

Minutes of 2nd Meeting of the Empowered Committee on Flood Management Programme (FMP) held on 6.8.2008 in Ministry of Finance, North Block, New Delhi

1. The 2nd meeting of the Empowered Committee on Flood Management Programme was held on 6.8.2008 at 1500 hrs. in the Fresco Room, North Block, New Delhi. The meeting was chaired by Secretary (Expenditure), Ministry of Finance. The list of officers present in the meeting is annexed as **Annexure-I**.
2. At the outset, Chairman of the Empowered Committee welcomed the officers present in the meeting. Thereafter, Secretary (WR) asked Commissioner (Ganga) and Member-Secretary of the Empowered Committee to make a presentation on the agenda of the meeting including new proposals received from the state governments. Commissioner (Ganga) in his presentation apprised the Committee on following points
 - i. **Follow up Action of Decisions of 1st meeting:** As per the decisions taken in the 1st meeting of the Empowered Committee held on 14.3.2008 and subsequent meeting taken by Secretary (WR) on 27.3.2008, out of a total 269 schemes, 239 schemes with an estimated cost of Rs.1307 Cr from 12 states had been included under FMP for providing central assistance and an amount of Rs.273.64 crore was released towards 1st instalment of 210 schemes of 11 states till July, 2008.
 - ii. **New proposals received from the state governments:** During 2008-09, a total of 36 proposals from seven states were received through CWC/ GFCC & Brahmaputra Board in this Ministry with a total estimated cost of Rs.461.80 crore and proposed for inclusion under FMP.
 - iii. **Concurrent Evaluation of Flood Management works:** Chairman, Ganga Flood Control Commission (GFCC) opined that Concurrent Evaluation is not feasible and requested a review of the decision taken in the first meeting by the Empowered Committee in this regard.
 - iv. **Simplification of procedure for release of fund to state governments.** Some state governments requested for simplification of procedure for release of fund to state governments, in respect of the works costing less than Rs. 7.50 Cr.

v. Reimbursement to state Governments:

Some state governments requested to consider for imbursement of expenditures incurred by the States on works undertaken in anticipation of the release of funds but the funds could not be released in time due to procedural delays.

3. Based on the facts presented by Member-Secretary, detailed discussions were held on the above points including new proposals as given below:
 - (a) Regarding four schemes of Assam, Chairperson of the Empowered Committee observed that the cost estimate of the works at price level of year 2001 or so; is quite old and not acceptable. These can be considered by the Committee after revision of the cost estimates at the current price level. Similarly, two proposals submitted by the state of Arunachal Pradesh based on the old price level were also not approved. It was decided that proposals of Assam and Arunachal Pradesh may be sent back to the state governments for revision of the cost estimates at current price level to have a realistic assessment of funds required by them.
 - (b) The proposals received from state governments of West Bengal, Jharkhand and Punjab were discussed and approved for inclusion under the Programme. Three works of West Bengal were approved by the Committee, subject to the condition that the state government may submit the requisite Performa 'A' to Planning Commission with a copy of the same to Ministry of Water Resources.
 - (c) Regarding two works of Uttar Pradesh proposed on river Sarada, Secretary (WR) informed the Committee that these works were earlier being executed by Government of Uttar Pradesh with loan assistance from NABARD and the state government proposed now to complete the remaining works under Flood Management Programme. These proposals were not approved since they involved funding of the schemes from two sources.
 - (d) With regards to the proposals from state of Bihar, Representative of Planning Commission suggested that works costing less than Rs.7.50 Cr should not be included under FMP. Secretary (WR) explained that the criticality of the works and not on the cost estimate should be the criterion for approval of the schemes.

