

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**  
**MINISTRY OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION**

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**3<sup>RD</sup> SECTORAL SUMMIT OF NEC TO REVIEW COMMODITY BOARDS AND  
APEDA, INLAND WATER TRANSPORT, FLOOD & EROSION CONTROL AND  
IRRIGATION SECTOR PROGRAMMES IN THE NORTH EASTERN REGION HELD  
AT GUWAHATI ON 09-11 MARCH 2007.**

**FLOOD & EROSION CONTROL AND IRRIGATION :**

**INTRODUCTION – ISSUES – CONCLUSIONS**

**INTRODUCTION**

The North Eastern Council (NEC) at its 53<sup>rd</sup> meeting held at New Delhi on 15-16 November, 2006 decided that as a Regional Planning Body for the NER, sector specific meetings be organized every month by rotation in the eight North Eastern States to review Central Sector/Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) being implemented by Central Ministries in the region. A schedule of the first 16 meetings was drawn up which is hosted on the Ministry of DONER's website <http://www.mdoner.gov.in>.

2. Hon'ble Minister, DONER/Chairman, NEC chaired the **1<sup>st</sup> Sectoral Summit** at Pasighat, Arunachal Pradesh on 16-17 January, 2007. Power Sector programmes were reviewed after two days of deliberation, the **Pasighat Proclamation on Power** and the issues and conclusions arrived at the meeting were drafted and circulated. Both these documents are hosted on the Ministry of DONER's website <http://www.mdoner.gov.in> and have also been circulated amongst all concerned.

3. Hon'ble Minister, DONER/Chairman, NEC chaired the **2<sup>nd</sup> Sectoral Summit** at Shillong, Meghalaya on 08-09 February, 2007. Road Sector programmes were reviewed. The **Shillong Statement on Roads & Highways** and other documents listed the issues and conclusions arrived at after the two days deliberation were finalized and circulated amongst all concerned. The documents are also hosted on the Ministry of DONER's website <http://www.mdoner.gov.in>.

4. The **3<sup>rd</sup> Sectoral Summit** of the NEC was held at **Guwahati on 09-11 March, 2007**. The following sectors were taken up for review:

- 1) Commodity Boards and APEDA, Ministry of Commerce.
- 2) Inland Water Transport, Ministry of Shipping, Road Transport and Highways.
- 3) Flood & Erosion Control and Irrigation, Ministry of Water Resources.

List of participants is annexed.

Issues and conclusions arrived at after discussions in respect of the Flood & Erosion Control and Irrigation Sector programmes in the NER are enumerated below:

### **FLOOD & EROSION CONTROL & IRRIGATION**

#### **ISSUES:**

- (i) NER is one of the highest rainfall zones in the World. Main rivers causing floods in the region are the Brahmaputra, Barak and their tributaries.
- (ii) Floods in Assam are mainly caused by high rainfall in the catchment area, unstable steep slope, long monsoon period, large scale denudation of forest cover etc.
- (iii) As assessed by RBA, of the total flood prone area of 3.58 mha, 3.15 mha falls within Assam. Other States have some flood prone areas.
- (iv) It is recognized that absolute flood control and protection is not feasible and that flood management measures are aimed at reasonable degree of protection from flood losses. A combination of structural and non-structural measures in a phased manner is the most accepted strategy for flood management.
- (v) Central Water Commission (CWC) has taken up flood forecasting and warning systems, maintains hydro meteorological stations, undertakes surveys and investigation, monitors irrigation projects, carries out techno economic appraisal of irrigation and flood management schemes and provides technical advice to the States and others.
- (vi) Brahmaputra Board was established through a Central Act in 1980 and

became operational in 1982. It is mandated to carry out survey and investigation, prepare master plans and DPRs and undertake construction of multipurpose dams and other works in the NER.

- (vii) Brahmaputra Board has carried out survey and investigation, prepared 36 master plans for Brahmaputra and Barak rivers and some of their tributaries, prepared DPRs for five multipurpose projects and 11 drainage development schemes. It has executed three numbers of anti-erosion and flood control projects and is implementing the Pagladiya dam project at an estimated cost of Rs.542.90 crore.
- (viii) The Task Force on Flood Control recommended in 2004, immediate and short term measures in different States at a cost of Rs.1915.00 crore. Out of the Rs.163.51 crore earmarked for Immediate Measures, only Rs.107.00 crore has been utilized till date.
- (ix) Ministry of Water resources is consulting the State Governments on the proposal to establish a North-East Water Resource Authority(NEWRA). Government of Arunachal Pradesh have expressed their reservations.
- (x) Assam representative requested that the Brahmaputra Board should be more active in carrying out its mandate. He recommended Central Assistance to Arunachal Pradesh for afforestation so that silting and erosion can be controlled. Most hydro power projects are expected to come up in Arunachal Pradesh.
- (xi) Arunachal Pradesh representative stated that the Brahmaputra Board has not done any work in the State. He suggested that any policy for flood control in NER be developed in consultation with the concerned States. He expressed the view that issues related to inter-State boundary dispute be resolved before taking up various projects in the region.
- (xii) Tripura representative stated that about 25% of the State is flood prone. Some of the flood control measures could not be taken up due to objections from Bangladesh. Brahmaputra Board is yet to take up any work in the State. Master Plan for eight(8) rivers is required to be taken up on priority by the Board.
- (xiii) Mizoram representative requested for early completion of survey and investigation work on the Kaladan River project by CWC.
- (xiv) Sikkim stated that the State is erosion prone. As against the 16 projects prepared for taking up erosion control measures, the Brahmaputra Board has

sanctioned only two projects.

