

**SUMMARY RECORD OF DISCUSSIONS IN THE CONSULTATION
MEETING WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF PANCHAYATI RAJ
INSTITUTIONS ON REVIEW OF NATIONAL WATER POLICY HELD ON
16TH JUNE, 2011 AT WALAMTARI, HYDERABAD**

The first Consultation Meeting with the representatives of Panchayati Raj Institutions on review of the National Water Policy was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Union Minister of Water Resources Shri Salman Khursheed on 16th June, 2011 at Water and Land Management Training and Research Institute (WALAMTARI), Hyderabad in the presence of Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Water Resources Shri Vincent H. Pala. Shri G. Mohan Kumar, Additional Secretary (Water Resources), Dr. Prasanta Mahapatra, Principal Secretary (Irrigation & CAD), Govt. of Andhra Pradesh, Dr. K. Thirupataiah, Director General, WALAMTARI and other senior Officers from Central/State Government were also present during the consultation meeting. 54 Representatives of Panchayati Raj Institutions from the States of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Lakshadweep, Puducherry and Tamil Nadu accompanied by their nodal Officers participated in the consultation meeting. List of Representatives of Panchayati Raj Institutions who participated in the consultation meeting is at Annexure. A video conferencing was also arranged so that more elected representatives could participate in the consultation meeting from their respective District Headquarters.

The consultation meeting started with welcome address by Dr. Prasanta Mahapatra, Principal Secretary (Irrigation & CAD), Govt. of Andhra Pradesh. He thanked Ministry of Water Resources, Govt. of India for choosing Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh as the venue for the consultation meeting with the Representatives of Panchayati Raj Institutions from the Southern States of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Lakshadweep, Puducherry and Tamil Nadu for most pertinent issue of National Water Policy.

Giving the background, Shri G. Mohan Kumar, Additional Secretary (Water Resources) informed that the first National Water Policy was adopted by National Water Resources Council in 1987. This was revised and updated in April, 2002. The Ministry of Water Resources has initiated a comprehensive consultation process for review of National Water Policy with a view that all sections of the society join hands in resolving complex issues of water management in current scenario of water scarcity and impending dangers of climate change. Consultation meeting has been held with the Hon'ble Members of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Water Resources, Hon'ble Members of the Consultative Committee for Ministry of Water Resources and Hon'ble Members of the Parliamentary Forum on Water Conservation and Management. Consultation meetings have also been held with academicians, experts and professionals; corporate representatives and NGOs. Now, a series of consultation meeting with the representatives of Panchayati Raj Institutions is being undertaken starting with at Hyderabad. Other such meetings are proposed at Shillong, Pune, Jaipur and Bhubaneswar.

Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Water Resources Shri Vincent H. Pala welcomed the Representatives of Panchayati Raj Institutions from the States of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Lakshadweep, Puducherry and Tamil Nadu to the consultation meeting on review of National Water Policy. He stated that the last time National Water Policy was revised in 2002 and since then not only had major developments taken place in the field of water resources development, but also a greater realization has come that water is a prime natural resource, a basic human need and a precious national asset. Planning, development and management of water resources need to be governed by national perspectives. Therefore, it was considered necessary to review the provisions of National Water Policy in consultation with all stakeholders to re-orient the policy directives according to the changing times. He also stated that Panchayati Raj Institutions have been given vital role in the areas of Drinking water Minor irrigation, water management and watershed development as per Eleventh Schedule of our Constitution. All these subjects are critical in ensuring livelihood to the rural population and the involvement of the Panchayati Raj Institutions is, therefore, vital. The experiences and in depth knowledge of the subjects at the grass root level by the representatives of Panchayati Raj Institutions would go a long way in identifying the correct approaches

for addressing various issues in water resources and to appropriately reflect them in the National Water Policy.

