

Summary Record of the Discussions of 46th Meeting of Ganga Flood Control Commission held on 19.11.2014 at New Delhi

The 46th meeting of Ganga Flood Control Commission (GFCC) was held on 19th November, 2014 at New Delhi under the Chairmanship of Shri G.S. Jha, Chairman, GFCC. The list of participants is at **Annex-1**.

At the outset Shri A.K. Sinha, Member (P), GFCC welcomed Shri G.S. Jha who joined as Chairman, GFCC in October, 2014 and organized 46th meeting of Ganga Flood Control Commission (GFCC) in a very short time. Then he welcomed all the participants of Ganga Basin States who attended 46th meeting of GFCC. He informed that as per the recommendation of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Water Resources on "Review of Ganga Flood Control Commission", there should be two meetings of GFCC in a year, namely, one meeting before the onset of Monsoon season to chalk out detailed coordinated strategies, measures and plan of action for coping with ensuing Monsoon rains for each State of the Ganga Basin followed by another meeting at the end of monsoon season to review and evaluate the effectiveness of the strategies and measures taken during the monsoon season. The present meeting is post monsoon meeting of GFCC in 2014. The basic purpose of the meeting is to improve interaction between GFCC and the Ganga basin States. This meeting serves as a platform to discuss various problems faced by the States in formulating Flood Management Project reports and problems encountered by GFCC in appraising of those schemes. It also provides platform to discuss about the data needs for updating the comprehensive plans of flood management and the problems faced by the States in implementing recommendations given in the Comprehensive Plans. The GFCC meeting would also be helpful in discussing the problems involved in providing adequate waterways under rail and road bridges based on the studies of adequacy of waterways conducted by GFCC.

Shri G.S. Jha, Chairman, GFCC in his opening remarks extended a warm welcome to all the representatives of States and Members of GFCC. He stated that the meetings of GFCC are necessary to discuss flood problems of Ganga river, which flows in plains after Haridwar in Uttarakhand, U.P, Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal. Uttarakhand has recently experienced unprecedented floods in 2013, which requires serious and concentrated efforts to find solutions. He also pointed out that the temporary and adhoc measures of flood management such as flood fighting and putting in place anti-erosion schemes may be solving the problems of erosion and flooding at one place but at the same time they may cause transfer of those problems to other places in the downstream. Hence, comprehensive solutions are required for tackling the problems of flooding, erosion and sedimentation duly considering the factors such as meandering of rivers, sediment carried by rivers, hydrological studies etc. In some cases there is a serious problem of erosion of river banks and making the banks nearly vertical, in which case the slopes have to be stabilized without which the flood management activities would not be successful.

In his opening remarks, Chairman, GFCC also highlighted the following major issues to be addressed by the Member States on priority:

- (i) Detailed Comprehensive Plans for all the 23 individual river systems of Ganga basin were prepared by GFCC with cooperation and interaction from the Ganga basin States. These plans were made available to the State Governments for follow up action. All Comprehensive plans have been updated once. The second updating of these plans could not be carried out as the data inputs from the States are not being received as desired. It is seen that the recommendations of comprehensive plans are not being implemented with due seriousness and spirit. Implementation Committees need to be constituted by all the Ganga basin States. In this endeavour GFCC can interact with the States to carry forward the plans.
- (ii) Appraisal of Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) on flood management submitted by the States is an important function of GFCC. However, the DPRs submitted at the first instance are found to be deficient on many counts, such as not adhering to the guidelines of GFCC. This would cause delays in appraising the schemes, thereby causing delay in implementation.
- (iii) Performance evaluation of completed schemes is an important aspect, for which draft Terms of Reference (ToR) were prepared by GFCC and sent to all the States for their suggestions. Most of the States are yet to respond. Concurrent evaluation of the flood management schemes is also an important aspect that needs to be done by the States.
- (iv) It is seen that physical and financial progress of flood management programmes/ schemes are not furnished by the States in time. These are required to be submitted in time, so that processing of the reimbursement cases would be done promptly by GFCC.
- (v) He also emphasised the need of timely submission of compliances on observations made by GFCC and proposals for release of central assistance under FMP with all the requisite details and due care. The delay in the process spoils effectiveness of proposals.
- (vi) The forum of meeting of GFCC may be taken as a platform for sharing our experiences and enlightening ourselves that would be beneficial to all the States and GFCC.