Director (PF-I) was of the view that works costing less than Rs.7.50 Cr can be taken up by the states from their own resources; to which Secretary (WR) explained that there is no sanctity of Rs.7.50 crore bench mark. Benefit-Cost Ratio is the important parameter and would be the guiding factor towards cost effective solutions as envisaged by the Cabinet. Secretary (WR) informed the Committee that during X plan, a scheme "Anti- erosion Works for the protection of Khairpur, Raghapur, Akidatpur villages from River Ganga in Bhagalpur district, (Bihar)" was earlier approved with estimated cost of Rs.12.79 crore, for which central assistance amounting to Rs.9.59 Cr had already been released. Some work under the scheme executed at site that was washed away during the floods of 2007 and now the state government posed a new proposal with estimated cost of Rs.23.56 Cr. Chairperson desired to know the reasons for damage of the above works/scheme. Member (C), GFCC apprised the Committee that since the work had started late and the floods came before its completion; the works got washed away in the floods. Chairperson observed that the water resources department of Government of Bihar should have considered it before starting the work. It was decided that the state government may give proper justification for the damage caused to the earlier approved scheme and the details of unspent central assistance released earlier; which remained unutilized with the State and may be realized from the State Government. For the other 22 works proposed by state government of Bihar, Secretary (WR) apprised the Committee about their importance.. For the works costing less than Rs 7.50 Cr; Secretary (WR) informed that these works are location specific, critical in nature and need to be undertaken on urgent basis. After due consideration, the Committee approved all the 22 proposals for inclusion under the Flood management Programme.

4. During discussions, Joint Secretary (PF-I), MOF opined that the proposed works may be approved at the firm cost estimates and no cost escalation shall be allowed in any work/scheme. After approval of the Empowered Committee, if any cost escalation is reported by the State, it may be borne by the state government from its own resources.
5. During the first meeting of Empowered Committee, it was agreed that concurrent evaluation of the schemes/projects costing more than Rs.7.5 crores would be

undertaken. But, GFCC conveyed its reservations on it as it may not be feasible to assess the efficacy of the schemes unless completed fully and tested under severe flood situations. Therefore, it was put up in the meeting for review. Joint Secretary (PF-I) was of the view that, though the efficacy of the scheme may only be ascertained after the completion of a project and should be evaluated after its completion but in order to check its specifications and quality of works, the concurrent evaluation is also necessary by an independent agencies.

6. Member (C), GFCC intimated that for proper monitoring of any project/ scheme, frequent field visits by the monitoring teams are required and each work should be visited at least three stages, viz. foundation, half completed and then before finishing of works. Chairperson directed that concurrent evaluation with respect to the quality and specification of the scheme has to be done, in addition to regular monitoring with frequent visits by field organizations of MoWR.
7. As some state governments requested to change the guidelines for providing central assistance and suggested, for the works costing less than Rs.7.5 crore, the entire amount of central assistance may be released in single instalment. The Committee did not agree to the request.
8. As regards to the reimbursement of expenditure under FMP, Additional Secretary (Expenditure) viewed that once a project is sanctioned and first instalment is released, the project has to be provided central assistance as per the norms. JS&FA, MoWR proposed that the guidelines need to be changed to accommodate such cases. Chairperson opined that the expenditure incurred by the states before acceptance of the project, in previous financial years, may not be reimbursed but the expenditure incurred by the states after approval of the project may be reimbursed and no modification in the guidelines is necessary for such decisions.
9. After detailed discussions, the Empowered Committee decided as follows:
 - (a) A total of 27 proposals from Bihar, Jharkhand, Punjab and West Bengal were found eligible and stands approved for inclusion under Flood Management Programme as per the details given in **Annexure-II**. The project-wise estimated cost and central share shown therein would be treated as final and no claim towards cost escalation would be allowed / reimbursed to the states,

if any. The central assistance would, however, be released after examination by Integrated Finance Division of the administrative Ministry. In respect of schemes costing less than Rs.7.5 crore in respect of which required information in prescribed Performa 'A' has not been submitted, Central Assistance may be released only after Performa 'A' has been submitted to the Planning Commission.

