

Summary Record of Discussions of 15th Meeting of the Ganga Flood Control Board (GFCB) held at New Delhi on 25.5.2011

The Hon'ble Union Minister of Water Resources Shri Salman Khurshid chaired the 15th meeting of Ganga Flood Control Board (GFCB) held at New Delhi on 25.5.2011. The Deputy Chief Minister of Haryana and Irrigation/Water Resources Ministers of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal and Rajasthan representing the Members of the Ganga basin States and representatives from other Union Ministries/Ganga basin States attended the meeting. The list of the Members of GFCB and others Senior Officers who attended the meeting is at Annex-I.

While welcoming the Members of the Board and other distinguished representatives present during the meeting, the Hon'ble Union Minister of Water Resources mentioned in his opening remarks that this 15th meeting of GFCB is being held after a lapse of eleven years. During these years lot of works have been done by the Ganga basin States and the Central Government and much needs to be done in the next few years. He recalled that GFCB was created in 1972 to address the flood problems of Ganga basin States and the Ganga Flood Control Commission (GFCC) was also created in the same year as the executive limb and Secretariat of the Board with its head quarter at Patna. He drew the attention of the members/representatives present during the meeting towards the National Water Policy of 2002 which states that there should be a master plan for flood control and management for each flood prone basin. He expressed his happiness that GFCC since its inception has prepared comprehensive plans for flood management for all the 23 river systems of Ganga basin which are being periodically updated. All these plans have been updated once and some of these updated twice and sent to all concerned for taking follow up action on the recommendations made in these plans. He stated that combination of the comprehensive plans of these 23 rivers would take the shape of an integrated plan of flood management. The important concern is of functional implementation of these master plan and in this regard a lot of information is still required from the basin States. The basin states are required to send the details of follow up action on the recommendations made in these plans as well as details of completed/ongoing flood schemes which the States have executed from their own State-Plan funds so that fine tuning to these comprehensive plans could be done. This would help in deciding the implementation of the remaining flood management measures in a phased and co-ordinated manner.

The Chairman mentioned that Ministry of Water Resources (MoWR) had set up a Task Force in the year 2004 to look into the problem of recurring floods in Bihar, West Bengal and eastern Uttar Pradesh (U.P) besides Assam and neighboring States. He further mentioned that based on the recommendations of the Task Force, the scheme for providing central assistance to the State Govts. for flood control and river management works have been taken up under the Flood

Management Programme of MoWR during the 11th plan. The Chairman stated that concerted efforts from the Ganga basin states are required so that the integrated plans are finalized and states should be in a position to start with these integrated plan during the 12th plan period. The Chairman mentioned that a draft model bill for flood plain zoning has already been circulated to State Govts. for enacting legislation to stop encroachment in the flood plain. He stressed the need for enacting the legislation in this respect and elaborated that the idea was not to reverse the process that has already happened in the area but to stop further encroachment in the flood plain. He pointed out that though it is politically difficult but the measures are required to be taken in the interest of future generations.

Regarding the floods in Bihar and U.P, which are generally caused by the rivers coming from Nepal, the Chairman pointed out that Govt. of India is having continuous dialogue with Govt. of Nepal and highest priority is being given to achieve the agreement with Nepal for implementation of long term measures by creation of storages with suitable flood cushion in Nepal territory. He mentioned that the final outcome in the matter is dependent on agreement with Nepal. Govt. of India is not leaving any avenue untapped for a favourable response from the Nepal in this regard. He assured the Members that every effort would be made to arrive at an agreement with Nepal for achieving the long term solution/addressing the immediate concerns.

Chairman expressed great satisfaction over the agreement with Bangladesh regarding flood protection works on common/border rivers in West Bengal. He mentioned that a number of bank protection works have been taken up on common rivers with Bangladesh. The desilting of Ichamati river in W.B is being carried out as a part of the agreement.

Thereafter, a presentation on the functions and achievements of GFCC- the executive limb and Secretariat of GFCB was made by the Member Secretary. The Chairman then requested the Hon'ble Ministers from Ganga basin States to present their views the gist of which is given below .

