

PREFACE

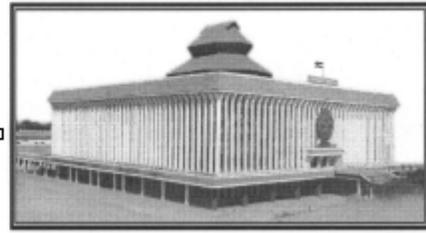
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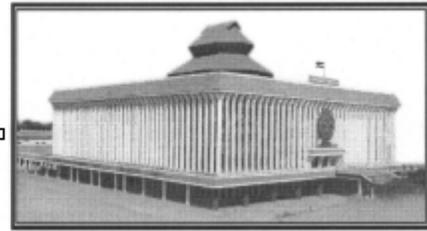
Rural Water Supply: An Assessment of Jalanidhi Project

Smitha P. C. and Mani K. P.

Water is the most important gift of nature to the living creatures on earth and one of the most basic needs of the living organs. Now-a-days, safe drinking water is a major concern to all over the world. In 1970's itself the World Bank had identified major problems in village water supply like lack of rural water policies, institutional weaknesses, low income, poor operation, management, and lack of health education etc. World Health Organization report (2012) highlights that more than 780 million people still remain without any access to safe drinking water. In the World total water requirement would barely match the utilizable water resources in the year 2050 and the gap between the water requirement and availability will widen over time.

The world's 263 Trans boundary lakes and river basins include the territory of 145 countries and cover nearly half of the Earth's land surface. Human beings withdraw about 5200 km³ of water annually, which is a staggering figure (Peter Gleick 2003). Still this amount is only about 10 per cent of the global surface run off (Bakker 2003). Over the last 60 years, there have been more than 300 international water agreements and 37 cases of reported violence over water. Thus water supply is characterized by low levels of access particularly in urban slums and in rural areas as well as poor service qualities in the form of intermittent water supply (World Bank 1976).

One of the serious challenges of the 21st century for India will be on how to meet the demand supply gap in water; especially the regional and seasonal deficits. In India, water supply started with the commencement of Five Year Plans in 1951. The country accounts for 2.45 per cent of the total land area and 4 per cent of the water resources of the world. Nevertheless, water is a scarce national resource with demand for it increasing on account of growing population of over one billion. The available literature on the subject argued that, there is severe shortage of fresh water and even about rising conflicts over the control of water resources across the countries (Ambase and Gurbachan Singh 2006, Chelladurai 2005, Manish Tiwari 2004, Dhawan 2004, Billiers 2000, Shiva 2002, Barlow and Clark 2004, Ward 2002).



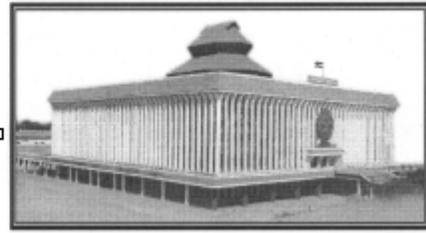
Similar situation prevails in Kerala also. There are numerous factors attributed to the scarcity of drinking water in Kerala like absence of water conservation strategies in rural areas, inaccessibility to affordable water supply options and the weak institutional framework etc. Depletion of water tables is the main cause for the water scarcity. Several parts of the state are experiencing ground water depletion, drying up of wells, reduction of water in streams and lakes, deterioration of water quality, land subsidences etc, negatively affect the water supply. Other important causes of the scarcity of water are the over exploitation and pollution of both surface and ground water, lack of rational pricing of water, and the inefficiency in the National Water Policy.

It is found that 13 per cent of the households do not get sufficient water from their principal sources for at least one month in a year (Virendra Kumar and Singh 2006, John Disco and Malik 2006, Subhash Thakur and Rajput 2006, Hardaba 2006, Anant Mittal 2005, Jayaraju et.al 2004, Santhosh Kumar Sharma 2004). In Kerala 30.4 per cent of the households reported insufficiency of drinking water during some parts of the year which is slightly higher than the all India figure of 13 per cent. In this context, it is of utmost importance that water conservation is the most effective and environmentally sound method to reduce the scarcity of water.

