

**SUMMARY RECORD OF DISCUSSION IN THE CONSULTATION MEETING
WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF PANCHAYATI RAJ INSTITUTIONS FOR
REVIEW OF NATIONAL WATER POLICY HELD ON 30TH JUNE, 2011 AT
NORTH EASTERN HILL UNIVERSITY, SHILLONG**

The second Consultation Meeting with the representatives of Panchayati Raj Institutions from the States of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura and Sikkim on review of National Water Policy was held on 30th June, 2011 at North Eastern Hill University, Shillong under the Chairmanship of Shri G. Mohan Kumar, Additional Secretary (Water Resources). List of participants to the Consultation Meeting at Shillong is at Annexure.

Video conferencing was also arranged so that more elected representatives could participate in the Consultation Meeting from their respective State headquarters. Several representatives, in addition to those listed in Annexure, participated in the Consultation Meeting through video conferencing.

The Consultation Meeting started with a welcome address by Shri C.K. Agarwal, Chief Engineer (Brahmaputra and Barak Basin Organization), Central Water Commission, Shillong. Giving the background Shri G. Mohan Kumar, Additional Secretary (Water Resources) informed that the first National Water Policy was adopted by the National Water Resources Council in 1987. This was revised and updated in April, 2002. 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 the current scenario of water scarcity and impending dangers of climate change. Consultation Meetings had been held with Hon'ble Members of Parliamentary Standing Committee on Water Resources, Hon'ble Members of the Consultative Committee for Ministry of Water Resources and the Hon'ble Members of the Parliamentary Forum on Water Conservation and Management. Consultation meetings had also been held with academicians, experts and professionals; corporate representatives and NGOs. Now a series of consultation meetings with the

representatives of Panchayati Raj Institutions were being organized. The first consultation meeting with the representatives of Panchayati Raj Institutions from the States/UTs of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Lakshadweep, Puducherry and Tamil Nadu was held on 16th June, 2011 at Hyderabad. Further, such meetings are proposed to be held at Jaipur, Bhubaneswar and Pune.

Shri P.S. Lyngdoh, Chief Engineer, Water Resources Department, Government of Meghalaya thanked Ministry of Water Resources, Government of India for choosing Shillong as the venue for the consultation meeting for most pertinent issue of National Water Policy. Giving background about water resources in the State of Meghalaya, he highlighted major initiatives taken by the Meghalaya State for optimum development of water resources. He, however, regretted less participation by the elected representatives of Panchayati Raj Institutions from the State of Meghalaya.

Initiating the discussion, Shri M.K. Sinha, Senior Joint Commissioner (PP), Ministry of Water Resources made a brief presentation on the salient features of National Water Policy 2002 and issues of concern in the water resources sector. This was followed by expression of viewpoints by the elected representatives of Panchayati Raj Institutions, which have been summarized, State/UT-wise as under :

Meghalaya

- ❖ Water is abundant in the State of Meghalaya in terms of annual precipitation but, due to its seasonal characteristics, there is shortage of water for drinking and irrigation purposes.
- ❖ There is an urgent need to conserve monsoon precipitation through rainwater harvesting and community ponds (*Jal Kunds*).
- ❖ Awareness programme about water conservation should be carried out in a massive scale particularly amongst children.
- ❖ Deforestation through mining and *Jhum* cultivation should be stopped and massive programme for afforestation should be launched.

- ❖ Check Dams to retain water should be constructed, wherever feasible
- ❖ Watershed Development programme to control soil erosion is necessary.
- ❖ Local bodies must be associated in various programmes of Central/State Government regarding water conservation, afforestation, watershed development, etc. Bottom up approach would be more successful for optimum development and management of water resources.
- ❖ Local bodies may be entrusted with the task of conservation of forest land.
- ❖ Ground water recharge should be promoted.

Manipur

- ❖ People are not aware of Water Resources Department and its activities. They are not aware about any scheme for water conservation, repair, renovation and restoration of water bodies, etc.
- ❖ Manipur comprises of two distinct geographical areas, namely, hill area and valley area. Hill area has no water for Rabi season due to non-conservation of rainwater during monsoon season. Valley area requires better flood management through flood plain zoning, etc.
- ❖ There should be a big dam to store monsoon water for drinking and irrigation uses throughout the year.
- ❖ Ongoing projects should be expeditiously completed.

Assam

- ❖ Assam faces chronic problem of flood inundation and river bank erosion, but no real work has been carried out to mitigate these problems on sustainable basis.
- ❖ Panchayats and local bodies are not getting associated with developmental activities as a result effective benefits to the people are not forthcoming.