Rajasthan :

Shri Mahipal Mederna, the Hon'ble Irrigation Minister Govt of Rajasthan at the outset thanked the Hon'ble Union Minister for Water Resources for organizing the important GFCB meeting. He mentioned that this meeting has been organized after a lapse of 11 years and desired that it should be held at a regular interval so that the problems of Ganga basin States regarding floods and utilization of water could be addressed timely. He explained that the State of Rajasthan suffered every year from drought and famine, whereas Eastern states of the country were affected by floods and excess rain fall. Therefore, he stressed the need for a time bound programme for controlling the floods in the Eastern States as well as meeting the water requirement of Rajasthan. He stated that in Rajasthan, floods in Yamuna basin take place in the region of Bharatpur and Kota causing heavy flood damages. For protecting the district of Kota, the State Govt. had formulated a scheme with an estimated cost of Rs.19.75 crore which was accepted by the Advisory Committee of MoWR, but its investment clearance was awaited from the Planning Commission. He mentioned that the schemes for the protection

of Bharatpur and Alwar area etc., have been sent to GFCC and requested for their early approval. He emphasized that Rajasthan was the first and the only State of the Ganga basin where flood plain zoning bill has been passed by the State Legislative Assembly. He requested the Board that, due to increasing demand of water, surplus water/ flood water of inter-state river should be diverted to Rajasthan to meet its water demand. Regarding diversion of surplus flood water of Ganga, he drew the attention of the Board towards the studies being done by NWDA and requested the Board that diversion of surplus flood water of Ganga should be decided after detailed scientific/technical studies based on the latest data/information, as during the past 10 years there is significant change in the quantum of rainfall. He suggested that water should be declared a national asset and Central Govt. should take over its control so that the distribution of water to various regions of the country may be done on equitable basis. He further suggested that the Central Govt. should also take control of all inter-state rivers in its own hand. He requested for enhancement of financial limit for clearance of the flood management schemes by the State Govt.

The Chairman of the Board clarified that it would require comprehensive discussions with all concerned and only thereafter the decision regarding the declaration of water as national asset, can be taken.

West Bengal :

While thanking the Union Minister of Water Resources and other distinguished participants, Dr. Manas Ranjan Bhunia, Hon'ble Minister Incharge, Irrigation and Waterways Dept., Govt. of W.B mentioned that the role of GFCB and GFCC is pivotal, particularly for the state of W.B which is a lower most riparian State in the Ganga basin having almost 43% of geographical area as flood prone. He further stated that effective flood management is a critical issue and the State Govt can not do it alone. He gave a brief account of the schemes being implemented in the West Bengal under the Flood Management Programme and mentioned that two major projects i.e Kaliaghai-Kapileshwari-Baghai basin drainage scheme and Reconstruction of 'AILA' affected embankments in Sunderbans may spill over to 12th Plan period. Accordingly he urged to take steps for the continuation of the central assistance for ongoing projects during the 12th plan also. He requested that the ongoing project for reconstruction of Aila affected Sunderbans embankments be included under FMP in entirety. He suggested that appropriate programme, similar to FMP may be taken up during the 12th plan also and the two projects namely Improvement of embankments in Kandi area and Master plan for Ghatal area which are under scrutiny in GFCC be included in that programme. He urged that the practice of providing central assistance to tackle the problems of rivers and sea erosion for cluster of anti-erosion schemes be continued by the Govt. of India.

He observed that Farakka Barrage Project (FBP) mostly concentrates its activities on execution of new anti-erosion works and the State Govt. is often compelled to undertake maintenance and new works within the extended jurisdiction of FBP for immediately attending the vulnerable spots . He opined that simultaneous operation of two organizations in a particular area was not generally

desirable. He, therefore, suggested that either the FBP should be equipped with adequate man power and resource to discharge its duties more effectively or re-orientation of its jurisdiction may be considered.

He requested for the simplification of procedure for techno-economic clearance within a specified time frame. He suggested for the establishment of a full fledged office of GFCC at Kolkata with officers vested with adequate techno-administrative power for effective processing and monitoring of the schemes and liasioning.

While assuring maximum help to West Bengal, the Chairman mentioned that the issue of continuation of the Flood Management Programme in 12th five year plan and the inclusion of spill over cost of FMP schemes of the 11th plan would be taken up with appropriate authority. Regarding the issues related to FBP, the Chairman observed that the matter may be sorted out through discussion between the officers of FBP and Govt of West Bengal.