The primary responsibility of providing drinking water facilities in the country rests with the respective state governments. Therefore providing drinking water facilities in Kerala has been the sole responsibility of KWA (Kerala Water Authority), which is a statutory agency set up in 1986. It gives emphasis to attractive coverage for the rural water services and on achieving full coverage for access to safe drinking water. Until recently several water supply programmes have been implemented by the World Bank for the rural poor (especially Jalanidhi project) and billions of dollar have been invested in these programmes. However the sobering fact is that, the progress is still too slow and rural water supply coverage significantly lags behind urban water supplies. As on 31-03-2012, the existing water supply schemes in Kerala covered 77 per cent of the total population. Out of the total coverage, 71 per cent in rural population and 29 per cent in urban population covered the water supply. However the state has been facing a host of challenges in terms of quantity, quality, and sustainability. Therefore a demand-driven approach is actually desirable. In this context, the prime objective of the present investigation is made to assess the efficiency and performance of the Jalanidhi project in Kerala.

Methodology

The present study is based on secondary data. The secondary data were collected from the district project management unit of Jalanidhi, Kerala Water Authority, Ministry of Rural Development, Ministry of Water Resources, and Central Ground Water Board, India. The state level and district level information collected from 'Water and Air quality Directory' (2009), Kerala State Pollution Control Board, Thiruvananthapuram, 'The Environment Rules'



(1986), Ministry of Environment & Forests and ‘Ground Water Year Book of Kerala’ Ministry of Water Resources, Government of India.

Drinking water supply in India

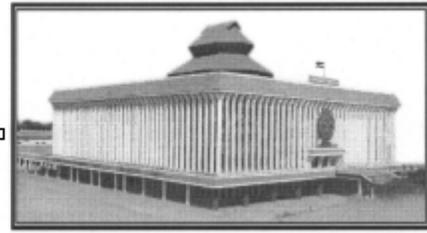
In 1947, when India got freedom, only 12.7 million people living in 253 towns were served by protected water supply. A vast majority of people, concentrated mainly in rural areas, were depending on unprotected wells, tanks, rivers, and streams for their water needs. In India, drinking water supply programme at national level was launched as early as 1954 and progressively larger allocation were made in subsequent five year plans, but the real problem was identified and given emphasis only at the 4th five year plan. Compared to the 4th plan, commendable progresses in the provision of water supply in general and rural water supply particularly can be seen during the Fifth Five Year Plan. In the 9th FYP, there is a provision of safe drinking water to every settlement in the country on a sustainable basis and the pursuit of all possible measures for the rapid expansion and improvement of sanitation facilities in rural and urban areas.

The First Five Year Plan envisaged 2.37 percent of the total plan outlay for water supply and sanitation. This allocation retrogressed gradually to 1.87 percent during the Second Plan, 1.45 percent during the Annual Plans, 1.4 percent during the Third Plan and to 2.33 percent during the Fourth Plan. For the first time more than 50 percent of the outlay on water supply was allotted to rural sector during the 9th plan period. This trend in the provision of rural drinking water remains more or less stable thereafter. Table-1 shows the coverage with water supply in India from 1961-2001.

Table - 1
Coverage with supply in India from 1971 to 2011

Schemes/Areas	1971	1981	1991	2001	2011
WATER SUPPLY					
Rural Water Supply	11,000 villages (1.9 per cent of total villages)	17,000 villages (3 per cent of total villages)	1620.7 lakh total population (31 per cent of total population)	619.04 lakh households (55.5 per cent of total households)	1012.9 lakh households (73.2 per cent of total households)
Urban Water Supply	NA	903.83 villages (82.3 per cent of total villages)	11548.83 lakh total population (77.8 per cent of total population)	3281.4 lakh households (81.4 per cent of total households)	483.30 lakh households (90 per cent of total households)

