



Government of West Bengal
Irrigation & Waterways Department
Jalasampad Bhavan, 3rd Floor, Western Block
Bidhannagar, Salt Lake City, Kolkata 700 091
Ph-(033)23212706, email- biplab_mukherjee05yahoo.co.in

Memo. No. 305-I
I-4M-01/2016

Dated: 19.09.2022

From: **Biplab Mukhopadhyay**
Joint Secretary (Works) to the
Govt. of West Bengal

To: **The Special Secretary**
Home and Hills Affairs Department,
Government of West Bengal,
Co-Ordination Branch, Nabanna, 4th Floor, Room No.-410
325, Sarat Chatterjee Road, Howrah-711102.
Email – homecoordinationwb@gmail.com

Sub :- Additional inputs from Irrigation & Waterways Department, Govt. of West Bengal on 4 agenda points in respect of the decisions of the 12th meeting of the Standing Committee of the Eastern Zonal Council, held at Kolkata on 26.04.2022.

Ref. :- Memo No. – 547-Home (Cons.)/RIM (Cons.)-70/2021(Part-III) dated 05.08.22.

Sir,

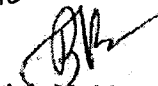
With reference to the above, I am directed to send herewith the updated status report on 4 (four) agenda points, pertaining to this Department, as separate enclosure.


Encl. :- as stated.

Memo No: - 1225(3)-CICW/100-01/17(PB) Dt 22.9.22 Yours faithfully,

Copy forwarded for information & n.a. to -

- ① The SE/DIC
- ② The EE/DHWD
- ③ The EE/DVC study cell.


(Biplab Mukhopadhyay)
Joint Secretary (Works)
Irrigation & Waterways Department
Govt. of West Bengal


Executive Engineer & T.A. to
Chief Engineer (West), I&W Dte.
Govt. of West Bengal
Kanainatsal, P.O.-Sripally
Dist.-Purba Bardhaman, 713103

Memo. No. 305(3)/1-I
I-4M-01/2016

Dated: 19.09.2022

Copy with copy of enclosure forwarded for information to :-

1. **The Chief Engineer (West),**
Kanainatshai, P.O.- Sreepally, P.S.-Bardhaman Sadar,
Dist. Purba Bardhaman,
Pin-713103
2. **The Chief Engineer (North),**
Green Park, Malda, Mokdumpur, P.S.- English Bazar,
Dist.- Malda, Pin- 732103.
3. **The Chief Engineer (Teesta Barrage Project),**
Teesta Sech Bhawan,
2nd Mile, Sevoke Road, Siliguri,
Dist. – Darjeeling, Pin - 734001

Encl. :- As stated.

Sdt

(Biplab Mukhopadhyay)
Joint Secretary (Works)
Irrigation & Waterways Department
Govt. of West Bengal

Updated Status Report on four issues , raised and discussed during 25th meeting of the Standing Committee of the Eastern Zonal Council at Kolkata on 26.04.2022 , pertaining to Irrigation & Waterways Department, Govt. of West Bengal.

(Ref:- Memo No.-624 dated 31.08.2022 of Home and Hill Affairs Department)

Agenda 1 : Issue of Mayurakshi Dam (Sponsored by Govt. of Jharkhand) :-

- During the Rabi-Boro season of 2021-22, 23874 acre-feet of water was released to Jharkhand for Irrigation which is more than 1/24th of the storage available in the dam after the monsoon of 2021. So the commitment to Jharkhand, as per the Water Treaty of 1978 was fulfilled.
- The unified control of Mayurakshi dam may be agreed upon if the Government of Jharkhand agrees to include Tenughat dam under the unified control of other DVC dams in Jharkhand through DVRRC. In that case the unified control of Mayurakshi dam may be regulated by an organization like Damodar Valley Reservoir Regulation Committee (DVRRC) having representation from Governments of West Bengal and Jharkhand and Central Water Commission.
- So far, no correspondence has been received from the Central Water Commission, Government of India for convening a joint meeting with the States of West Bnegal and Jharkhand to address the issue relating to joint control of Massanjore dam and issue relating to Tenughat and Belpahari dam as decided in the 12th meeting of the standing committee of the EZC on 26.04.2022.