- (xv) Nagaland stated that not a single project has been considered by the Brahmaputra Board.
- (xvi) Meghalaya requested CWC to expedite technical vetting of Umiam Lake Protection project.

### **Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme(AIBP)**

- (i) AIBP is a major Central Programme for assisting the States to take-up irrigation schemes/projects. Most schemes in NER are minor irrigation(MI) projects. Scope of AIBP has been extended to include surface MI projects in the NER.
- (ii) Prior to 12/2006, AIBP funding was in the ratio of 75:25(Centre: State) and the Central Share was in the form of 90% grant and 10% loan to be arranged by the state wef 02-04-2004. Wef 12/2006, funding is on 90:10 (Centre:State) basis.
- (iii) State-wise details were explained. Bottlenecks identified are delay in land acquisition, inadequate and late release of funds by the States and the difficult law & order situation in some of the States.
- (iv) Under AIBP, MOWR have, during the Xth Plan period, released a total of Rs.559.49 crores to the eight NE States including Rs.231.76 crores for major & medium projects and Rs.327.73 crores for minor schemes. In addition, it has approved 3093 MI schemes, of which 2338 schemes have been completed and another 95 are planned. Under MI schemes, 46,500 ha potential has been created of which 34,300 ha is utilized.
- (v) Under Bharat Nirman, irrigation potential of 2,93,110ha is targeted which includes 1,09,140ha of major & medium irrigation and 1,83,970ha of minor irrigation.
- (vi) Development of Ground Water in NER is in the nascent stage- due to hilly terrain only about 30% of the existing area can be developed- the region has an inherent advantage in rain water harvesting due to high rainfall.
- (vii) Member(NE),Planning Commission stated that absorption of AIBP funds is very poor in the North Eastern States. He emphasized the need for the States to access and optimize use of AIBP funds.
- (viii) Assam representative assured that State Govt. share for implementation AIBP

- schemes is being arranged and Central funds would be utilized properly.
- (ix) Meghalaya representative requested NEC to assist in hiring competent professional Consultants for taking up micro/minor irrigation projects.
  - (x) Mizoram representative complained about delay in release of funds by Ministry of Water Resources due to which very limited working period is available for implementation.
  - (xi) Tripura representative pointed out that under AIBP only surface irrigation schemes can be taken -up. Due to inadequate surface flow, Tripura is unable to access benefits under this scheme. He requested that AIBP norms be altered to include ground water development and provision for renovation, extension of pipelines and maintenance also. He suggested that the project cost in NER be increased to Rs.2.00 lakh per hectare and that funds be released in one installment before the working season commences.
  - (xii) Member, NEC cautioned against widespread exploitation of underground water as it has been found, at several locations, to contain hazardous elements.
  - (xiii) Nagaland representative suggested that the construction of check dams should be made a part of AIBP.
  - (xiv) Arunachal Pradesh representative also requested that the AIBP include extension/renovation of existing schemes. He favoured tapping of ground water wherever feasible.
  - (xv) Sikkim representative suggested revision of AIBP guidelines which require a minimum of 20 hectares to be eligible and proposed 5 hectares as the threshold for MI schemes in small hill States. MOWR representative informed that the requirement of minimum irrigation potential area of 20 ha per scheme under AIBP is as per guidelines effective from 12/2006.
  - (xvi) Manipur representative admitted that MI schemes in the State have been delayed but assured that these would be completed soon.

### **CONCLUSIONS:**

- (i) Ministry of Water Resources (MOWR) and Brahmaputra Board to take up immediate and short term measures in consultation with the States for flood and erosion control on priority.

- (ii) The Ministry of Water Resources (MOWR) is consulting the States on the proposal to constitute NEWRA. The Govt. of Arunachal Pradesh expressed their reservations about the constitution of this authority.
- (iii) The Brahmaputra Board to play a more active role in taking up flood control schemes in all NE States and should not confine its activities to any one State as it appears to have happened so far.
- (iv) Brahmaputra Board to expedite preparation of DPRs in respect of eight proposals of the State of Tripura.
- (v) CWC to expedite preparation of DPR by 12/2007 in respect of Mizoram Govt's revised proposal for a 450MW Kolodyne project.
- (vi) NEC would provide funding to the States for engaging Consultants for preparation of project reports for micro/minor irrigation projects.
- (vii) Planning Commission to examine the pattern of release of installments so that the loss of working period can be avoided.
- (viii) CWC to ensure early release of funds for implementation of various projects.
- (ix) MOWR to examine the possibility of modification in the AIBP scheme, like increasing the limit of project cost per ha, providing for maintenance etc. for minor irrigation schemes, reducing the area of irrigation potential to five ha per scheme etc.
- (x) MOWR to examine the possibility of taking up ground water irrigation scheme under AIBP including construction of check dams.
- (xi) MOWR to take up the matter with the Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) to explore the possibility and desirability of exploitation of ground water in the NER in view of the possibility of hazardous elements.

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