Thereafter, Hon'ble Union Minister of Water Resources Shri Salman Khursheed requested the elected representatives of the Panchayati Raj Institutions to present their viewpoints on the National Water Policy. The elected representatives of the Panchayati Raj Institutions highlighted the grave drinking water crises in both rural and urban areas, deterioration in water quality, depletion of ground water level, illegal sand mining from river beds and suggested de-silting and proper maintenance of water bodies, adequate funding to local bodies, construction of check dams, ban on use of plastics, etc. Hon'ble Union Minister of Water Resources stated that our National Water Policy should be truly a National Policy with full participation of all throughout the country. The human being has to be kept at the center of all developments and this is more so in the case of water. He, further, stated that greater realization is coming up due to increasing scarcity of water and economic value has to be given to water. He appreciated the use of video conferencing in this consultation meeting through which people can interact without the need to come from far off places. He called upon the elected representatives of the Panchayati Raj Institutions to provide specific feedback on the Centre's role in water management from conflict resolution to co-operative development and on the ownership issue of groundwater. He also requested all participants to send their views by post/email and assured that their valuable inputs would be given due consideration in reviewing the National Water Policy.

The following is the Summary of the views expressed by the representatives of Panchayati Raj Institutions State/UT wise;

Andhra Pradesh

1. Such meetings / workshops should be held at local levels to create awareness about water conservation, particularly amongst children.
2. Water was earlier freely available in villages, but now water has to be bought.
3. There should be equity in water utilization. Water should be declared an essential commodity.

4. Water bodies need to be protected against encroachment and should be properly maintained by desilting and by other measures at periodic intervals. O&M funds should be adequately made available.
5. There is significant reduction in ground water level. Ground water should be permitted only for drinking and no free electricity should be given for pumping groundwater for irrigation. Steps should be taken towards ground water recharging and afforestation.
6. Open wells should not be closed as these acts as recharge points. There should be recharge pits for every tube well.
7. Pollution of water bodies must stop. There should be ban on use of plastics.
8. Arsenic and fluoride contamination issues should be addressed in a scientific manner.
9. Urban sewage is contaminating water sources of villages. No sewage should be allowed to be discharged into river, canal, tanks, etc., without proper treatment.
10. Water of river Godavari flows into the sea without being utilized. Therefore, Polavaram and Thotapally Projects should be implemented immediately. Distribution system should be in place, i.e., canal should be ready before dam completion so that project benefits can be derived.
11. There should be a Central Board for Water Management. Central Govt. should regulate major rivers to ensure water to lower riparian States.
12. Illegal and unregulated sand mining from river beds cause change in river courses and bank erosions.
13. Watershed development and construction of check dams should be undertaken even within the forest areas. In fact, tank cascade or tank chain system should be promoted.
14. Panchayats should be empowered to regulate sand mining and given adequate funding to ensure water conservation and protection of water bodies.
15. No permission for house construction should be given without rain water harvesting.
16. NREGA scheme should include provision for infrastructure developments also.

Lakshadweep

1. Lakshadweep is an archipelago consisting of 36 islands, 12 atolls, 3 reefs and 5 submerged banks having a total area of 32 sq.kms. Since it is surrounded by sea from all sides, drinking water is a serious problem. Moreover, there is a severe threat of salinity.
2. Lakshadweep is prone to Tsunami, coastal erosion, etc., and adequate protection should be provided.
3. Collection of rainwater is very essential for which tanks are needed.
4. Water pollution must be checked. There is poor sanitation and bio-toilets should be promoted.

Karnataka

1. There should be strict regulation for preventing excessive and unscientific exploitation of ground water.
2. Interlinking of rivers should be given priority.
3. Flood irrigation should be stopped. Micro irrigation should be encouraged. Paddy and Sugarcane, which consumes more water should be discouraged.
4. Drinking water must be made available.
5. Sand removal from river beds should be regulated. Artificial sands should be made available for construction purposes.
6. Water harvesting and watershed management should be done in the forest areas also.