Agenda 4 : Cost sharing of Phulhari Barrage between Bihar and West Bengal on Upper Mahananda Water Scheme (Sponsored by Government of Bihar) :-

- Additional information, as sought by Central Water Commission containing 10 daily discharge data form Mahananda Barrage (July 1997 to December 2020), 10 daily discharge data through Teesta Mahananda Main Canal (January'2016 to December'2020) and Rainfall data at Siliguri Town (1997 to 2020), have been provided to Central Water Commission on 17.08.2022.

Agenda 73 : Non release of funds to the State as a sequel to signing of treaty on Farakka Barrage and inclusion of State Government in the Farakka Barrage Authority. (Sponsored by State Government of West Bengal) :-

Major two issues are related to release of water, downstream of Farakka Barrage following Water Treaty of 1996:-

A1. Erosion along the banks of river Ganga-Padma in West Bengal :-

- The Hon'ble Chief Minister wrote a letter to the Hon'ble Prime Minister on 21.02.2022 to reconsider the decision of Central Government, taken in July, 2017 on withdrawal of the extended jurisdiction of Farakka Barrage Project Authority.
- In response, a D.O. letter dated 28.07.2022 has been received from the Hon'ble Minister-in-Charge of Ministry of Jal Shakti, Govt of India. It has been stated therein that the responsibility of the Farakka Barrage Project Authority, in terms of taking up anti erosion works along the Ganga, is restricted only to 19.4 km which aims at ensuring the safety of the barrage only. Moreover, it is also stated that the responsibility of taking up anti erosion works along the Ganga, within its stretch in West Bengal of length 163.50 km, rests on the State Government for which Central Assistance under FMBAP is available.
- It may not be appropriate for Farakka Barrage Project Authority to confine their activity with regard to taking up anti erosion works within a stretch of about five times of barrage length in downstream (12.5 Kilometer in the upstream and 6.9 Kilometer in the downstream of Farakka Barrage). As for example, for the proposed barrage construction by Bangladesh across the river Ganga at about 80 Kilometer downstream of India-Bangladesh border, anticipated erosion at the aforesaid entire stretch of 80 Kilometer has been proposed for adequate examination by the India-Bangladesh Joint Technical Committee. Both the existing and proposed barrages are on the river Ganga and almost have similar river morphology.

- Moreover, even in their original jurisdiction, Farakka Barrage Project Authority, has only executed some palliative restoration works at Birnagar-I Gram Panchayat of Kaliachak-III block in Malda district, during the monsoon of 2022, although the urgency and importance of taking up permanent bank protection works at the aforesaid stretch and also at Porapara of Farakka block of Murshidabad district in the downstream of the barrage, for a total length of 3.5 Kilometer, were deliberated during a joint meeting with the officials of Farakka Barrage Project Authority (FBPA), Government of Bihar and Ganga Flood Control Commission on 05.05.2022.
- Apart from completing bank protection works at 31 identified vulnerable stretches during the period from 2017-2021 at a cost of Rs. 168.47 Crore, the State Government has also taken up further such works at 14 Kilometer at a total cost of Rs. 80.14 Crore during last one year.
- But taking up such anti erosion works, on piecemeal basis will not suffice the ground requirement. A comprehensive approach is to be taken up through scientific study. The Water Resources Department of Bihar also needs to join in this endeavor since proper planning for a sustainable solution on erosion protection at a stretch of 15 km near Bengal-Bihar border is to be executed jointly by Bihar, West Bengal, FBPA under the guidance of Ganga Flood Control Commission (GFCC).
- During a joint meeting with the officials of Farakka Barrage Project Authority (FBPA), Government of Bihar on 05.05.2022 at Malda, the contours of Project Planning, including survey, model analysis, design, DPR preparation, has been prepared. The survey and other studies have been commenced accordingly.
- Since, the jurisdiction of Farakka Barrage Authority had been extended in January'2005 to 120 Kilometer (40 Kilometer in the upstream and 80 Kilometer in the downstream of the barrage) instead of 19.4 Kilometer (12.5 Kilometer in the upstream and 6.9 kilometer in the downstream of the barrage) and it remained valid till July'2017, the State Government could not submit any scheme for anti erosion works of Ganga river and repeatedly urged the Central

Government to direct Farakka Barrage Project Authority to plan and implement required anti-erosion works at the above stated 120 Kilometer river stretch. In absence of any defined guideline, strategy and funding pattern of FMBAP there has been hardly any scope to include any new flood management project, like Ganga-Padma Erosion protection work, under the funding of FMBAP.