Uttar Pradesh :

Shri Naseemuddin Siddiqui, the Hon'ble Irrigation Minister Govt of Uttar Pradesh while thanking the Union Minister of Water Resources for convening the important meeting of GFCB, gave a brief account of flood problems in his State.. He stated that out of the protectable area of about 58.72 lakh ha., only 20.07 lakh ha. has been protected. In order to protect the remaining area, 5000 km long embankment would be required with an expenditure of the order of Rs.15,000 crore. While stating that such huge investment is not possible from the resources of the State alone, he requested for a special package for completing the flood protection work in the State in a specified time. He mentioned that the project approval by the GFCC/CWC takes long time and suggested for the simplification of procedure for techno-economic appraisal and speedy clearance of the flood management schemes. He also suggested for raising of financial limits of sanctioning the flood management schemes by the State Govt. from Rs. 7.5 crore to 25.00 crore.

The Hon'ble Minister further mentioned that during the last five years, flood control projects of U.P amounting to Rs. 2013.12 crore have been sent to Govt. of India for sanction whereas the amount received as central assistance is only Rs.223.07 crore and requested for release of 75% of the balance amount i.e Rs. 1286.77 crore. He mentioned that Calamity Relief Fund(CRF) was released very late and requested that CRF should be sanctioned and released quickly. He suggested that funds required for reserved stocks such as boulders etc should be released separately every year alongwith sufficient provisions of funds for the purchase of T&P and its timely release before the flood season. The Irrigation Minister also raised the issue of flood havoc in the Uttar Pradesh from the rivers coming from Nepal like, the Rapti, the Sharda, the Ghaghra and the Gandak and stressed the need for having dialogue with Nepal for long term solution to the flood problem.

Regarding the submission of the flood control schemes by the Govt of U.P and the sanction/release of funds by the Govt. of India, the Chairman advised

that the concerned officers of U.P and Central Govt. may sit together and sort out the issue. Regarding negotiations with Nepal, the Chairman mentioned that the Govt. of India is constantly in touch with Govt. of Nepal to sort out the related issues. He solicited the assistance and cooperation of the Govt. of U.P. in this regard.

Bihar :

Shri Vijay Kumar Choudhary, the Hon'ble Water Resources Minister, Govt. of Bihar expressed his thanks for convening the meeting of the Board and requested the Hon'ble Union Minister (WR) for holding the meeting at a regular interval. He pointed out that the meeting of Bansagar Control Board (which is related to Sone river basin) has also not been held for a long time and requested for convening the same at an early date. He briefly explained the flood problems being faced by the State and mentioned that till now, 3629 km long embankments have been constructed to provide reasonable degree of protection to an area of 30.36 lakh ha. He further mentioned that the Northern part of the State is ravaged by floods from the rivers coming from Nepal, while the Southern part of the State faces the drought like situation. He also raised the issue of holding the special meeting of the KHLC as the works of dredging of pilot channel down stream of the Barrage was obstructed by Nepalese.

As regards controlling of floods in Bihar, especially in its Northern part, he stated that it is the considered view of all the experts/technocrats that high dams on river coming from Nepal could minimize the flood problem, as such the matter needs to be taken up with Nepal. He further stated that like discussions on Kosi High Dam, the Govt. of India should also try for negotiation for high dams on the Bagmati and the Kamla. He requested the Chairman that the works of preparation of DPR by the Joint Project Office, which was constituted in the year 2004 may be completed by 2012. He suggested that catchment area treatment in Nepal may be done to minimize the floods. He mentioned that the process of the techno-economic appraisal and approval of schemes under FMP was quite cumbersome and time taking and requested that the entire process may be simplified so that the schemes are approved and fund released in a time bound manner. He urged for raising the limits of cost of scheme to be cleared by State Govt./GFCC.

The Chairman assured to provide necessary help to the State Govt. in dealing with flood management. As regards raising of financial limits for the clearance of schemes, the Chairman stated that the matter would be taken up with appropriate authority. He requested that the states Govts. may send their proposals regarding the simplification of the procedure for technical clearance/approval of the schemes so that appropriate decision can be taken in the matter.

Haryana :

Shri Ajay Singh Yadav, the Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister, and Irrigation Minister of Haryana congratulated the Chairman for convening the 15th meeting of the Board and desired that the same may be held at a regular interval. Thereafter, he gave a brief account of problems being faced by Haryana in the field of Water Resources specially flood.