- (b) Four proposals of Assam and two proposals of Arunachal Pradesh may be returned to the respective states and could be placed before the Empowered Committee afresh after revision of the cost estimates thereof, to current price level.
- (c) The concurrent evaluation of the schemes/projects costing more than Rs.7.5 crore may be undertaken by independent agencies to ensure quality and specifications of the works.
- (d) The central assistance would be released to the State Governments, in minimum two instalments, as per the provisions of the guidelines for providing central assistance under FMP, circulated by Ministry of Water Resources on 27.12.2007.
- (e) Request for Central assistance towards the expenditure made by the state governments on a work before its approval by the Empowered Committee, in the previous financial year(s), would not be entertained. However, the states will be entitled to Central Assistance in respect of expenditure incurred by them after the scheme is approved by the Empowered Committee for inclusion under FMP.
- (f) An expenditure made by the states over and above the state share, after the approval of the project, would be reimbursed.

The meeting ended with the Vote of Thanks to the Chair.

Annexure-I

2nd Meeting of Empowered Committee
on FLOOD MANGEMENT PROGRAMME held on 6th August, 2008 at 300 p.m.

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

S. No.	Name/Designation
1.	Mrs. Sushma Nath, Secretary (Expenditure) - In Chair
2.	Shri U.N. Panjiar, Secretary (WR)
3.	Shri A.K. Bajaj, Chairman, Central Water Commission
4.	Ms. Rita Menon, Additional Secretary, Deptt. Of Expenditure, MOF
5.	Shri S. Manoharan, Addl. Secretary Ministry of Water Resources
6.	Shri R.C. Jha, Member (RM), Central Water Commission
7.	Shri Rajan Nair, Chairman, Brahmaputra Board
8.	Shri V.S. Senthil, Joint Secretary (PF-1), Deptt. Of Expenditure, MOF .
9.	Mrs. Ananya Ray, JS & FA, Ministry of Water Resources
10.	Shri S.P. Kakran, Commissioner (Ganga), Ministry of Water Resources
11.	Shri M.U. Ghani, Member, Ganga Flood Control Commission
12.	Shri G.S. Purba, Chief Engineer (FM), Central Water Commission
13.	Shri Avinash Mishra, Dy. Adviser (WR), Planning Commission
14.	.Smt. Babni Lal, Director,(PF-I), Ministry of Finance
15.	Shri C. Lal. Director (FMP), Central Water Commission
16.	Shri Suresh Chandra Sharma, Director, Ministry of DONER
17.	Shri Ravi Shanker, Sr. Joint Commissioner (Ganga), Ministry of Water Resources
18.	Shri Praveen Kumar, Dy. Commissioner (Ganga), Ministry of Water Resources

Annexure- II**List of schemes included under Flood management Programme during 2nd meeting of Empowered Committee on 06.08.2008****(Rs in Lakh)**

Sl. No.	Name of Scheme/ State	Location		Estimated Cost	Central Share
		River	Taluka/ District		
(i)	(ii)	(iii)	(iv)	(v)	(vi)
	Bihar				75%
1	Raising, strengthening balance reaches of Tirhut embankment from 29.61 km – 83.40 km.	Gandak	Muzaffarpur/ Vaishali	2627.65	1970.74
2	Anti erosion work near Rampur Khanth village (3.45 km to 4.61 km) and at Sonakhan (5.55 km to 5.885 km) along Bagmati left embankment.	Bagmati	Sitamarhi	830.72	623.04
3	Anti erosion work on Piprasi – Pipraghat embankment between 0.00 km to 35.00 km and GH portion between 0.00 km to 6.68 km.	Gandak	West Champaran	920.97	690.73
4	Brick soling on the top of Champaran Embankment in between 32.24 km – 132.40 km.	Gandak	East & West Champaran	1492.81	1119.61
5	Brick soling road on Saran Embankment from 35.20 km to 80.00 km on right bank of river Gandak	Gandak	Chapra	957.53	718.15
6	Raising & strengthening of right Burhi Gandak embankment from 8.00 km u/s of Akharaghat to 39.00 km d/s of Akharaghat.	Burhi Gandak	Muzaffarpur	1200.00	900.00
7	Drbhanga Town Protection Scheme Part - I	Darbhanga Bagmati	Darbhanga	933.40	700.05
8	Darbhanga Town Protection Scheme (Part - II)	Darbhanga Bagmati	Darbhanga	1416.09	1062.07
9	Darbhanga Town Protection Scheme (Part-III)	Darbhanga Bagmati & spill channel of Kamla river.	Darbhanga	1060.14	795.11
10	Khagaria Town Protection Scheme (Part - I)	Chanha/ Burhi Gandak	Begusarai, Khagaria	1118.78	839.09
11	Khagaria Town Protection Scheme (Part - II)	Chanha	Begusarai, Khagaria	1339.18	1004.39
	Bihar (Contd..)				75%