- However, a Detailed Project Report for taking up anti erosion works at critical locations in the entire stretch of 163 km in West Bengal, is under preparation and would be submitted to Govt. of India in due course for appraisal and inclusion for funding under FMBAP since such works are capital intensive and cannot be executed out of the limited resources of the State Government.
- The contentious issue of siltation on the Ganga bed due to Farakka Barrage construction, particularly at the upstream of the barrage, leading to spilling, bank erosion and flooding at the adjacent areas, has been raised at national level, not only by West Bengal but also by the other Stakeholder State, Bihar. Conduct of a joint study supported by suitable model analysis by Farakka Barrage Project Authority, the Governments of West Bengal and Bihar, under the aegis of Ganga Flood Control Commission, is the need of the hour to figure out a sustainable solution for abatement of erosion and flooding at the upstream of the barrage, particularly at the 15 Kilometer stretch of the Ganga near Bengal-Bihar border. The severity of the erosion can be better understood from the fact that the distance between two banks of rivers the Ganga and the Fulhar at Billaimari village of Manikchak block in Malda district has been reduced to only 1.5 Kilometer now, which was 4.0 Kilometer in 2004, posing a serious threat to the people of adjoining villages and the safety of the NH 131A, an important road connectivity between West Bengal and Bihar.

A2. Erosion along the banks of river Bhagirathi/Hooghly in West Bengal :-

- A Report of the Joint Committee, constituted by the Chief Secretary, West Bengal in May, 2018 between I&WD, IWAI and KoPT, containing identification of 100.35 KM of vulnerable stretches along river Bhagirathi-Hooghly, requiring anti erosion work of Rs. 793.93 Crore, was sent to the Ministry of Shipping,

01.02.2019 with request to provide fund to IWAI and KoPT under J.M.V.P (Jal Marg Vikash Project).

- But Ministry of Shipping, Government of India informed in December, 2019 that no funding could be provide either to IWAI or KoPT for taking up aforesaid anti-erosion works.
- It is suggested that adequate fund may be provided under Sagarmala Project to take up required anti-erosion works not only at the recently identified 3 (three) spots in Nadia but also at other identified spots, envisaged in the report of the Joint Committee.

Agenda 74 : Problem of Siltation in DVC reservoirs and their operation
(Sponsored by State Government of West Bengal) :-

(a) Reduction in storage capacity of the dams :-

No further information, in this regard, has been received from Ministry of Jal Shakti, Govt of India.

(b) Bringing Tenughat Dam under the unified control with other DVC dams in Jharkhand through DVRRC (Damodar Valley Reservoir Regulation Committee) :-

No further response has been received, either from Ministry of Jal Shakti, Govt of India or from Government of Jharkhand agreeing to unified control of all the DVC dams including Tenughat dam, construction of Balpahari dam and construction of a dam on river Khudia. However, it is learnt from DVC during the flood preparedness meeting on 28.04.2022 at Kolkata and also during the Sub-Committee meeting of DVRRC on 05.05.2022, that confirmation from Government of Jharkhand in this regard is still awaited.

(c) Emergent operation of Maithon and Panchet Dam, during heavy rainfall, beyond the provisions of established guide curves :-

The release from Maithon, Panchet and other DVC dams in Jharkhand is decided by DVRRC following the established guide curves of Regulation Manual of Central Water Commission for Damodar Valley Dams. However,

there is a need to evacuate the dams beyond guide curve especially during cyclonic depression. This will create adequate space to absorb future excessive precipitation. On request of the State Government, a Working Group under DVRRC, with members from DVC, DVRRC, Government of West Bengal and Jharkhand, has been constituted by DVRRC on 05.05.2022 to analyse this issue.

However, the working group deliberations have remained inconclusive. There is an urgent need to address this issue.