Source: Census reports of various years



Census 2011 reported that 73.2 per cent rural households have improved drinking water sources with tap water, hand pumps, and covered wells constituting the major sources. But the ground reality is that accessibility of water to the rural and urban areas in India is pitiable. In 2005 none of the 35 Indian cities with a population of more than one million distributed water for more than a few hours per day, despite generally sufficient infrastructure. Owing to inadequate pressure people struggle to collect water even when it is available. In 2007, a study by the Asian Development Bank showed that in 20 cities the average duration of supply of water was only 4 or 3 hours per day. None of the 20 cities had continuous supply. The longest duration of supply was 12 hours per day in Chandigarh, and the lowest was 0.3 hours per day in Rajkot. In Delhi residents receive water only a few hours per day because of inadequate management of the distribution system. This resulted in contaminated water and the poor suffer most from this situation. Therefore ensuring safe drinking water for the remaining 15.8 percent of rural households with unimproved sources and 22.1 percent of rural households that have to fetch water from beyond 500 m is the major challenge.

Drinking water scenario in Kerala

Kerala is a typical place with many paradoxes. In the water supply and management also the paradoxes are quite evident. The state is endowed with high rainfall levels and an extensive system of rivers, lakes, lagoons and backwaters. It combines an extremely high annual average rainfall of 2,940 mm with significant variations. In spite of heavy annual rainfall, rivers barely have water for six months resulting in very severe potable water scarcity for half of the year. Then, paradoxically, the state which is situated in one of the highest rainfall zones is among the countries lowest per capita availing of fresh water states (lower than Rajasthan).

As on 31-03-2012, the coverage of drinking water supply in Kerala was 5.78 lakh people of the total population. The total number of urban and rural people covered by water supply schemes in Kerala was 85.18 per cent and 74.27 per cent respectively. For rural water supply coverage, Ernakulam District is the highest with 97 per cent and Kozhikode is the lowest coverage of nearly 42 per cent. In urban area, Malappuram is the highest covered district with 99 per cent and Wayanad is the lowest one with 50 per cent. Table-2 shows the number of water supply schemes in operation by the end of March 2012.

Table-2 indicates that, there were 2188 water supply schemes in operation by the end of March 2012. Out of it 71 were urban water supply schemes and 2117 were rural water supply schemes.

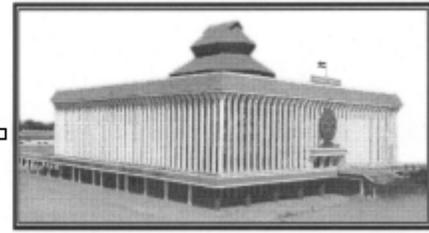


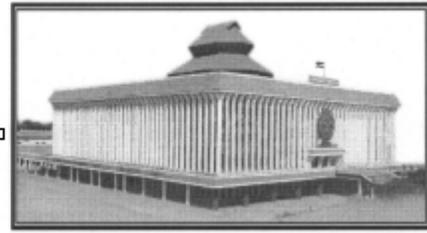
Table-2

District wise and category wise number of ongoing water supply schemes in operation (as on 31-03-2012)

Sl. No.	Name of district	No of urban water supply schemes	Rural Water supplyschemes		Total
			Multi panchayat	Single panchayat	
1	Thiruvananthapuram	6	45	95	146
2	Kollam	3	38	65	106
3	Pathanamthitta	3	19	50	72
4	Alappuzha	7	2	77	86
5	Kottayam	5	55	97	157
6	Idukki	1	106	92	199
7	Ernakulam	14	63	91	168
8	Thrissur	12	147	104	263
9	Palakkad	4	133	51	188
10	Malappuram	5	113	43	161
11	Kozhikode	2	118	128	248
12	Wayand	0	30	32	62
13	Kannur	6	52	120	178
14	Kasargode	3	64	87	154
15	Total	71	985	1132	2188

Source: Economic Review 2012

The status of water supply of the State at the time of introduction of the Jananidhi project showed that pipe water coverage in the State to be 51 per cent with urban coverage of 77.66 per cent. In rural areas it was below 40 percent and most of the families depend on private water schemes which are usually open wells. Most of these wells dry up early march and remain so till monsoons. It is in this juncture, the Government was forced to introduce central and State sponsored externally aided projects in the state to maintain the availability of pure water in adequate quality and quantity. Jananidhi is one among this kind funded by World Bank with the main objective of assisting the Government of Kerala to improve the quality of rural water supply and environmental sanitation.