Subsequent to the opening remarks by the Chairman, GFCC, Shri Anil Jain, Director (C), GFCC made a Power Point presentation for deliberation of agenda items. The items discussed and decisions taken are as under:

Item No. 46.1 Confirmation of Summary Record of discussions of the 45th Meeting of Ganga Flood Control Commission held on 12.03.2013 at New Delhi.

The Summary Record of Discussions of the 45th Meeting of the GFCC held on 21st March, 2014 at New Delhi was circulated to all the Members vide GFCC's letter no. GFCC/C/2/2010/1889-1912 dated 08.04.2014. No comments were received thereon from any of the members. The Summary Record of Discussions of the 45th Meeting of GFCC is confirmed unanimously.

Item No. 46.2 Follow up Action undertaken on the minutes of 45th meeting of GFCC

Chairman, GFCC requested the States to give their views on the follow up action taken by them on the minutes of the 45th meeting of GFCC.

On the Item No. 45.7 'Nomination of Officers by States', the representatives from Uttarakhand and Haryana States informed that they had already sent nomination of officers from their States. Other Ganga Basin States were requested to send nomination at the earliest.

On the Item No. 45.12 'Enactment of legislation for Flood Plain Zoning' a copy of model bill was sent to all Member States along with agenda. Representative from Water Resources Department (WRD), Govt. of Bihar informed that WRD, Bihar has already communicated their views to MoWR on the same vide their letter dated 26.08.2013, informing that the model bill is neither implementable nor acceptable on its present shape by the Government of Bihar. There can be no delineations of clear cut flood plain zones.

The representative from Government of Haryana informed that there is already existing provision in Canal and Drainage Act (45) in Haryana. As such there is no necessity of separate Flood Plain Zoning bill in Haryana state. West Bengal informed that there are difficulties in implementations.

Some States again asked for a copy of the model bill. It was informed that the modified flood plain zoning model bill, 2005 is available on the website of MoWR(<http://mowr.nic.in>), which can be downloaded and used.

State Governments were asked to give their comments on enforcement of Flood Plain Zoning bill, 2005 if they had not given the comments so far.

On the Item No. 45.13 'Submission of Annual Plan and XII Five Year Plan for Flood Management', Member States agreed that they would submit the Annual Plan document for 2012-13, 2013-14 & 2014-15 and XII Five Year Plan document to GFCC shortly. Representative of WRD, Bihar informed that they had already submitted the requisite information to GFCC.

(Action: All Member States)

Views of representative from MoWR:

In the first Inter-Ministerial Committee (IMC) held on 19.12.2013, it was decided that all the schemes approved in XI Plan have to be completed by March, 2015. Also in respect of some schemes of FMP of XI Plan, total estimated cost was not approved. It was informed that if such schemes are to be funded under FMP then the proposals for the same may be sent to MoWR through GFCC. It was brought into the notice of Member States that quarterly physical and financial progress reports in respect of ongoing schemes are not being received in time. Pending Utilisation Certificates have to be submitted by the States, failing which further funding may not be entertained by the Ministry. IMC-FMP may drop the schemes that were approved by it in its meeting held in December 2013 for which no request has so far been received from States for

Central funding. All the States are requested to submit completion reports in respect of all the schemes completed under FMP.

(Action: All Member States)

Item No. 46.3 Presentation from Member States on Flood Management Issues during monsoon 2014

Dr. Manish Gupta, Scientist D from Central Soil and Material Research Station (CSMRS) made a Power Point presentation on the use of geo-synthetics in works of flood management and general specifications of geo-synthetics. Concerns about its cost and protection against ultraviolet (UV) radiations (Sun's Rays) were expressed during discussions. It was stated that the recycled materials show poor resistance against UV radiations. A copy of presentation is being sent separately. Member States namely, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh gave brief Power Point presentations highlighting their experiences in flood management. Remote Sensing Applications Centre, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh and Irrigation Research Institute, Roorkee also gave presentations highlighting the use of Remote Sensing in flood management and monitoring.