Kerala

1. During monsoon, poor drainage leads to flooding. Local bodies should be provided adequate fund to deal with the drainage problem.
2. Sea coast erosion protection should be undertaken on top priority.
3. Extensive afforestation should be undertaken to check landslides.
4. To avoid the water pollution due to coli form bacteria, there should be separate programme for popularizing E Toilets.

Puducherry

1. Tanks and canals should be desilted every year because during rains, floods are caused due to siltation.
2. Plastic items should be strictly banned.
3. Check dams should be constructed to conserve flood waters.
4. New port at Karaikal is causing groundwater pollution. Industries polluting water sources should be closed.

Tamil Nadu

1. Encroachment of water bodies should be stopped. Panchayats should be empowered and funded adequately.
2. Ground water should not be taken as a local issue.
3. Tanks and canals should be desilted every year because during rains, floods are caused due to siltation. NREGA could be used for this purpose.
4. Plastic items should be strictly banned.
5. Side drains of roads should be cleaned.
6. Check dams should be constructed to conserve flood waters.
7. Interlinking of rivers should be implemented.
8. There should be good resettlement & rehabilitation policy.

Summarizing the deliberations, Shri G. Mohan Kumar, Additional Secretary (Water Resources) stated that most of the delegates had highlighted local issues of water management and environmental pollution, which were very important as these affected the people directly. Though the Central Government had no direct role in the local issues, efforts would be made so that policy directives in the National Water Policy addressed these issues. He apprised that the Govt. of India had a scheme for restoration and renovation of water bodies which should take care of concerns on conservation and protection of water bodies, but the response from States was not very encouraging. Similarly, use of ground water should be controlled through participatory process by local bodies and not through coercion. He lauded the efforts made in this direction through community controlled water budgeting in Andhra Pradesh. He thanked Govt. of Andhra Pradesh especially WALAMTARI for

facilitating this consultation meeting and thanked all delegates for coming and presenting their view points. He also thanked representatives of Panchayati Raj Institutions, who participated in the consultation meeting through video conferencing and thanked NIC for facilitating the same.

At the end, Dr. K. Tirupataiah, Director General, WALAMTARI thanked Ministry of Water Resources for giving WALAMTARI the opportunity to host in this important task of review of National Water Policy. He also thanked Shri M.K. Sinha, Sr. Jt. Commissioner (PP) and Shri Syed Ravish Ali, Under Secretary, Ministry of Water Resources for providing necessary support and guidance in organizing this consultation meeting. He put on record the hard work done by the Officers and staff of WALAMTARI and Irrigation Department for making this consultation meeting a grand success.

The meeting ended with presentation of mementoes to the delegates by Shri G. Mohan Kumar, Additional Secretary (Water Resources).

Government of India
Ministry of Water Resources

**THE CONSULTATION MEETING WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF
PANCHAYATI RAJ INSTITUTIONS ON REVIEW OF NATIONAL WATER POLICY
HELD ON 16TH JUNE, 2011 AT WALAMTARI, HYDERABAD**

List of the Participants

Government of India

1. Shri Salman Khursheed, Union Minister of Water Resources
2. Shri Vincent H. Pala, Union Minister of State for Water Resources
3. Shri G. Mohan Kumar, Additional Secretary (Water Resources)
4. Shri M.K. Sinha, Sr. Jt. Commissioner (PP), M/o Water Resources
5. Shri M.K. Srinivas, Director (M&A), KGBO, CWC, Hyderabad
6. Shri Raghu Ram, Superintending Engineer, Godavari Circle, CWC, Hyderabad
7. Dr. N Vardaraj, Regional Director, CGWB, Hyderabad

Government of Andhra Pradesh

1. Dr. Prasanta Mahapatra, Principal Secretary (Irrigation & CAD)
2. Shri M.K. Rehman, Engineer-in-Chief
3. Shri B.S.N. Reddy, Engineer-in-Chief (Irrigation)
4. Dr. K. Tirupataiah, Director General, WALAMTARI