Rural Water supply and Sanitation Agency-Jalanidhi

The Central government formulates policies to supplement the State Government's initiatives through water supply and sanitation. Accelerated water supply programme (ARWSP), now renamed as National Rural Drinking Water programme (NRDWP) is the major programme of Government of India, for rural water supply and sanitation. The 73rd and 74th Amendments to the constitution has been a landmark policy shift from a supply driven approach to demand driven strategy by providing greater role for community participation. Even though there are many programmes (Bharath Nlrnan, swajaldhara, varsha etc.) introduced by state governments to tackle the water crisis in the urban and the rural areas, one of the main challenges by the government is the non accessibility of safe drinking water to the public. In order to provide a better accessibility of safe drinking water to the rural area, the World Bank introduced Jalnidhi- Kerala Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Agency (KRWSA) in November 1999 as a joint venture of the central and respective state governments. The primary aim of this agency is to facilitate and support year round supply of adequate quantities of potable water to the rural Kerala through the active participation of the user group themselves.

Today, KRWSA is an important player in the rural water supply and sanitation sector. It provides a central role to the gram Panchayat in implementing community based water supply projects. The selection of the grama panchayath is based on the shortage in water availability or water quality, relatively large population of poor and socially disadvantaged, and high demand for improved services. Special programmes targeted for poor and vulnerable sections are implemented through selection of special Beneficiary Groups (BGs) and Tribal Development Project implementation. The scheme had a project cycle of 27 months, divided into four phases, 3 months for pre-planning, 12 months for planning, 8 months for implementation and 4 months for post implementation.

Jalanidhi project was initially approved at an estimated cost of Rs. 451.00 crores and targeted to cover 80 grama panchayats for improving the quality of rural water supply and environmental sanitation service delivery to achieve sustainability of investment. The funding pattern of assistance followed in the Project was in the ratio of 75:10:15 between Government, Panchayats and Beneficiaries in general schemes and in Tribal project it was 80:10:10 respectively. The beneficiaries included 52 percent BPL families, 16 percent SC/ST population and 32 percent from local population including general category.

Three types of water supply schemes have been undertaken by Jalanidhi, (a) small schemes (b) comprehensive schemes (c) Tsunami Rehabilitation Schemes. Besides this, construction of latrine, ground water recharge, drainage works worked under the Jalanidhi project. Table-3 gives the physical achievements of jalanidhi up to 30-09-2012.

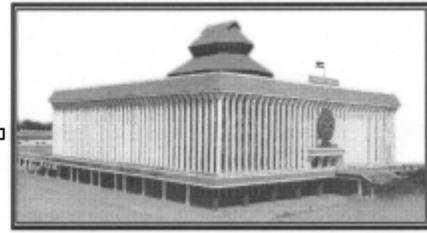


Table - 3
Physical Performance of Jalanidhi 2011-2012

Sl. No.	Items	Units	Over all Target	Achievements 2011-2012	Total achievements
1	Water Supply Schemes-Small	Nos	2500	470	3694
2	Water Supply Schemes-Comprehensive	Nos	6	13	16
3	New Latrine	Nos	40000	795	68023
4	Latrine Conversion	Nos	8000	2668	24194
5	GWR - Point recharge	BGs	563	26	1013
6	EMP - Works	Nos	26667	1610	89319
7	Drainage	Mtrs	178000	10132	68362

Source: KRWSA

Table elucidates that in the case of water supply schemes; more than 90 per cent of the target is achieved. The number of BG's registered is very high compared to the target number of BG registered.

Jalanidhi Project covers 112 grama panchayats from all districts of Kerala. Of these projects, ten are tribal projects. Out of the 3712 schemes taken up under Jalanidhi programme, 3707 water supply schemes have already been completed and communities have been empowered for its operation and maintenance. All the functional water supply schemes are operated and maintained by the beneficiary groups. As on 30/09/2012, about 10.14 lakh people are getting water through Jalanidhi schemes (170253 households and 175 institutions). 95 KWA single panchayath schemes and 253 grama panchayath schemes were rehabilitated and handed over to the beneficiary groups. Of the commissioned schemes, 162 are in tribal areas benefiting about 35000 tribes (6755 households). A brief discussion on the performance of four districts - Thrissur, Palakkad, Malappuram, and Kozhikode - are done.