Item No. 46.4 Guidelines for formulation of Flood Management Schemes

It was observed that many a time States are not submitting the DPRs as per the guidelines of GFCC. It is creating problems in appraisal of the schemes in time and causes delays in clearing / appraising the schemes by GFCC. Common deficiencies found in the DPRs have been brought to the notice of Member States on a number of occasions by GFCC. Member States were requested to formulate the schemes as per the guidelines and in case of any difficulty in specific cases, they are free to approach GFCC for guidance. Member States noted these and common deficiencies for compliance.

(Action: All Member States)

Item No. 46.5 Review of ongoing Flood Management Schemes being implemented under Flood Management Programme of Govt. of India

The Government of India during the XI Plan launched the Flood Management Programme (FMP) for providing Central Assistance to the States for undertaking works related to flood management, anti-erosion etc. in the country including the Ganga Basin States which is continuing in XII Plan also. Chairman suggested to all states to submit proposals for release of central assistance under FMP without any further delay, if not submitted already.

(Action: All Member States)

Item No. 46.5.1 Schemes included during XI Plan

A number of Flood Management Schemes of Ganga Basin States were included under FMP during XI Plan.

Chairman, GFCC highlighted during the meeting that majority of the schemes included under FMP during XI Plan could not be completed as per the

completion schedule proposed by the States in the Statement FMP-I at the time of submitting the proposal to GFCC/MoWR for inclusion in FMP.

The matter related to non-completion of schemes as per schedule was discussed in the 1st Meeting of Inter-Ministerial Committee - Flood Management Programme (IMC-FMP) held on 19th December, 2013 under the Chairmanship of Secretary (WR). It was decided in said meeting that all schemes included for funding under FMP during XI Plan should be completed by March, 2015.

It is observed that utilization certificate (UC) for final installment of central share released to the states is generally not being submitted.

After deliberations, Member States agreed to ensure:

1. Completion of these scheme by March, 2015 and submission of action plan including phasing of expenditure to GFCC/MoWR. The representative from Government of West Bengal had some reservations in completion of Aila Project and Kaliaghai-Kapaleswari-Baghai Basin Drainage Scheme (WB-17) Project by March, 2015. The representative from Government of West Bengal was asked to give justification note for not completing the projects by March, 2015 to GFCC and MoWR, RD & GR.
2. Submission of utilization certificate of final installment in respect of completed schemes.

(Action: All Member States)

Item No. 46.5.2 Schemes included during XII Plan

A number of flood management schemes were included under FMP during XII Plan. The Member States are asked to take all the necessary steps to complete the schemes as per the schedule given FMP-I statement.

It was decided that the Member States would take necessary steps for completion of ongoing FMP schemes of XII plan as per schedule.

(Action: All Member States)

Item No. 46.6 Submission of State wise/Basin wise data/information for updation of Comprehensive Plan for Flood Management etc.

The importance of furnishing the data/information required by the Ganga Basin States for updating of Comprehensive Plans for Flood Management of Ganga Basin and its Sub-Basins was highlighted in various GFCC meetings and Member States were requested to furnish data/information regularly to GFCC. Member States had agreed to furnish the desired data/information on priority basis.

This issue was earlier discussed during the 16th meeting of Ganga Flood Control Board held at New Delhi on 16.01.2013 and it was decided to constitute a Standing Committee for each Ganga basin State regarding the collection/coordination of data/information required for various purposes like updating of Comprehensive Plans, inventory of Flood Management Schemes, etc.

There is a need to have a system in place for providing such data in future to GFCC periodically. It may be noted that as per guidelines of Planning Commission, the States have to supply information in respect of schemes approved by them within their competency to GFCC and Planning Commission in Statement 'A'. However, the said information is not being normally received from States.