Representatives of Panchayati Raj Institutions

State: Andhra Pradesh

1. Shri K.L.S.Murthy, Consultant CCDU, O/o.E-n-C, RWS&S Dept. Errum Manzil, Hyderabad-500082
2. Shri K.Damodhar Reddy, Z.P.Chairperson, 8-2-401/3 Road No: 3, Banjara Hills, Hyderabad
3. Shri A.Venkata Swamy, Chairperson Zilla Praja Parshed, Kurnool
4. Shri B.Nagaraja Prasad, ZPTC, S/o. B.Subramanyam, Lakshmigari Palli, Rly Koduru Mandal, Kadapa-516101
5. Shri Ch.Sekhar Babu, M.P.P Bertavali pet Mandal, Prakasam Dist
6. Shri G.D.Nityanandham, MPP 1-4, Christian street, Jadcherla, Mahaboobnagar Dist
7. Shri G.Shanmugavarma, M.P.P, Penumuru Mandal, Chittoor Dist
8. Shri Matri Sanyasi Rao, MPTC Anakapali Mandal, Visakapatnam District
9. Shri D.Padmanabham, Sarpanch A Davisankarapuram Village, Pichatur Mandal, Chittoor Dist-517589
10. Shri Mulinti Narayana, Sarpanch, Aspari Village, Alur (Taluk), Kurnool Dist-518347
11. Smt G.Sunitha, Sarpanch H.No: 3-41, Raghuntha Palli, Warangal-506244
12. Shri V.Bhanu Prakash, Sarpanch Ramchandrapur, Mandal Koheda, Karimnagar District-505528
13. Shri T.Seshagiri Rao, Sarpanch 10-191, Bapuji Street, Sullur Pet-524121, Nellore District
14. Shri Yachamaneni Nageswara Rao, Sarpanch Ch.Pothepalli, Dwarakatirumala Mandal, West Godavari District-534451

15. Shri S.V.Jagannadha Rao, Sarpanch, Thimma Rajupeta, Munagapaka Mandal, Visakhapatnam Dist
16. Shri Jillepalli Sudheer Babu, Sarpanch Penuganchiprolu, Krishna Dist
17. Shri M.Pichaiah, Sarpanch, Upparapalli, Sidhavatam, Kadapa Dist
18. Shri N.Pothu Raju, Sarpanch Veerapalli, Uravapadu, Prakasam Dist
19. Shri Ch. Mithra, Sarpanch, Seetanagaram, Paranagala post, Dummugudem.
20. Shri S.Krishna Reddy, Sarpanch, 10-87/1, Mandal Jogipet, Andole Dist, Medak
21. Shri D.Prathap Reddy, Sarpanch, Sadakuppam post, B.Patnam Mandal, Chittoor Dist
22. Shri G. Venkatesham, Sarpanch, Choudappal, Nalgonda Dist
23. Shri N.V.Hanumanthu Rao, Sarpanch, Perkit post, Armoor Mandal, Nizamabad Dist-503224
24. Shri T.Mallesh, Sarpanch, Khanapur Mandal, Rajendra Nagar Mandal, R.R.Dist
25. Shri P.Rama Rao, Dy. Commissioner, O/o. Commissioner, Panchayat Raj & Rural Employment, Himayat Nagar, Hyderabad-500029
26. Shri M.Vittal Reddy, EO(PR & R), O/o.MPDO Office, Rajendranagar, Hyderabad
27. Shri M.Subbarayudu, DPO O/o. Divisional, Panchayat Officer, Chevella Division, R.R.District
28. Shri A.Naresh Kumar, Student, Dooskal, Farooq Nagar Mandal, Mahaboob Nagar