He mentioned that besides being deficient in water resources, Haryana also has to face the fury of floods in Yamuna river which, at times, causes huge loss of life and property in the State. He pointed out that one of the main reasons for floods in Yamuna is that there are no storage dams in the upper catchment of the river as compared to the Satluj, the Beas and the Ravi rivers each of which has a major storage dam. He emphasised that projects of storage dams on the Yamuna river and its tributaries should be taken up expeditiously through this Board at Renuka, Lakwar-Vayasi and Kishau. He mentioned that these projects have been pending for a long time, causing a perpetual loss to all the stakeholder States. He earnestly request the GFCB and the Hon'ble Union Minister Water Resources and GFCC for taking up these projects at a war footing.

He also suggested that flood water could be stored in small water bodies along the river Yamuna which may be utilized for various purposes including recharging of the groundwater and proposed for the funding of such projects by the GFCB under the Central Assistance Programme and this may be restricted only to water deficit States like Haryana, Rajasthan and Punjab. He also highlighted issue of surplus water of Ganga which can be utilized for Haryana and Rajasthan through the Sardar-Yamuna Link and the Yamuna-Rajasthan Link and requested for clearance of the relevant proposals. He further gave a brief account of the lone FMP scheme estimated to cost Rs.173.5 crore being implemented in Haryana and requested for its extension by one year beyond 2012. He highlighted the issue of pollution in the Yamuna river and urged for making concerned efforts for combating the menace by the concerned States. He requested for the inclusion of Haryana as a Member in the National Ganga River Basin Authority and urged the Board to take up this matter with the Ministry of Environment and Forests.

The Chairman stated that meeting of the Upper Yamuna River Board is being called soon in which issues relating to Yamuna would be discussed.

Thereafter, the discussions on agenda items were taken up.

Item No. 15.01(a) Confirmation of the Summary Record of Discussions of the 14th meeting of the Ganga Flood Control Board (GFCB).

As no comments were received from any of the members on the summary record of discussions of the 14th meeting of GFCB circulated vide GFCC's letter no.C/3/73/4482-4543 dated 30.7.2000, the same was confirmed.

Item No. 15.01(b) Follow up action taken on the decisions of the last i.e 14th meeting.

The position as given in the agenda notes was noted by the Board.

Item No.15.02 Review of Flood situation in the Ganga basin states during the period 2000 to 2010.

The position as given in the agenda notes regarding the flood situation in the Ganga basin States during the years from 2000 to 2010 was noted by the Board.

Item No. 15.03 Details of progress of works of Ganga Flood Control Commission.

Item No. 15.03.1 Preparation and updating of Comprehensive Plans for flood management of the various river systems in the Ganga Basin.

It was explained that the detailed comprehensive plans for all the 23 individual river systems of Ganga basin have been prepared by Ganga Flood Control Commission (GFCC). Since the holding of the last meeting updation of 11 comprehensive plans has also been done. All these plans have been made available to the Ganga basin States for taking follow up action on the recommendations made therein . As no follow up action is being reported by the various basin States on the recommendations made in these plans , Chairman emphasized that States should send the desired information to GFCC regularly. In order to facilitate the State Govts. it was decided that GFCC would send the summary of recommendations of these plans to the concerned States. Thereafter, the State Govts will furnish the follow up action taken on the recommendations on these Plans to GFCC within one month.

Item No. 15.03.2 Drawing out a phased and coordinated programme of implementation of works included in the basin wise Comprehensive Plans.

It was explained that no consolidated information on follow up action taken on the recommendations contained in the comprehensive plans prepared by GFCC is forthcoming from the basin States. The basin States were requested to send the status/action plans in respect of the schemes recommended in the Comprehensive plans as well as new schemes taken up/proposed and their sequence of implementation so that a coordinated programme of implementation of various schemes could be prepared. As mentioned in the above para, it was decided that all these informations should be sent to GFCC within a month time. Members/representatives of the Ganga basin States agreed to send the desired information within the stipulated time.

Item No.15.03.3 To advise the states concerned to follow certain guidelines in respect of quality control, material specifications and maintenance in order to ensure the implementation of works and maintenance thereof to proper standards.

It was noted that the guidelines regarding the use of materials of proper standards and specifications/quality control for the construction of flood protection works are not being followed. It has been observed that sub-standard materials are being used in some works which leads to the failure of the protection works in certain cases. Member States were therefore requested to ensure proper specifications and quality of materials for the construction of flood protection works.