It was decided that

1. Member States will furnish nomination of their representatives for the aforementioned Committee (as was decided in the 45th meeting of GFCC) with complete Postal Address, Telephone/ Fax nos./e-mail I.D etc. to GFCC by 15th December, 2014.
2. The information in Statement 'A' shall be submitted by the States by 30th December, 2014.

(Action: All Member States)

Item No. 46.7 Implementation of Sub-Basin wise Comprehensive Plans for Flood Management prepared by the GFCC

During the previous Meetings of GFCC, it was decided that the Action Plan for implementation of recommendations as given in Comprehensive Plans of following river basins would be prepared by the concerned State Governments:

Sl. No.	Name of Comprehensive Plans	States Associated
1.	Ghaghra River System	Uttar Pradesh & Bihar
2.	Mahananda	Bihar & West Bengal
3.	Mayurakshi & Ajoy	West Bengal & Jharkhand
4.	Sone	Jharkhand, U.P & Bihar

After deliberations, the Member States have agreed to submit the Action Plans by 30th December, 2014.

(Action: Bihar, U.P., Jharkhand and W.B.)

Item No.46.8 Performance Evaluation of Completed Schemes under FMP

As per the FMP guidelines, the performance evaluation of completed schemes is required to be got conducted by State Governments through independent specialized/ professional agency having expertise in related field in consultation with GFCC.

To facilitate these studies, GFCC has prepared a model Terms of Reference (ToR) for these studies and sent to all Member States in April, 2014. Comments from Member States except from Bihar are still awaited. A copy of the ToR is again furnished to the participants in the meeting for needful.

It was decided that the Members States will give their observations by 15th December, 2104.

West Bengal representative agreed that name of a completed project under FMP would be given in a fortnight for conducting performance evaluation study.

(Action: All Member States)

Item No. 46.9 Issues raised by Railways

No issue has been received from Railways so far for consideration in the GFCC Meeting.

Member may like to note.

Item No.46.10 Discussion on design, planning, formulation and implementation of flood management schemes

In the 44th and 45th Meetings of GFCC, the issues as per agenda pertaining to the design, planning, formulation and implementation of the Flood Management Schemes were discussed, deliberated and decided for having uniformity in the formulation of flood management schemes by the State Governments.

Item No.46.10.1 Design and planning

It had emerged from the discussions in the 44th and 45th Meetings of GFCC that following aspects related to the design and planning of schemes require review either due to inadequate provisions in the BIS Codes or varying practices of the Irrigation/Water Resources Department of the State Governments

- A. Return Period of Flood to be considered for design of flood embankments in rural areas;
- B. Level up to which Revetment/Pitching on embankments/river bank should be done i.e up to Dominant Flood Level or HFL;
- C. Top width of embankment to be provided.

As was decided in the last meeting, GFCC had prepared a draft note based on information available in GFCC, the existing guidelines, BIS codes etc. on aforesaid issues and sent to all Member States for furnishing their observations. Comments were received from U.P. only.

It was decided that all the other States should furnish their comments/ observations by 15th December, 2014. Thereafter the issues are to be taken up with Bureau of Indian Standard (BIS) for suitable incorporation into the code.

(Action: All Member States)

Item No.46.10.2 New Material/Technology

Chairman GFCC stated that new materials like Geo-bags, Geo-tube etc are being used in flood protection works by a few States but BIS Codes/ Guidelines for their use are not available resulting in defective/deficient formulation of schemes, technically unsound proposals and delays in appraisal. These new

materials are already being used in flood management works by the States of West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. The matter of standardization of specifications of these new materials was also discussed in 44th and 45th Meetings of GFCC and States were requested to send detailed report on these materials based on their experience within a month.

Representative of Rajasthan State has informed that they are not using geo-textiles in works of flood management.

The States agreed to send the detailed Note in this regard by 15th December, 2014.