- ❖ Massive citizen awareness programmes about water conservation, afforestation and sanitation should be initiated.
- ❖ Project monitoring should be made more effective to ensure benefit to the people.
- ❖ Agriculture land in Assam is fertile capable of cropping 3 times a year, but due to lack of irrigation, cropping could be done only once in a year and that too with low yield.

Tripura

No elected representative of Panchayati Raj Institution participated in the consultation meeting. However, CE, WRD, Tripura submitted the following through videoconferencing;

- ❖ Tripura has huge availability of water but, due to lack of storage projects, drinking water and irrigation remain problem in the non-monsoon season.
- ❖ The ceiling for funding under Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) scheme should be revised to at least Rs. 3 lakh per hectare considering higher cost involved in development of irrigation potential in North Eastern States.
- ❖ Groundwater development is only 10% in Tripura and proper scheme should be launched for optimum development of groundwater resources.
- ❖ Water at the field channel level should be supplied through pipes to control water borne diseases.
- ❖ There should be provision for funding for project preparation also.
- ❖ Micro irrigation should be encouraged to ensure efficient use of water.
- ❖ There should be adequate funding to meeting O&M cost of water resources projects.

Mizoram

Mizoram was observing a State Holiday on the occasion of signing of peace accord, as such no representative from Mizoram participated.

Arunachal Pradesh

Due to observance of Bandh in Arunachal Pradesh, no elected representative of Panchayati Raj Institution participated.

Nagaland

Due to observance of Bandh in Arunachal Pradesh, no elected representative of Panchayati Raj Institution participated.

Sikkim

No elected representative of Panchayati Raj Institution participated in the consultation meeting. However, SE, WRD, Sikkim proposed inclusion of storage tanks in MI Schemes and highlighted the need for preservation of water bodies and conservation of water.

Summing up the discussion, Shri G. Mohan Kumar, Additional Secretary (Water Resources) stated that lack of funding / involvement of Panchayati Raj Institutions had been highlighted by the elected representatives. North-Eastern States present a paradoxical situation since the region gets heavy rainfall but, due to lack of conservation there are problems of water supply for drinking/irrigation uses. He appreciated the concerns expressed by the representatives and their support for conservation of water and afforestation. He requested the representatives of Panchayati Raj Institutions to make full use of various schemes for financial assistance, namely, Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme; Repair, Renovation and Restoration of Water Bodies; Command Area Development & Water Management; Flood Control, etc. He emphasized that there should be a master plan for water resources development for each sub-basin/basin to ensure integrated

development of water resources. There is ample scope of development of ground water in the region, since present utilization is on a lower side, but its sustainability in the long term should be considered.

At the end, Shri M.K. Sinha, Senior Joint Commissioner (PP), Ministry of Water Resources presented a vote of thanks to elected representatives of Panchayati Raj Institutions who participated in the discussion by attending the meeting at Shillong and/or through video conferencing. He also thanked Shri G. Mohan Kumar, Additional Secretary (Water Resources); Shri C.K. Agarwal, Chief Engineer (Brahmaputra & Barak Basin Organization), Central Water Commission; Shri P.S. Lyngdoh, Chief Engineer, Water Resources Development, Government of Meghalaya;, North Eastern Hill University, Shillong; NIC for making necessary arrangements for video conferencing, etc. He thanked the participants for their valuable feedback, which would be brought before the Drafting Committee for National Water Policy for due consideration.

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**SECOND CONSULTATION MEETING WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF
PANCHAYATI RAJ INSTITUTIONS FOR REVIEW OF NATIONAL WATER
POLICY HELD ON 30TH JUNE, 2011 AT NORTH EASTERN HILL
UNIVERSITY, SHILLONG**