Coverage of water supply in selected districts

Thrissur district was formed in 1949, consisting of 5 Taluks and 204 Villages. The main rivers in the District are Bharathapuzha, Kecheri (Vadakkanchery), Karuvannur and Chalakkudy. The District has a tropical climate with an oppressive hot season and seasonal rainfall. The Jalanidhi Project was started in Thrissur District during 2001. Panchayats are identified and



taken up for implementation of the Project on the basis of problems in availability of water. Out of 92 panchayats, 17 panchayats are selected from Thrissur District. From Thrissur District 90801 families including 11349 BPL families are identified and found that 51890 (57 per cent) families had drinking water facilities prior to the introduction of the Project and the remaining households are taken up under the Project.

Table - 4

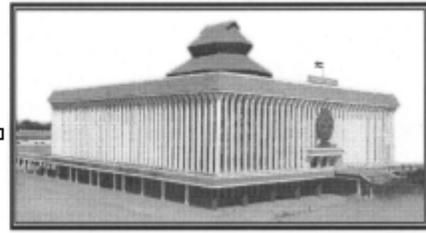
Water supply coverage before & after the jalanidhi project in four districts

Particulars	Thrissur	Palakkad	Malappuram	Kozhikode
Total Gramapanchayath	92	90	99	78
Gramapanchayath selected	17	20	33	22
Total households covered	90801	119495	17417	120832
Drinking water availability before the implementation of the project	51890(57.15%)	62054(51.93%)	9754(56%)	74105(61%)
Jalanidhi households coverage	28531(31.42%)	33833(28.31%)	49031(26%)	27214(22.62%)
Total water supply coverage after project	80421(88.57%)	105610(88.38%)	14282(82%)	102702(85%)

Source: DPMU of Thrissur, Palakkad, Malappuram, Kozhikode

Palakkad is the largest District in Kerala having an area of 4480 sq.km. The District is blessed with 6 important rivers viz; Bharathapuzha, Kunndi, Gayathripuzha, Thoothapuzha, Bhavani, and Siruvani. The climate of the District is tropical and is unique due to the presence of the Palakkad Gap. The District is experiencing severe droughts appearing year after year. It is an irony that a green verdant State like Kerala has an average per capita availability of potable water lesser than that of Rajasthan. Out of 90 panchayats, 20 panchayats are selected from the most drought affected areas. The District has 33833 families which included 18701 BPL families covering 2070 SCs and 3681 STs. Of the total families, 52.93 percent were having water perennials prior to the project.

Malappuram District is having an area of 3550 Sq.Km. Jalanidhi project commenced its activities in Malappuram during 1999-2000. Out of 99 Grama panchayats in Malappuram District, 33 Panchayats are identified for implementing Jalanidhi Projects. Of the total families, 107414 (56 percent) were having water perennials prior to the project.

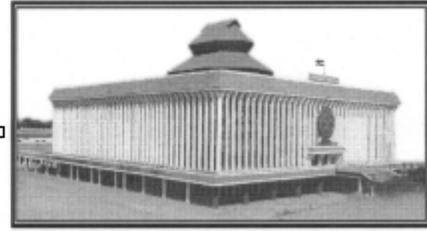


Kozhikode District, having an area of 2344 sq.km accounts for 6 percent of the total area of the State. Kozhikode district ranked the 5th among the Districts in population having 2879131 persons. The District has 7 percent SC and 0.2 percent ST population. Kozhikode was one among the four Districts initially selected for the implementation of Jananidhi project. Out of 78 Grama Panchayats, 22 are selected for implementation of Jananidhi. These Panchayats covered 120832 households including 15784 BPL families. Out of this, 74105 (61 percent) had access to perennial water before the project.

