation sector and will address irrigation issues in much more broader framework.

(Recommendation No. 13)

### Special Package for Irrigation Projects

2.14 The Committee note that a Special Package was approved during the meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) held on 18.07.2018 for providing Central Assistance to complete 83 Surface Minor Irrigation (SMI) projects and 8 Major / Medium Irrigation (MMI) Projects in drought prone districts in Vidarbha, Marathwada and rest of Maharashtra in phases up to the year 2023-24. The overall balance cost of the said projects as on 1.4.2018 is estimated to be Rs.13651.61 crore. The Ultimate Irrigation Potential of the projects under the Special Package is 4.06 L Ha out of which an irrigation potential of 0.33 L Ha has been created up to 03/2018. An additional irrigation potential of 0.97 L Ha has been created during 2018-21. The Committee note that during 2021-22, the allocation in RE was Rs. 600 crore vis-à-vis BE allocation of Rs. 400 crore. During 2022-23, the BE has been pegged at Rs. 800 crore. The Committee express the hope that going by past trend, the entire amount allocated in 2021-22 would be utilized under the scheme. The Department have informed that challenges like land acquisition, court cases, resettlement & rehabilitation and Railway and Highway crossings are the bottlenecks that are hindering the progress of the projects and a number of steps are being taken to overcome these challenges. The Committee welcome the efforts of the Government to provide not only the much needed relief to address the agrarian distress in Vidarbha and Marathwada and other chronically drought prone areas of rest of Maharashtra but also making all out endeavours to make this programme successful by putting in place a vibrant mechanism to overcome the challenges being faced in the implementation of this Programme. The Department has apprised the Committee that presently there is no proposal for extending this Special Package to other parts/regions of the country facing similar challenges. The Committee desire that the Department may review their stand and actively examine the feasibility of extending similar package to address agrarian distress prevailing in other chronically drought prone areas of rest of the country.

(Recommendation No. 14)

## **National River Conservation Plan - Other Basins**

2.15 The Committee note that under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of 'National River Conservation Plan (NRCP)', financial assistance is being provided to State Governments on cost sharing basis between the Central & State Governments for conservation of rivers. While the Capital expenditure is shared between Central and State/Union Territories, Operating expenses is borne 100% by the State /Union Territories (UTs) Governments. The Committee further note that for the fiscal year 2022-23, an amount of Rs. 250.68 crore has been kept for the NRCP - other Basins, which is a minuscule amount in comparison to budgetary allocation of Rs. 2800 crore earmarked for river Ganga under Namami Gange Mission II Project. In this regard, the Department has apprised the Committee that if required additional allocation will be sought at RE stage. However, the Committee in this regard would like to recall that during the examination of the DFG (2020-21), on the issue of meager allocation under this Scheme (BE was just Rs. 220 crore in FY 2020-21), it was informed by the Department that higher allocations under this Scheme would be sought when approval to revised Scheme is obtained. The Committee are not satisfied with the meager allocation of mere Rs. 250.68 crore for FY 2022-23 to this Scheme considering the fact that NRCP covers 34 rivers in 77 towns spread over 16 States in the country. The Committee are thus constrained to observe that the Department has displayed callous and lackadaisical attitude in its endeavours for increasing the budgetary allocations for this very important Programme. The Committee are of the considered view that since all other major rivers of the country are also equally polluted as river Ganga, they also require the same attention and remedial measures. They, therefore, recommend the Department to take proactive steps in augmenting the budgetary allocations for this Programme at RE stage / Supplementary Demand stage. The Committee would like to be apprised of the steps taken by the Department within three months of presentation of this Report.

(Recommendation No. 15)

## **Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Programme (DRIP)**

2.16 The Committee note that the Ministry of Jal Shakti, Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation (DoWR,RD&GR) initiated World Bank assisted Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Project (DRIP) in April 2012, with an objective to improve safety and operational performance of selected dams along with institutional strengthening with system wide management approach. The overall coordination and supervision was entrusted to Central Water Commission. The physical rehabilitation activities have been completed for 99% (221 out of 223 dams) of the dam portfolio and the rehabilitation at balanced two dam projects was under progress and would be completed under new Scheme DRIP Phase II. The Committee observe that actual expenditure under this head has been lower vis-a-vis BE allocation. In FY 2018-19 and 2019-20, the actual expenditure incurred was Rs. 49.32 crore and 41.61 crore as against BE allocation of Rs. 124 crore and Rs. 89.37 crore respectively. Similarly, in 2020-21, only Rs. 30.51 crore was spent against BE allocation of Rs. 55/- crore. The Department have attributed the reasons for underutilization of resources to delay in payment of few liabilities viz DC-DR system (part of Main and Backup Server), restrictions during COVID period, Non-materialization of

International Training Program for officials of CSMRS, not placing the requisite procurement orders by the CSMRS before March 31, 2021, in order to enable them to incur the planned expenditure. Keeping in view the importance of DRIP Programme in improving the safety parameters of the dams of the country and also noting that coronavirus pandemic is waning due to widespread vaccination drive, the Committee urge the Department to now tighten their belt and make every possible effort to make full utilization of budgetary provisions under this important Scheme.