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Sl. No.	Name	Address
1.	Shri G. Mohan Kumar	Additional Secretary (Water Resources), Ministry of Water Resources, New Delhi - in Chair
2.	Shri C.K. Agarwal	Chief Engineer, Brahmaputra & Barak Basin Organization, Central Water Commission, Shillong
3.	Shri M.K. Sinha	Sr. Joint Commissioner (PP), Ministry of Water Resources
4.	Shri P.S. Lyngdoh	Chief Engineer, Water Resources Department, Government of Meghalaya
5.	Shri H. Prasad	Chief Engineer, PHE, Meghalaya
6.	Shri M. Allya	Chairman, Meghalaya State Pollution Control Board, Shillong
7.	Shri A.S. Kharlyikho	Govt. Office, Polo, HCV, Shillong
8.	Smt. V.R. Syuin	Project Director, DRDA, Lower Lachumiere, Shillong
9.	Smt. D. Syji	Asstt. Project Officer, DRDA, Lower Lachumiere, Shillong
10.	Shri T.N. Singh	Water Resources, Cleare Colony, Shillong
11.	Shri D. Bohman	NESAC, Umiam
12.	Smt. I. Hooroo	Addl. Chief Engineer, PHE, Meghalaya
13.	Shri D.S. Lyngdoh,	Distt. Agriculture Officer, E.K. Hills
14.	Shri P. Lyngwa	Addl. Chief Engineer, WR Department, Meghalaya
15.	Smt. I. Taniang	Distt. Social Welfare Officer, Lower Lachumiere, Shillong
16.	Shri P. Pakma	Dy. Chief Engineer, WR Department, Meghalaya
17.	Shri WMM Law	Supdt. Engineer, WR Department, Meghalaya
18.	Shri W.L. Narry	Sub-Divisional Officer, Meghalaya
19.	Shri L. Nongbet	SMB, Meghalaya
20.	Shri W.M. Lyngdoh	SMB, Meghalaya
21.	Shri S. Khongwn	SMB, Meghalaya
22.	Shri T. Saiborne	CEO, H.H.A.D.C. Lumdienpni
23.	Shri U.Gogoi	Supdt. Hydrogeologist, CGWB, Shillong
24.	Shri A. Bhatia	Scientist, CGWB, Shillong
25.	Shri V. Kezo	Supdt. Hydrogeologist, CGWB, Shillong
26.	Shri A. Lyngdoh, IFS	Forest & Environment Deptt., Meghalaya
27.	Shri C.K. Kharkoagar	DHO (Horticulture, Shillong, E/Khasi Hills
28.	Shri J.E. Massar	Dy. Director, C&RD, Meghalaya, Shillong
29.	Sr. R. Pyrngap	C/o. E.E. (PHE), GSWS Divn. No.1, Shillong
30.	Dr. H.J. Syiemlieh	Deptt. of Geography, NEHU

31.	Smt. Pushpa Harwuan	Meghacaya
32.	Shri Shaidornell Swez	Lumiyngngap, Shillong
33.	Shri O. Pamshup	EM, KHADC, Meghalaya
34.	Shri Aatur Rehman	Adhyaksha, Thubal Zila Parishad, Manipur
35.	Shri S. Subhash Chandra Singh	Adhyaksha, Imphal West Zila Parishad, Manipur
36.	Smt. T. Hemabati Devi	Adhyaksha, Bishnupur Moirang, Manipur
37.	Shri P. Bimbhari	Adhyaksha, Achambiyei, Manipur
38.	Shri B. Nagusa	DGM, NPCC Ltd., Shillong
39.	Shri N.K. Tyal	Manager, NPCC Ltd., Shillong
40.	Shri W.S. Basaiawmoty	Addl. Chief Engineer (WR), WR Department, Meghalaya
41.	Shri Shahab Ali Khan	Kamrup Zila Parishad, Panbazar-1, Assam
42.	Shri Dayal Das	Kamrup, Guwahati-1, Assam
43.	Shri Umesh Choudhury	Kamrup, Guwahati-1, Assam
44.	Shri B.K. Tiwari	Professor & HOD, Deptt. Of Environmental. Studies, NEHU, Shillong
45.	Shri K.D. Phawa	Supdt. Engineer, WR Deptt. Shillong
46.	Shri D. Langstich	Director, Soil & Water Conservation, Meghalaya
47.	Shri W. Rymbai	Jt. Director, Soil & Water Conservation, Meghalaya
48.	Shri V. Lyngdoh	Asstt. Project Coordinator, State Council of Science, Technology & Environment, Shillong
49.	Shri P. Hyrniewta	State Council of Science, Technology & Environment, Shillong
50.	Shri M.M. Saajku	Dte. of Water Resources, Shillong
51.	Smt. P. Syngkon	Asstt. Engineer, WR Department, Meghalaya
52.	Balarina Hynmiewta	Asstt. Engineer, WR Department, Meghalaya
53.	Manav Dey	Press, Eastern Panorama & North East News
54.	Ms. Pyushisha	Press
55.	Shri R.K. Sarmoh	Brahmaputra Board
56.	Shri Anup Mahuntu	Chief Engineer, McBCL
57.	Shri B. Wahlong	Supdt. Engineer, McBCL