Member States were also asked to properly follow the GFCC guidelines while formulating the schemes as non compliance of guidelines by the States leads to avoidable delay in appraisal/clearance of the schemes.

Item No.15.03.4 Preparation of Annual Programme of works and allocation of cost wherever required for consideration of the Board.

It was observed that the annual plan proposals are not being received in GFCC from various Ganga basin States. As a result, it becomes difficult to ascertain as to what works are planned by the various States. Member States were requested to ensure that required details are furnished to GFCC in time. Similarly, Planning Commission was requested to intimate schedule date of meetings to GFCC well in time for their participation.

**Item No.15.03.5 (a) Evaluation of performance of major flood control schemes executed by the states including inter-state flood control schemes.
(b) Evaluation of performance of centrally sponsored schemes being executed in the Ganga basin states (new item)**

The position regarding the status of performance evaluation done by GFCC as given in the agenda notes was noted by members of the Board.

Item No.15.03.6 Assessment of existing ventways under the road & rail bridges and to determine additional ventways to be provided for reducing the drainage congestion to a reasonable limit.

It was stated that reports on adequacy of waterways under the road and rail bridges in respect of 21 river systems have been completed and similar studies for main Ganga stem are under progress. The above position was noted by the Board.

Item No.15.03.7 Monitoring the execution of flood control schemes receiving Central assistance or being executed under Central sector.

The flood control schemes funded by the Central Govt. are being monitored by GFCC and it has been observed that progress of works in general on these schemes is not satisfactory, despite adequate funding. Out of 31 FMP schemes scheduled for completion in 2010-11, only 9 schemes were completed. Member States were asked to expedite the progress on these schemes so that these could be completed within 11th five year plan period since Planning Commission may not allow funding for the spillover cost of these schemes. The representatives from Bihar and West Bengal explained that major hurdle in the completion of the schemes is the land acquisition problems. Chairman mentioned that the Land Acquisition Act was being amended and the views from the State Govt. will be solicited specially, regarding the projects to be taken up under National priority scheme. The schemes which could be kept under National priority would be decided in consultation with the States.

Item No.15.03.8 Techno-economic examination of Flood Management Schemes

The position as given in the agenda notes was noted by the Board.

Item No.15.03.9 Documentation and dissemination of findings emerging out of all special studies or investigations conducted in participation with Scientific Organisations for appropriate use by the basin states.

The position as given in the agenda notes was noted by the Board.

Item No.15.03.10 Other important works.

The position as given in the agenda notes was noted by the Board.

Item No.15.04 Meetings of Ganga Flood Control Commission

The position as given in the agenda notes was noted by the Board.

Item No.15.05 Interstate/Inter-Ministerial Issues

- Item No.15.05.1**
- (i) Sharing of cost of Piprasi-Pipraghat embankment between Uttar Pradesh & Bihar.**
 - (ii) Sharing of cost of Mahananda Protection Works between Bihar & West Bengal.**

Member-Secretary of the Board mentioned that these issues were lingering for the past many years. He, however, explained that as Govt. of India is funding the schemes under the FMP, the issues have practically been resolved. Accordingly, it was decided to drop this item from the agenda of the Board meeting. The representative from Bihar stated that the reimbursement of the maintenance cost of these works may be considered as this is an inter-state matter. The Chairman desired that if Bihar and U.P have any new suggestions they should bring fresh proposals for the consideration of the Board in this regard.

Item No.15.05.2 Utilisation of Surplus Ganga water in the Yamuna basin.

Regarding utilization of surplus Ganga water in the Yamuna basin, it was explained that unless the various links of tributaries of Ganga are completed for which agreement with Nepal is essential, the transfer of surplus Ganga water in the Yamuna basin would not be possible. Consequently the position indicated in the agenda was noted by the members of the Board. The Board decided to drop this item.

Item No.15.05.3 Bank erosion of river Ganga in the vicinity of Farakka Barrage –sharing of cost between beneficiaries.

The representative from West Bengal stated that the Farakka Barrage Project(FBP) Authority mostly concentrates its activities on execution of new works and the State Govt. is also compelled to undertake maintenance and new works in the extended jurisdiction of FBP. He observed that simultaneous operation of two organisations in a particular area was not desirable.