The project was originally designed to implement in 80-100 grama panchayats in four district of Kerala - Thrissur, Palakkad, Kozhikode and Malappuram over a period of five years from 2001. Of this, three districts also represent different topological regions in Kerala viz coastal, midlands and high lands. The water supply situation in the four districts reveals a number of problems. Notable among these are: A huge water demand and supply gap, poor operation and maintenance of water supply systems, inadequate supply of safe drinking water to poor communities, insufficient quantities supplied, intermittent supply, poor quality of water etc. After the implementation of the project, the water availability in four districts improved rapidly.

At present 92 Grama panchayats spread over Thrissur, Palakkad, Kozhikode and Malappuram districts are considered. From Table-4 it can be observed that Palakkad is the major beneficiary district of Jananidhi and Malappuram is the least. KWA (Kerala Water Authority) implemented various schemes by considering the need for extending the coverage of protected water supply in the state. Instead of these schemes, water shortage still exists as a big challenge, especially in the dry season. The Jananidhi project has a great significance here. It succeeded to solve this problem impressively. The project extends an indispensable role in reducing the water scarcity in the rural area mainly in the hilly regions. The success of the project lies as it covers the uncovered regions under the KWA. In addition to this, the project provides a stable and consistent water supply both in the rainy as well as in the dry season too. Even though the Project has met the water requirement to the tune of 80 per cent of the rural population, the study identified certain **defects** in its implementation and operation. The role of the Panchayat is limited to the level of a facilitator. In certain cases identification of area for water supply was done through political decision that indirectly affected the objective of the project. A good number of the beneficiaries are BPL families and their income status and educational status are not up to the level to handle the operation and maintenance effectively for a long period. The source was poor in certain location that resulted in inadequate supply of water. Time for availability of water was not enough to meet their demand in some areas.

The second Kerala Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Project (Jalanidhi 2) have been approved by World Bank with the cost of RS.1022 crores. The project period is 5 1/2 years proposed from January 2012 covering about 200 GPs. For the year 2012-2013, it is decided to



cover 86 panchayats, 216 small Water Supply schemes including 18 Tribal Plans, 2 Large Water supply Schemes, 22 Water Treatment Plans and 738 RWH units.

The project area is selected on the basis of scarcity of water, problems in the availability and quality of water, poor environment sanitation facilities etc. In the panchayat 90 per cent of the water supply schemes are completed timely and the remaining are expected to complete before the expiry of the project. The fund utilized for the project was in the ratio 75:10:15 between government, panchayat and beneficiaries. Water availability was limited to 1 to 3 hours per day. Beneficiaries from different districts have diverse opinion regarding the availability, quality and performance of water supply schemes. With regard to the usage of water average of 60 percent beneficiaries are using the scheme for drinking and cooking purposes and others for various purposes. It is generally accepted that Jalanidhi project has met the water requirement of 80 percent of the rural population.

Conclusion

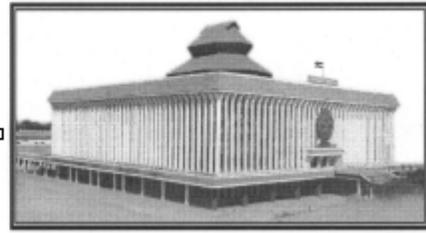
Availability of water, especially quality water is an inevitable factor for daily life and its accessibility is to be ensured is a major concern of the Government. The model and procedure followed for implementation of Jalanidhi was effective since it was implemented in the background of a World Bank fund with technical and implementation support from an autonomous agency KRWSA. However, continuation of the scheme with foreign loan is not viable. But, if the State maintains and strengthens the infrastructure assets created through Jalanidhi in 112 panchayats and extend the programme in uncovered areas it will help to meet the requirement of water to a great extent in rural areas.

A sustainable water supply system to the rural areas is highly warranted especially the ground that KWA has withdrawn almost all their schemes from the Panchayats. For the effective functioning of the scheme appropriate committees have to be constituted in the panchayat for identification of schemes, approval, implementation and purchases. The Committee includes the Panchayat President, Ward Members, Secretary and Technically qualified persons. If technically qualified persons are not available in the panchayat, arrange the support of accredited Non Governmental Organisations (NGOs) in the time of identification of area, preparation of projects, supervision and implementation of projects on a payment basis.