UT: Lakshadweep

1. Shri. L.P.Hamzakoya, Joint Chief Executive Officer District Panchayat, U.T. of Lakshadweep, Kavaratti-682555
2. Shri. T.M.Muthukoya, Vice President Cum Counsellor, District Panchayat, U.T. of Lakshadweep, Kavaratti-682555
3. Shri. Mulayam Munjameen, District Panchayat Member, District Panchayat, U.T. of Lakshadweep, Kavaratii-682555

State: Karnataka

1. Shri Chini Prabhakar.H, Chief Engineer/PRED, O/o. Chief Engineer, Risildar Road, Sheshadripuram, Slum Clearance Board building, 4th Floor, Bangalore, Karnataka
2. Shri Dhamannavar Ramesh, Executive Engineer, P.R. E. Division, Belgaum, Karnataka-590001
3. Shri Hanumantappa, Executive Engineer, Panchayat Raj Engineering Division, D.C.Compound, Shimoga-577202, Karnataka
4. Dr. Munishmappa Aswathappa, Executive Officer Taluk Panchayath Office, Nela Mayalu, Bangalore Rural District, Karnataka
5. Shri H.M.Dyamappa, Executive Officer Taluk Panchayath, Doddaballapura Taluk, Bangalore Rural District
6. Shri Munisonnappa Anjanappa, Executive Officer Taluk Panchayath, Gudibande (Taluk), Chikka Ballapur Dist.
7. Dr. Ramachandra Reddy, Executive Office Taluk Panchayath, Chikka Ballapur (Taluk), Chikka Ballapur District, Karnataka-562101
8. Shri Mallinath Kalshetty, Assistant Executive Engineer, R.W.S. Sub Division, Gulbarga, Karnataka, Public Garden Gulbarga-585103
9. Shri Shivanna Lokesh, Panchayat Development Officer-GPArekatte Doddi Grama Panchayat, Satnur Hobli, Kabbal Post, Kanakapura Taluk, Ramnagar District, Karnataka
10. Shri Subramanya Sharma A.N. , Panchayat Development Officer-GP, Naganahally Grama Panchayat, Heggadadevanakote Taluk, Mysore District, Karnataka

State: Kerala

1. Shri. Kanjookaran Lonapan Poulouse, President, District Panchayath, Civil Station, Kalpatta, Wayand Dist, Kerala
2. Shri. N.K. Jameela, President, District Panchayath, Sivel Station Post, Calicut-670035

UT : Puducherry

1. Shri Battan Jose, Asstant Director, Local Admn Dept., Puducherry-605001
2. Shri Vallathan Kuppurasu, President, Nallavodu Village Panchayath, Ariankuppam Commune, Puducherry-605007
3. Shri Muthuramalingam Singaravel, Chairman, Office of the Thirunallar, Commune Panchayat, Karaikal District, Puducherry (U.T)-609607
4. Shri J.Kantham, President Village Panchayat-North, Thirumalairayan Pattinam Commune, Karaikal, Puducherry-609606
5. Shri Thambusasy Kalimuthu, President Ponbetty Village Panchayathi, Nedungadu Karaikal District, Puducherry -609603

State: Tamil Nadu

1. Shri P. Devadoss Ponniah, Assistant Project Officer, DRDA, Thiruvarur District, Tamilnadu
2. Shri Natarajan Chinnadurai, District Chairman, Korrampalam, Tuticorin, Tamilnadu
3. Shri S.K.T.B. Kamaraj, Union Chairman, Union Office, Pavoorchatram, Tenkasi Taluk, Tirunelveli District, Tamilnadu-627852
4. Shri N.P.A. Ganesan, Panchayat Union Chairman, Panchayat Union, 2/61-Lalapetton-639105, Krishmaroyapuram, Karur Dist
5. Shri K.P. Chandra Sekaran, Panchayat Union Chairman, Kudumali, S nod District
6. Shri N. Mohanraj, Panchayat President, S.Vellalpatti Post, Karur