(Action: West Bengal, U.P., Bihar and Rajasthan)

Item No.46.10.3 Discussion on Implementation of schemes

Implementation of a flood management/river training works includes invitation of tenders, latest site survey, construction planning and actual execution of the project works with proper quality control. Key issues involved in the implementation of the flood management schemes and the problems faced by the Irrigation/Water Resources Departments of the State Governments are required to be discussed to arrive at the possible solutions so as to achieve the desired results.

After deliberations, it was decided that the Member States will give report on the aforementioned issues by 15th December, 2014.

(Action: All Member States)

Item No. 46.11 Action to be taken on observations/ recommendations of Parliamentary Standing Committee on Water Resources

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Water Resources under the Chairmanship of Shri Dip Gogoi, Hon'ble Member of Parliament had undertaken detailed examination of "Ganga Flood Control Commission" and submitted its report "Review of Ganga Flood Control Commission" in February 2014. In its report, the Committee has made several observations on issues related to water resources management with special emphasis to flood management in the Ganga Basin and has made several recommendations to be followed up by the Ministry of Water Resources / Ganga Flood Control Commission / Central Water Commission. The decisions in the meeting are discussed under respective agenda items as under:

Item No. 46.11.1 Flood Affected Areas and Magnitude of Damage

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Water Resources desired following information in respect of the Ganga Basin States within three months (i.e. by 14th May, 2014):

- (i) Average annual rainfall, total cropped area, flood protected area in Ganga basin in 1972 and as on 18.10.2013.

- (ii) Proportion of total flood prone area falling under cropped area.
- (iii) Details of relief and rehabilitation package given to the flood affected areas during last 5 years, year-wise.

After deliberations, Members States have agreed that the requisite information will be submitted to GFCC by 15th December, 2014.

(Action: All Member States)

Item No. 46.11.2 Study of Assessment of Adequacy of Waterways in the Ganga Basin

The Committee noted that the GFCC has completed the study for assessment of adequacy of waterway under rail and road bridges/culvert for the rivers system in Ganga basin except the Tidal River System and Main Ganga Stem. The reports of the study have been circulated to all concerned Ganga Basin States and departments of the Union and State Governments including the Ministry of Railways for follow up action. The Committee desired that the Ministry /GFCC to keep a tab on follow up action taken by the concerned Ganga Basin States/ Departments of Union and State Governments including the Ministry of Railways in this regard. Chairman, GFCC requested States to furnish action taken report.

Soft copies (in CD) of all these reports are made available by GFCC. Member States have agreed to send the Action Taken Report by 30th December, 2014.

(Action: GFCC and All Member States)

Item No. 46.11.3 Implementation of Comprehensive Plan for Flood Management

As per the decision in Item No. 46.7.

Item No. 46.12 Inter-State Issues

Government of Bihar requested Government of U.P to take up the A.E works on river Ghaghra near Sitabdiara village in U.P portion so that there may not be adverse effects on the A.E works implemented in Bihar portion on river Ghaghra near Sitabdiara village.

A scheme titled "Project for protection of Bakulaha Sansar Tola bund and village group of Imbrahimabad- Naubrar between km 5.175 to km 6.500 of B S T bund on the right bank of river Ghaghra in Ballia district of Uttar Pradesh" (Estimated cost Rs. 17.01 crore) has been appraised and techno-economical feasibility has been communicated by GFCC in June, 2014. State Government of U.P. is to take up further necessary actions for its implementation.

(Action: U.P.)

Item No. 46.13 Date and Venue of the next meeting

It is desirable to hold the next meeting of GFCC in one of the Ganga Basin States so that a visit to any ongoing or completed scheme could also be

undertaken for better understanding of the practices being followed by various States in the implementation of Flood Management, River training, Anti-Erosion Schemes etc.

After brief discussion, it was decided that the next (i.e. 47th) Meeting of GFCC will be held in the State of Uttarakhand in April, 2015. Exact date and venue would be decided in due course in consultation with the State.

(Action: GFCC and Uttarakhand)

In his concluding remarks, Chairman, GFCC sought the corporation of States and requested them to take follow up action on various issues as decided in the Meeting and ensure the compliance to time schedule agreed for various activities.

Member (coordination), GFCC presented the vote of thanks.