The Chairman suggested that authorities of Farrakka Barrage Project and Govt. of WB should discuss and settle the issue of protection works within the extended jurisdiction of FBP amicably. In view of the extended jurisdiction of the FBP, both upstream and downstream of the barrage and providing central assistance for flood management schemes in Ganga basin, it was concluded that sharing of cost between beneficiaries is not an issue any longer.

Accordingly it was decided to drop this item from the agenda of the Board meeting.

Item No.15.05.4 Anti-erosion works at Mansi and Narainpur – sharing of cost by Ministries of Transport and Railways.

It was decided to drop the above item from the agenda of Board meeting in view of the position explained in the agenda note.

Item No.15.06 Delay in completion of approved projects and plan provisions.

The issues involved under this item are already covered under Item no. 15.03.7. Accordingly, it was decided to drop the item from the agenda of the Board meeting.

Item No.15.07 Enactment of legislation for flood plain zoning.

Secretary (WR) observed that no progress has been made in this direction by the States, except Rajasthan and requested the Member States to initiate the necessary action for the enactment of the legislation . Chairman, stated that as the present draft bill is quite old, and would need revision before it is sent to State Govts. for enactment. He requested the Members to send suggestions in this regard so that the same could be considered while revising the Draft Bill. He desired to know the experiences gained by the Govt. of Rajasthan in enacting the flood plain zoning bill. The representative from Rajasthan informed that the enactment has served the desired purpose.

Item No. 15.08 Comprehensive plan for river training and bank protection for the river Ganga with regard to navigation.

The details given in the agenda were noted by the Board. The Chairman observed that Scientific approach is to keep the navigation channel in middle of the river. He mentioned that at present discussion on this issue may not be required in this forum. Accordingly it was decided to drop this item from the agenda of the Board meeting.

Item No.15.09 Flood Proofing measures.

The position as given in the agenda notes was noted by the Board. The representative from Bihar informed that the implementation of the flood proofing schemes was very beneficial to the affected people in the State.

Item No.15.10 Monitoring the execution of important flood control schemes, particularly those receiving Central assistance or being executed in the Central Sector.

This issue is already covered under item no.15.03.7. It was therefore decided to drop the item from the Agenda of the meeting.

Item No.15.11 Accommodation for Ganga Flood Control Commission.

The position indicated in the agenda notes was noted by the Board. Further it was informed by the Member-Secretary that work of construction of the building of GFCC/CWC was held up due to the reason that land use of plot allotted for the office building was considered to be residential by the State Govt. The concerned department of State Govt. has been requested to check the land use and allow the construction of the office building. The Hon'ble Minister (WRD), Govt. of Bihar assured that the issue of land use would be sorted out at the earliest.

Item No.15.12 Strategies for flood management in the Ganga basin

Secretary (WR) mentioned that State Govts. have not taken follow up action on the maps furnished by CWC for the delineation of probable flooded area and preparing flood risk map. Member (RM), CWC explained that the maps supplied to the States are now quite old. Therefore CWC in collaboration with NRSA has taken up the preparation of fresh maps. He informed that these maps pertaining to all States including U.P and Bihar would be prepared by the end of 2012.

Item No.15.13 Involvement of GFCC under bilateral cooperation with Nepal in the areas of flood management.

The position as given in the agenda notes was noted by the Board.

Item N0.15.14 Watershed management in the catchment/basins of Flood (New item) prone rivers.

The representative from the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation explained the position of watershed management activities in the catchment/basin of flood prone rivers. On query about the works being done in Nepal he mentioned that the Kosi catchment had been taken up under the flood prone area scheme but on the request of Govt. of Bihar the scheme was dropped. He added that as per the direction of the Planning Commission, the scheme is to be closed by the end of 11th five year plan. The Chairman indicated that the issue of watershed management in the catchment areas in Nepal would be taken up with the Govt. of Nepal and requested the Ministry of Agriculture to take up catchment

area works in other catchments in the Ganga basin, including those lying in Nepal during the 12th Plan.

Item No. 15.15 (New item) Construction of High Dam with proper flood cushion on the river Kosi, the Gandak, the Kamla & the Bagmati and catchment area treatment in upper catchment of these rivers in Nepal.

Secretary (WR) stated that the Joint Project Office (JPO) is already functioning in Nepal for the preparation of DPR for high dam on the river Kosi. He informed that tenure of the JPO has been extended upto Feb. 2013 so that the DPR for the Kosi high dam could be prepared by the said date.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair.