

**SUMMARY RECORD OF DISCUSSIONS IN THE CONSULTATION
MEETING WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF PANCHAYATI RAJ
INSTITUTIONS ON REVIEW OF NATIONAL WATER POLICY HELD ON
2nd NOVEMBER, 2011 AT NATIONAL WATER ACADEMY, PUNE**

The Consultation Meeting with the representatives of Panchayati Raj Institutions on review of the National Water Policy was held by the Hon^{ble} Union Minister of Parliamentary Affairs & Water Resources Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal on 2nd November, 2011 at National Water Academy, Pune. Hon^{ble} Union Minister of State for Water Resources & Minority Affairs Shri Vincent H. Pala, Shri G. Mohan Kumar, Additional Secretary (Water Resources), Shri Chetan Pandit, Chief Engineer, National Water Academy and other senior Officers from Central/State Government were also present during the consultation meeting. About 50 Representatives of Panchayati Raj Institutions from the States of Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Goa, Dadar & Nagar Haveli, Daman & Diu, 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, viz., Nagpur, Gandhinagar, Vadodara, Panaji, Bhopal, Indore, Gwalior, Jabalpur, Silvassa, Diu, etc..

The consultation meeting started with welcome address by Shri Chetan Pandit, Chief Engineer, National Water Academy. Giving the background, he informed that Ministry of Water Resources had initiated a comprehensive consultation process for review of National Water Policy so that all sections of the society could join hands in resolving complex issues of water management in the current scenario of water scarcity and impending dangers of climate change. Consultation meeting had 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 Honorable 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. Consultation meetings with the representatives of Panchayati Raj Institutions from Southern States were held on 16.06.2011 at Hyderabad, from North Eastern States on 30.06.2011 at Shillong, from Northern States at Jaipur on 14.07.2011 and from Western States on 02.11.11 at Pune.

Honorable Union Minister of State for Water Resources & Minority Affairs Shri Vincent H. Pala welcomed the Representatives of Panchayati Raj Institutions from the States of Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Goa, Dadar & Nagar Haveli, Daman & Diu to the consultation meeting on review of National Water Policy. He thanked the representatives for taking pains, including travelling through the night, to participate in this consultation process. He 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.

Addressing the participants, Honorable Union Minister of Parliamentary Affairs & Water Resources Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal stated that water was central to our living and livelihood, and therefore, review of National Water Policy was being carried out with full participation of all throughout the country. He, further, stated that greater realization was coming up due to increasing scarcity of water and economic value needed to be given to water. He appreciated the use of modern technology of video conferencing in this consultation meeting through which more representatives could participate in the consultation meeting. He stated that representatives of Panchayati Raj Institutions were closely associated with water resource management directly or indirectly and were more important in giving the feedback for

review of the National Water Policy. He requested the representatives to convey their valuable feedback briefly and to the point without any repetition to get the maximum feedback from the limited time.

Thereafter, the representatives of Panchayati Raj Institutions were called upon to express their views on the National Water Policy. A detailed interaction followed. The key observations of the participants are summarized as follows;

1. National/State Water Policies should have stipulation that safe and adequate drinking water should be ensured for all.
2. Water allocation policy should accord top priority to irrigation after drinking water.
3. Water conservation through small dams, check dams (KT Weirs), etc., should be encouraged. They create a cascade of water pool in the river, which is vital for recharge of groundwater and ecosystem.
4. Adequate drainage and sanitation facility should be provided and scheme like Nirmal Gram Yojna should be incentivized.
5. Recycle and reuse of water should be encouraged. Drainage water should be treated to specified standards for reuse as in case of Israel, Singapore, etc.
6. Public awareness campaign regarding water conservation, preservation and augmentation should be launched. Lack of public awareness results into wastage and inefficient use of water and creates a water stress situation even in areas having good rainfall.
7. Adequate measures should be taken to prevent and remedy salinity built up in soil and groundwater.
8. Pollution to water bodies must not be tolerated and polluters pay principle should be enforced strictly. Proper fencing around water bodies should be provided.

9. Water meters to ensure volumetric supply of water should be provided by the Government to ensure full compliance.
10. Tube wells for irrigation may be restricted particularly in over-exploited groundwater blocks.
11. High water intensive crops like sugarcane, should be banned. Quantity of water should be regulated in a manner to encourage sustainable cropping pattern.
12. Panchayats should be strengthened and given the responsibility of managing water resources in their respective regions. Necessary technical assistance should be provided to all Panchayats in this regard. Technical Officers should be posted in Zila Parishads to guide Panchayats.
13. The norms for providing assistance on the basis of irrigation development cost under AIBP/CAD&WM programmes should be upward revised to match with actual market costs.
14. Traditional water bodies should be revived through desilting, water conservation measures, etc.
15. Adequate funds for proper maintenance of irrigation infrastructure should be ensured. Some reserve funds should be earmarked for each projects. The contracts for execution of water projects should have in-built provision of proper maintenance for a longer period such as five to ten years as in the case of Pradhan Mantri Gramin Sadak Yojna.
16. Micro irrigation techniques like drip and sprinkler irrigation system should be incentivized.
17. Mining below sea level should be banned particularly in coastal areas as it causes salt water intrusion.
18. Mining pits should be used as groundwater recharge sites.
19. Water Users Associations (WUAs) should be strengthened and provided necessary resources for undertaking O&M. Part of water charges should be allowed to be retained by WUAs.

20. Concessional loans should be made available for construction of water tanks and recharge sites.
21. Roof top rainwater harvesting in public buildings and large residential complexes should be made mandatory.
22. Farmers should be incentivized to construct small ponds in their farms to conserve rain water in the field itself. MGNREGA should include provision of construction of even private ponds as it helps in water conservation and groundwater recharge.
23. Sewerage treatment should be incentivized. Central Assistance upto 90% should be given for sewerage treatment plants.
24. There should be periodic performance evaluation of schemes for water resources development & management.
25. Large storage projects should be constructed to even out temporal and spatial variability in availability of water. Where large storage project is not feasible, small tanks in large numbers should be constructed.
26. Water quality data should be in public domain so that people are aware of quality of water they use and mobilize support for prevention of pollution.
27. There should be no free water and/or electricity to convey economic sense to the people for efficient use of water and generate adequate revenue for proper O&M of water infrastructure.
28. Inter-linking of wells should be incentivized to ensure equitable access of water.

Summarizing the deliberations, Hon^{ble} Union Minister of Parliamentary Affairs & Water Resources stated that the representatives have highlighted the issue of potable drinking water and sanitation, sewerage treatment, deterioration in water quality, depletion of ground water level, illegal sand mining from river beds and suggested desilting, making mandatory construction of farm ponds, roof top rain water harvesting, maintenance of water infrastructure as part of contract, adequate

funding to local bodies, construction of check dams, proper water pricing, etc., which are very important from policy point of view. Efforts would be made to ensure that policy directives in the National Water Policy address these issues appropriately so that people at large get benefited. He apprised that the Govt. of India was having several scheme for water conservation, preservation and augmentation, and their success depended on active participation of people like the PRI representatives. Similarly, there was a need to regulate use of ground water through participatory process by local bodies. He also thanked representatives of Panchayati Raj Institutions, who participated in the consultation meeting through video conferencing.

The consultation meeting ended with Sr.Jt. Commissioner (PP), Ministry of Water Resources proposing a vote of thanks.

Government of India
Ministry of Water Resources

**THE CONSULTATION MEETING WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF
PANCHAYATI RAJ INSTITUTIONS ON REVIEW OF NATIONAL WATER POLICY
HELD ON 2nd NOVEMBER, 2011 AT NATIONAL WATER ACADEMY, PUNE**

List of the Participants

Government of India

1. Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal, Union Minister of Parliamentary Affairs & Water Resources
2. Shri Vincent H. Pala, Union Minister of State for Water Resources & Minority Affairs
3. Shri G. Mohan Kumar, Additional Secretary (Water Resources)
4. Shri Chetan Pandit, Chief Engineer, National Water Academy, Pune
5. Dr. I.D. Gupta, Director, Central Water & Power Research Station, Pune
6. Shri M.K. Sinha, Sr. Jt. Commissioner (PP), M/o Water Resources
7. Shri Sushil Kumar, Director, National Water Academy, Pune
8. Shri D S Chaskar, Director, National Water Academy, Pune
9. Shri R N Sankhua, Director, National Water Academy, Pune
10. Shri A.K.Srivastava, Director, National Water Academy, Pune
11. Shri Rajeev Singhal, Director, National Water Academy, Pune

Representatives of Panchayati Raj Institutions

1. Shri Popat Rao Pawar, Sarpanch, Hiware Bazar, Distt. Ahmednagar, Maharashtra
2. Shri Shahaji J. Kshirsagar, Sarpanch, Dhamner, Satara, Maharashtra
3. Shri Rajan P. Mahadik, Sarpanch Yelur, Dist. Sangli, Maharashtra
4. Shri Sarjasheo Shinde, Member, Zila Parishad, Tembhurni, Dist. Jalana, Maharashtra
5. Shri Santosh S. Badhe, Sarpanch, Kandali, Pune, Maharashtra
6. Shri Santaram S. Ghodge, Up-Sarpanch, Kandali, Maharashtra
7. Shri Santosh Gawade, Maharashtra
8. Shri Mallikarjun Mahadev, District Panchayat Sholapur, Maharashtra
9. Shri Sambhaji N. Holkar, Zila Parishad, Pune, Maharashtra
10. Shri Sundip Gawade, Maharashtra
11. Smt. Vanita Narayan Goel, Notey Vaduth, Satara, Maharashtra
12. Smt. Shalinitai Vikhe Patil, President, Ahmadnagar
13. Shri D.K. Aradhya, Gramin Pani, Department, Zila Parishad, Kolhapur, Maharashtra
14. Shri Sharada Shinde, Member, Zila Parisad, Pune
15. Shri Dhairsheel Manem, Vice President, Zila Parishad, Kolhapur, Maharashtra
16. Shri Maljit Singh Panwargarh, President, Zila Parisad, District Ashok Nagar, Madhya Pradesh
17. Shri Laxman Singh Yadav, Sarpanch, District Guna, Madhya Pradesh
18. Shri Vinod Sahu, Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh
19. Shri Prahlad Tyagi, Sarpanch, Sihore, Madhya Pradesh
20. Shri Om Prakash Yadav, Sarpanch, District Shajapur, M.P.
21. Shri Jitendra Jain, Chairman, Zila Parishad, Shivpuri, M.P.
22. Shri Manoj Singh Gautam, President, Panchayat, Dhar, M.P.
23. Shri Om Prakash Parsawariya, President, District Panchayat, Indore

24. Shri Sundarlal Sharma, Member, Zila Parishad, Shajapur
25. Shri Shivaji Ambadutt, Solapur, Maharashtra
26. Smt. Prema Devi Gurjar President, District Panchayat, Gwalior, M.P.
27. Shri Ramcharan, Former M.L.A. & President, Zila Parishad, Gwalior, M.P.
28. Shri Subhash Chandra Jalodiya, Secretary Gram Panchayat Pesuriya, Dewas, M.P.
29. Shri Devendra Singh, Tonk Kala, Distt. Dewas, M.P.
30. Shri Gopal Singh Kushwah, Sarpanch, Gram Panchayat Kanheriya, Distt. Dewas, M.P.
31. Shri Inder Singh Chowra, Sarpanch, Gram Panchayat Harnavda, Distt. Dewas, M.P.
32. Shri Dinesh Kumar Patidar, Sarpanch, Village Panchayat, District Ujjain, M.P.
33. Shri Ashish Parmar, Bhopal, M.P.
34. Shri Lalit Dahima Addl. Director, Panchayati Raj, Govt. of M.P., Bhopal, M.P.

In addition to the above, several Representatives of Panchayati Raj Institutions participated through video conferencing.