

**SUMMARY RECORD OF DISCUSSIONS IN THE CONSULTATION MEETING
WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF PANCHAYATI RAJ INSTITUTIONS ON REVIEW
OF NATIONAL WATER POLICY HELD ON 14TH JULY, 2011 AT JAIPUR**

The third 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 State for Water Resources Shri Vincent H. Pala on 14th July, 2011 at Rajasthan Institute of Public Administration, Jaipur in the presence of Rajasthan Minister of Water resources, Public Health Engineering, Ground Water Shri Mahipal Maderna. Shri G. Mohan Kumar, Additional Secretary (Water Resources), Shri Ram Lubhaya, Additional Chief Secretary, Govt. of Rajasthan, Shri Damodar Sharma, Chairman, Indira Gandhi Nahar Priyojana Board and other senior Officers from Central / State Government were also present during the consultation meeting. 49 Representatives of Panchayati Raj Institutions from the UT/ States of Chandigarh, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Punjab, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh accompanied by their nodal Officers participated in the consultation meeting. List of Officers and Representatives of Panchayati Raj Institutions who participated in the consultation meeting is at Annexure-I.

The consultation meeting started with welcome address by Shri S.C. Mittal, Director, Irrigation Management and Training Institute, Kota, Rajasthan. He thanked Ministry of Water Resources, Govt. of India for choosing Jaipur, Rajasthan as the venue for the consultation meeting with the Representatives of Panchayati Raj Institutions from the Northern States/UT of Chandigarh, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Punjab, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh 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. After consultation meetings with parliamentarians; academicians, experts and professionals; corporate representatives and NGOs, a series of consultation meeting with the representatives of Panchayati Raj Institutions is being undertaken starting with first meeting for Southern States on 16th June, 2011 at Hyderabad, second meeting for North Eastern States on 30th June, 2011 at Shillong and on 14th July, 2011, the third meeting for Northern States at Jaipur. Other such meetings are proposed at Pune for Western States and at Bhubaneswar for Eastern States.

Highlighting the water crisis situation and efforts made towards water conservation, including formulation of State Water Policy in 2010 on the principle of Integrated Water Resources Management, Rajasthan Minister of Water resources, Public Health Engineering, Ground Water Shri Mahipal Maderna requested for grant of special status to Rajasthan. He assured that Rajasthan would faithfully implement the Centrally Sponsored Schemes in water resources sector.

Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Water Resources Shri Vincent H. Pala welcomed the Representatives of Panchayati Raj Institutions from the States/UT of Chandigarh, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Punjab, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh 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 help in 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.

Highlighting the problems of water scarcity, pollution, encroachment / diversion of water bodies and poor maintenance of irrigation facilities, the representatives of Panchayati Raj Institutions suggested declaration of water as national resource, stronger role of Center for inter-State co-ordination, mass awareness campaigns, and proper water pricing to ensure its efficient use and proper funding for operation and maintenance. They stressed that water conservation and water saving were everybody's duty. The views of the representatives of Panchayati Raj Institutions have been summarized State/UT wise as under;

CHANDIGARH

1. Water bodies are either being diverted for other uses or being encroached. These need to be protected against diversion / encroachment and should be properly maintained by desilting and by other measures at periodic intervals. O&M funds should be adequately made available.
2. Rainwater harvesting should be made compulsory before getting permission for house construction.
3. There should be strict regulation for preventing excessive and unscientific exploitation of ground water.

Haryana

1. Water is life and essential for survival and growth. Therefore, it should be declared as a national resource.
2. Water pollution must be checked.
3. Mass scale campaign for water conservation should be undertaken. Water conservation should be everybody's responsibility.

4. Women must be sensitized in a greater manner as they have greater role in promoting and ensuring water conservation.
5. Over-exploitation of ground water must be checked.
6. Inter State water disputes should be resolved in a equitable manner in national perspectives.
7. Water supply should be metered and charged appropriately to inculcate a sense of water conservation.
8. Panchayat should be empowered and provided adequate funds for conservation and management of water bodies.

Himachal Pradesh

1. Water should be declared a national asset.
2. Drinking water should get top most priority. For other uses, the priority should be based on regional needs.
3. Electrical supply for pumping should be regulated to check excessive and unscientific exploitation of ground water.
4. Micro-irrigation should be encouraged for efficient use of water.
5. MNREGA scheme should promote rain water harvesting and water conservation.
6. Everybody should contribute towards conservation of water.
7. Comprehensive catchment area treatment and watershed management should be undertaken to control silt erosion.
8. Check dam should be constructed wherever feasible.
9. Panchayats should be empowered and given the responsibility of O&M of water bodies.

Jammu & Kashmir

1. There is paucity of funds in State Irrigation Department for proper maintenance of irrigation infrastructure.
2. Present system of budget allocation in the fag end of the financial year, i.e., March, affects work quality adversely. This practice should be changed.

3. International Treaty like Indus Water Treaty should be reviewed to cater needs of our people.
4. Check dams should be constructed for conservation of water.
5. Small drops add up to ocean. Therefore, even small conservation should be encouraged.
6. Earlier different water bodies were for different uses, viz., drinking, laundry, animals, etc. Now these water bodies are getting covered and used for building purposes. These should be checked.
7. Panchayats and local bodies should be empowered to control and regulate water bodies.

Punjab

1. Punjab is land of rivers but due to poor water management, there are problems of excessive ground water depletion, increase in soil salinity, etc.
2. Canals are not being maintained properly causing tremendous loss of water. For example, Gang canal faces huge water loss due to faulty non return valves.
3. There should be greater inter-State co-ordination for optimum development of water resources.
4. Water should be declared a National asset and managed through a Central Agency.
5. There should be no free water or free electricity. Water and electricity must be appropriately priced to make people realize its importance else people waste water.
6. Surplus water must be given to water scarce areas. This would solve both flood and drought situation to some extent.
7. Water storage must be encouraged for conservation of flood water.
8. Water sanitation projects should be launched in a massive scale.

Rajasthan

1. Inter State water disputes are impediments in optimum development of water resources. Centre must amicably resolve inter State water disputes.

2. Water recycling should be encouraged to reduce demand for fresh water.
3. There is a wide temporal and spatial variation in water availability. Efforts should be made to ensure equity in availability of water.
4. Pumping of ground water should be strictly regulated for irrigation through restricting three phase power supply.
5. Water saving techniques like sprinkler and drip irrigation should be made mandatory.
6. Arsenic and fluoride contamination of ground water should be addressed scientifically.

Uttar Pradesh

1. Use of micro-irrigation like sprinkler and drip irrigation should be encouraged for conservation and efficient use of water.
2. National river linking project should be implemented to divert surplus water to deficit areas.
3. Canals must be maintained properly and for this adequate funds should be made available.
4. Water bodies must be preserved through regular cleaning and tanks should be lined to reduce seepage.
5. Rain water harvesting and ground water recharge should be promoted on a mass scale.
6. Ground water depletion should be checked immediately.
7. Recycling and reuse of water should be promoted particularly in urban areas. Desalination should be resorted to convert saline water into portable water.
8. There should be strict regulation to control water pollution. No effluent or waste water should be allowed to be discharged into river without proper treatment. Pollution Control Department should monitor it on weekly basis.
9. Panchayats should be empowered and given adequate funds for proper conservation and management of water bodies.

Summarizing the deliberations, Sr. Jt. Commissioner (PP) stated that the delegates have highlighted very important issues of inter-State coordination, water conservation / management, proper maintenance of canals / water bodies, ground

water depletion, wastage of water due to concept of free water / electricity and environmental pollutions, which are very important as these affect the people directly. Efforts would be made so that policy directives in the National Water Policy should be in such a manner to address these issues so that people at large get benefited.

At the end, Sr. Jt. Commissioner (PP) expressed sincere gratitude to Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Water Resources Shri Vincent H. Pala for all the support and guidance provided to the Ministry of Water Resources in undertaking such an important exercise of review of National Water Policy. He also thanked Rajasthan Minister of Water resources, Public Health Engineering, Ground Water Shri Mahipal Maderna for taking time out of his busy schedule and gracing the occasion. He thanked Shri G. Mohan Kumar, Additional Secretary (Water Resources) for providing constant support and guidance in the entire exercise of consultation process and evolution of National Water Policy. He also expressed his gratitude to the representatives of Panchayati Raj Institutions, who came all the way from their respective States and participated in the consultation meeting making this consultation exercise very useful. He also thanked Shri Ram Lubhaya, Additional Chief Secretary, Govt. of Rajasthan, Shri Damodar Sharma, Chairman, Indira Gandhi Nahar Priyojana Board and other senior Officers from Govt. of Rajasthan and IMTI for facilitating this consultation meeting, Shri Manoj Kumar Sinha, Chief Engineer (YBO), CWC and Shri Vinay Kumar, Chief Engineer (IBO), CWC and his team of Officers for proper liaisoning with the State Governments, Rajasthan Institute of public Administration for making the infrastructure available and media for proper coverage of the event.

Government of India
Ministry of Water Resources

**THE CONSULTATION MEETING WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF
PANCHAYATI RAJ INSTITUTIONS ON REVIEW OF NATIONAL WATER POLICY
HELD ON 14TH JULY, 2011 AT JAIPUR**

List of the Participants

Government of India

1. Shri Vincent H. Pala, Union Minister of State for Water Resources
2. Shri G. Mohan Kumar, Additional Secretary (Water Resources)
3. Shri Manoj Kr. Sinha, Chief Engineer (YBO), Central Water Commission
4. Shri Mukesh Kr. Sinha, Sr. Jt. Commissioner (PP), M/o Water Resources
5. Shri H.K. Meena, Director (M&A), YBO, CWC, Jaipur
6. Shri N.K. Manglik, Superintending Engineer, CWC, Noida
7. Shri Ramesh Kumar, Executive Engineer, CWC, Jaipur
8. Dr. S.K. Gupta, Scientist, CGWB, Jaipur