(Recommendation No. 16)

### **Need to frame a National Embankment Policy**

2.17 The Committee understand that at present there is no comprehensive Embankment Policy to repair and maintain river banks in the country. In this regard, the Committee are constrained to note that the Department has not furnished specific reply to their query with regard to the preparation of a National Embankment Policy. The Department has merely stated that flood management falls within the purview of the State Governments and hence flood management and anti-erosion projects are formulated and implemented by the concerned State Governments. It was also stated that regular review meetings are held with State Governments officials to sensitize about the issue of upkeep and maintenance of the embankments, however, State Governments fail to maintain embankments as per requirements due to paucity of funds on their part. The Ministry further stated that there is no proposal under consideration to provide financial assistance to the States for upkeep and maintenance of the embankments. Taking cognizance of the fact that floods wreak havoc and bring untold miseries to thousands of the people every year, the Committee are of the considered opinion that river embankments, if properly maintained, may play an important role in minimizing the devastating impact of floods. The Committee, therefore, urge upon the Department to review their stated policy / position and explore ways and means to frame a comprehensive national embankment policy specifying protocols/ SoPs required to be followed scrupulously for re-enforcement of the river banks. Further, the Committee also desire that the Department should make arrangements for providing financial assistance to the needy States to upkeep the embankments. Keeping in view the recurring devastation taking place in the border areas of the States of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh every year due to the menace of floods by the rivers originating from neighbouring country, the Committee further recommend that the Department may explore the feasibility of providing financial assistance to the States under Flood Management and Border Areas Programme (FMBAP).

(Recommendation No. 17)

### **Rain Water Harvesting**

2.18 The Committee note with satisfaction that the Government of India has taken several initiatives like launching of Jal Shakti Abhiyan (JSA), institution of National Water Awards, organizing mass awareness programmes, preparation of Master Plan for Artificial Recharge to Groundwater, compiling best practices of water conservation by various entities and putting them on the websites of the Ministry for the benefit of the general public for sustainable management of groundwater including rainwater harvesting. However, at the same time, the Committee are disheartened to note from the written submission of the

Department that CGWB has not set any target and fixed timelines to increase the adoption and propagation of Rainwater harvesting technology in the country. The Committee are of the view that without having quantifiable goals/targets in place, no programme can achieve the desired outcome however, noble the intentions are. Taking into account the rapid depletion of groundwater table in large part of the country, the Committee recommend that on the lines of NAQUIM Programme, the Department should identify the geographical area where rainwater harvesting technology may be used effectively to replenish the groundwater table and take pro-active action to carry out the exercise within the defined timeline.

(Recommendation No. 18)

**NEW DELHI**  
**15 March, 2022**  
**24 Phalgun, 1943 (Saka)**

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

**MINUTES OF THE SEVENTH SITTING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON WATER  
RESOURCES (2021-22) HELD ON TUESDAY, 22 FEBRUARY, 2022**

The Committee sat from 1130 hours to 1400 hours in Main Committee Room, Ground Floor, Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

**PRESENT**

**Dr. Sanjay Jaiswal – Chairperson**

**MEMBERS**

**LOK SABHA**

2. Shri Vijay Baghel
3. Shri Bhagirath Chaudhary
4. Dr. Heena Vijaykumar Gavit
5. Dr. K. Jayakumar
6. Shri Kuruva Gorantla Madhav
7. Shri Nihalchand
8. Shri D.K. Suresh

**RAJYA SABHA**

9. Shri Harshvardhan Singh Dungarpur
10. Dr. Kirodi Lal Meena
11. Shri Arun Singh
12. Shri Subhash Chandra Singh

**SECRETARIAT**

- |    |                       |   |                     |
|----|-----------------------|---|---------------------|
| 1. | Shri M.K. Madhusudhan | - | Joint Secretary     |
| 2. | Shri Khakhai Zou      | - | Director            |
| 3. | Shri R.C. Sharma      | - | Additional Director |

**WITNESSES**

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

- |    |                          |                          |
|----|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. | Shri Pankaj Kumar        | Secretary                |
| 2. | Smt. Debashree Mukherjee | Additional Secretary     |
| 3. | Shri Manoj Sethi         | JS&FA                    |
| 4. | Shri Sanjay Awasthi      | JS (RD&PP)               |
| 5. | Shri Ashok Sitaram Goel  | Commissioner (SPR & CAD) |
| 6. | Shri Atul Jain           | Commissioner (FM)        |
| 7. | Shri Teerath Singh Mehra | Commissioner (B&B)       |
| 8. | Shri Sukh Ram Meena      | ADG (Stat)               |
| 9. | Shri Ashish Kumar        | Director (GW)            |