(Rs in Lakh)

Sl. No.	Name of Scheme/ State	Location		Estimated Cost	Central Share
		River	Taluka/ District		
(i)	(ii)	(iii)	(iv)	(v)	(vi)
12	Khagria Town Protection Scheme (Part – III)	Bagmati	Begusarai, Khagaria	550.86	413.15
13	Raising and strengthening of Piprasi-Pipraghat embankment and G.H. portion in Bihar.	Gandak	West Champaran	1471.60	1103.70
14	Anti erosion works on left bank of river Ganga near Hetampur & Kasimchak in Danapur Diara with restoration work.	Ganga	Patna	1230.47	922.85
15	Anti erosion work at Ismailpur and Kamlakund village d/s of Bikramshila bridge.	Ganga	Bhagalpur	749.14	561.86
16	Anti Erosion Work on the left bank of River Ganga near Mathurapur village under Dighwara Block of Saran district of Bihar.	Ganga	Saran	101.94	76.46
17	Anti erosion work on right bank of river Ganga at Neeknamtola.	Ganga	Bhojpur	169.00	126.75
18	Anti erosion work on left bank of right channel of river Ganga in Raghapur Diara.	Ganga	Vaishali	665.68	499.26
19	Raising and strengthening of Lalbakeya right marginal embankment from 9.06 RD to 13.50 RD at Goabari.	Lalbakeya	East Champaran	175.30	131.48
20	Anti erosion work on right & left bank of river Mani near Gorghat village.	Mani	Munger	339.39	254.54
21	Anti erosion work on right bank of river Ganga near Maniyarchak village.	Ganga	Munger	352.00	264.00
22	Anti erosion work near village Mohli Taufeer Diyara under Munger distt. Of Bihar.	Ganga	Munger	673.90	505.43
	Sub-total (Bihar)			20376.55	15282.41
	Jharkhand				75%
23	Restoration, Breach closure and protection work of Right Embankment of Semaria-Goregama Scheme from Chainage 0.00 to 855.00 along Gerua river of Jharkhand	Gerua	Godda	2012.00	1509.00
	Punjab				75%

(Rs in Lakh)

Sl. No.	Name of Scheme/ State	Location		Estimated Cost	Central Share
		River	Taluka/ District		
(i)	(ii)	(iii)	(iv)	(v)	(vi)
24	Canalization of Sakki/Kiran Nallah from RD 18000-51000 in the districts of Amritsar and Gurdaspur.	Sakki/ Kiran Nallah	Amritsar, Gurdaspur	11139.00	8354.25
	West Bengal				75%
25	Strengthening and re-sectioning of embankment and spurs from Sidhabari Chengmari to Bakali on the L/B and R/B of River Teesta in P.S. Mal and Maynaguri, Dist. Jalpaiguri (in 6 zones)	Teesta	Sidhabari Chengmari to Bakali villages	303.00	227.25
26	Protection on both banks of river Chel (Tributory of river Teesta) from Turibari to Kumlai Anchal in P.S, Mal, Dist. Jalpaiguri (in 4 zones)	Chel	Turibari & Kumlai Anchal in Mal block	370.00	277.50
27	Protection on the right bank of river Jaldhaka from erosion of Jorshimuli Magurmari area in P.S. Mathabhanga in Dist. Coochbehar	Jaldhaka	Jorshimuli mouza/ Cooch Behar	307.00	230.25
	Sub-total (West Bengal)			980.00	735.00
	TOTAL			34507.55	25880.66