Government of Rajasthan

1. Shri Ram Lubhaya, Addl. Chief Secretary (WR, PHE & GW)
2. Shri Damodar Sharma, Chairman, Indira Gandhi Nahar Priyojana Board
3. Shri Kundan Lal, Chief Engineer & Addl. Secretary (WR)
4. Shri G.R. Bhansali, Chief Engineer (SWRPD)
5. Shri Ram Raj Meena, Chief Engineer, PHED
6. Shri Virdhi Chand, Chief Engineer, WRD
7. Shri N.R. Rai, Chief Engineer, NCP, sanchoore
8. Shri S.C. Mittal, ACE & Director, IMTI, Kota

Representatives of Panchayati Raj Institutions

UT: Chandigarh

1. Sh Dayal Singh, V.P, ZP Chandigarh
2. Sh Bhajan Singh, Chairman, ZP Chandigarh
3. Sh Dharnender Singh Member, ZP Chandigarh
4. Sh Mohinder Singh, Sarpanch, ZP Bahelana, Chandigarh
5. Sh Laxman Singh, Sarpanch, Raipur Kheda Chandigarh
6. Sh S.L.Nautiyal, Panchyat Officer, Chandigarh

State: Haryana

7. Sh. Hosiar Singh, Chairman, PS Gurgaon, Haryana
8. Sh. Charan Singh, Sarpanch, Gurgaon, Haryana
9. Sh. Suresh, Block Samiti Member, Gurgaon, Haryana
10. Sh. Ram Niwash, Sarpanch, Gurgaon, Haryana
11. Sh. Raj Kumar Chouhan, Jila Parishad Member, Gurgaon, Haryana
12. Smt Veena Seghal, Instructress, Rg State Inst, Karnal, Haryana
13. Sh. Beg Raj, Sarpanch, Navada, Faridabad, Haryana

14. Sh Pushpender, Sarpanch, Kadyan, Haryana
15. Sh Mahender Singh, Chairman Block Samiti, Faridabad, Haryana
16. Sh Azad Singh, Member Zila Parishad, Faridabad, Haryana
17. Sh Jagdish Goyal, OS, Adm, Ballabgarh, Haryana
18. Sh Mukesh Bhati, ZP Staff, Faridabad, Haryana
19. Smt Yogita Bhati, Chairman, ZP, Faridabad, Haryana

State: Himachal Pradesh

20. Sh Vinod Kumar, MBDC, Mandi, HP
21. Sh Khazana Ram, Pradhan, Dist Mandi, HP
22. Sh Rakesh Kumar Billa, Chairman, BDC, Una, HP
23. Sh Bairagi Ram, Member, ZP, MandiHP
24. Sh Bhisham Thakur, Pradhan, Mandi, HP

State: Jammu & Kashmir

25. Sh Shaukat Ali, Sarpanch, Larkoti, Rajauri, J&K
26. Sh Samsheer Singh, Sarpanch, Sambha, J&K
27. Sh Bashir Ahmed, Sarpanch, Sambha, J&K
28. Sh Gurgeet Singh, PO, Doda, Jammu, J&K

State : Punjab

29. Sh Sunil Kumar, Sarpanch, Ropar, Punjab
30. Sh Harmnder Singh, Sarpanch, Rasalpur, Roop Nagar, Punjab
31. Sh Paras Ram Sharma, Nodal Officer, Punjab
32. Sh Kulwant Singh, Member ZP, Gurdaspur Punjab
33. Sh Prem Kumar, Chairman, ZP Ferozpur, Punjab
34. Sh Ratan Lal Member, PS, Fazalka, Ferozpur Punjab
35. Sh Swinder Singh, Sarpanch, Rampura, Ferozpur, Punjab
36. Sh Ratan Nath, Member, GP, Kheda, Ferozpur, Punjab

State: Rajasthan

37. Sh Virender Singh Loda, Pradhan, PS Kaishev Rai, Patan, Rajasthan
38. Sh Jagdish Choudhary, Pradhan Deoli, Rajasthan
39. Sh Vishu Pal Arya, Pradhan PS, Nohar, Rajasthan
40. Sh Ami Lal, ZP, Hanumangarh, Rajasthan
41. Sh Kishan Gaur, Director, Bagru, Jaipur, Rajasthan

State: Uttar Pradesh

42. Sh. Daulat Ram Kushwa, President, ZP, Agra, UP
43. Smt Sunita Yadav, Block Pramukh, Agra, UP
44. Sh Dev Dat Sharma, Pradhan, Daurala, Meerut, UP
45. Sh Srinivas Vintheria, Agra, UP
46. Sh Jakash Pradhan, Kankarkheda, Meerut, UP
47. Sh Maninder Pal Singh, Chairman, Dist Board, Meerut, UP
48. Sh Vishwa RajMember, Dist Board, Meerut, UP