**CENTRAL WATER COMMISSION**

- |     |                        |                |
|-----|------------------------|----------------|
| 10. | Dr. Rakesh Kumar Gupta | Chairman , CWC |
|-----|------------------------|----------------|

**NATIONAL MISSION FOR CLEAN GANGA (NMCG)**

- |     |                     |                        |
|-----|---------------------|------------------------|
| 11. | Shri G. Asok Kumar  | Director General, NMCG |
| 12. | Shri D. P. Mathuria | ED, NMCG               |

## CENTRAL GROUND WATER BOARD (CGWB)

13. Shri Sunil Kumar

Chairman, CGWB

2. At the outset, the Hon'ble Chairperson welcomed the Members and the representatives of the Department of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation to the Sitting of the Committee which was convened to have oral evidence of the Ministry of Jal Shakti – Department of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation in connection with examination of the Demands for Grants (2022-23).

3. Thereafter, Hon'ble Chairperson drew their attention to Direction 55(1) of the Directions by the Speaker regarding the confidentiality of the proceedings of the Committee and invited the representatives of the Department to make their submission/presentation on various Schemes, Programmes and allocation of funds for the fiscal year 2022-23. Thereafter, the representatives of the Department highlighted the salient features of various Schemes, programmes being undertaken by them with reference to the Demands for Grants (2022-23) through a power point presentation.

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

- (i) Reasons for massive hike in budgetary allocations for FY 2022-23 vis-a-vis FY 2021-22;
- (ii) Requisite capacity of the Department to utilize this enhanced allocation;
- (iii) Reasons for underutilization of budgetary resources resulting in surrendering of budgetary allocations by the Department;
- (iv) Under-achievement of the targets envisaged under different Schemes/Programmes;
- (v) Inadequacy of manpower in Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) and Brahmaputra Board;
- (vi) Issue of huge expenditures incurred on maintaining various Inter-State Water Disputes Tribunals;
- (vii) Reasons to change the nomenclature of Namami Gange Programme;
- (viii) Need to expand the scope of Atal Bhujal Yojana;
- (ix) Issue of Farakka Barrage Project and its impact on causing floods in the State of Bihar;
- (x) Water Use efficiency in irrigation sector;
- (xi) Implementation of the National Aquifer Mapping and Management Programme .
- (xii) Issue of interlinking of rivers;
- (xiii) Implementation of Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana – Har Khet Ko Pani.
- (xiv) Special Package for Maharashtra; and



(xv) Implementation of Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Project.

5. The Chairperson, thanked the representatives of the Department of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation for the presentation made by them and also for replying to the queries raised by the Members. He directed the Secretary, Department of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation to furnish written replies to those queries raised by the Members which could not be readily replied and which require detailed statistical replies to the Secretariat at the earliest.

***[The witnesses, then, withdrew]***

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

The Committee, then, adjourned.

## **MINUTES OF THE EIGHTH SITTING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON WATER RESOURCES (2021-22) HELD ON TUESDAY, 15 MARCH 2022**

The Committee sat from 1430 hours to 1500 hours in Committee Room 'B',-Ground Floor, Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

### **PRESENT**

Dr. Sanjay Jaiswal – Chairperson

### **MEMBERS**

#### **LOK SABHA**

2. Shri Bhagirath Choudhary
3. Dr. Heena Vijaykumar Gavit
4. Dr. K. Jayakumar
5. Shri Dhanush M. Kumar
6. Shri Kuruva Gorantla Madhav
7. Shri Nihalchand
8. Shri Hasmukhbhai Somabhai Patel
9. Shri Sanjay Kaka Patil
10. Shri P. Ravindhranath
11. Smt. Agatha K. Sangma
12. Shri Pratap Chandra Sarangi

#### **RAJYA SABHA**

13. Shri Harshvardhan Singh Dungarpur
14. Dr. Kirodi Lal Meena
15. Shri Pradeep Tamta

### **SECRETARIAT**

1. Shri M.K. Madhusudhan - Joint Secretary
2. Shri Khakhai Zou - Director
3. Shri R.C. Sharma - Additional Director

2. At the outset, the Chairperson welcomed the Members to the sitting of the Committee. Thereafter, the Committee took up for consideration (i) Draft Report on Demands for Grants (2022-23) of the Ministry of Jal Shakti (Department of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation); and (ii) Draft Report on Demands for Grants (2022-23) of the Ministry of Jal Shakti (Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation). After due deliberation, the Committee adopted the aforesaid draft Reports, without any modification.

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

The Committee then adjourned

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