SOUTHERN ECONOMIST,

JULY 1, 2015.





Watershed Management Programme In India: A Study

A.R. Veeramani and A. Rajan Babu

Introduction

In the Economic Development of a country especially an agricultural country like India, water and soil plays an important role. Both water and soil are gifts of nature, and for the existence of humanity, they should be utilized carefully and preserved. Water is fundamental to the development of economy. It is essential for sustaining all forms of life, food production and quality environment for the population, animals, plants and microbes worldwide for their well being. It is also impossible to substitute for most of its uses, difficult to de-pollute and it is truly a unique gift to mankind from nature. Water is one of the most manageable of the natural resources as it is capable of diversion, transport, storage, and recycling. All these properties impart to water its great utility for human beings. As human populations and economies grow, demand for water increases. In addition to threatening the human food supply water shortages and reduce biodiversity both in aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems. Water pollution cause the spread of serious human diseases and diminishes water quality. In recent years the sustainable development and efficient water management has become challenge in all Indian States.

Meaning of the Watershed Management

Water resources management consists of three general systems: natural water system, human activity system and water resources management system. The natural water system consists of the hydrologic cycle with its components: precipitation, evaporation and evapotranspiration, surface water runoff, and groundwater flows including biota, soil, atmosphere and water. This system is the water and water- related natural resource endowment available for human uses and services. The human activity system is composed of many human activities that affect or are affected by the natural water resource system. These human activities comprise the demand side for water uses such as domestic water supply, irrigation, waste disposal, hydroelectric power, navigation,



fisheries, and recreation and for the reduction of damages from flooding, water pollution and drought.

Major Components of Watershed Management Programme

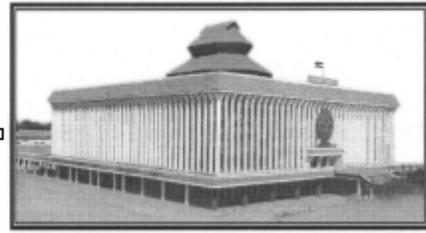
The major components of watershed management programme are as follows:

- Soil Conservation: Protection against soil erosion through measures such as terracing, bonding, agronomic practices such as contour farming, tree and shelter belts plantation.
- Water Conservation: Protection against run-off by adopting measures such as surface run-off harvesting strip cropping, key line farming.
- Land Improvement: Land use according to land capability classification.
- Pasture Development: Development of pasture based on land capability classification.
- Forestry Development: Soil forestry programme and agro-forestry programme to maintain ecological balances.

Need for Watershed Management

Water management has become a necessity not only for the TAD but also for all the areas due to the following reasons.

- Climate change and global warming are now widely recognized as the major environmental problem which has put an additional stress on the ecological, social and economic system of our economy which is already facing tremendous pressure due to rapid urbanization, industrialization and economic development. In this climate change regime the monsoon onset is becoming late. Uncertainties are found in case of pre-monsoon arrival, post-monsoon and winter rainfall, number of cloudy days, heat spell, day and night temperatures, etc. To meet the challenge of climate change (agriculture is badly affected) there is a need for management of water resources to support agriculture and other life-supporting activities.
- Growing demand for water to match its demand with growing population, urbanization, industrialization, and the most important cultivation, etc.
- Increased supply of waste water may create problems immediately and/ or in the future. Thus there is a need for recycling of waste water.



- To utilize the rain water and water of the ephemeral streams which would otherwise flow to the downstream causing flood or carry sediments to the downstream river or ocean. There will be blockades in the downstream river beds and ocean resulting into a number of problems.
- To have a sustainable supply of water to match the individual and social needs.

Availability of Water

Irrigation is one of the most important critical inputs for enhancing the productivity that is required at different critical stages of plant growth of various crops for optimum production. Various Commissions had estimated the total water resources available in India as indicated below:

Table - 1 : Estimates of Water Resources in India

Agency	Estimate in bcm	Deviation from 1869 bcm
First Irrigation Commission(1902-03)	1443	-23%
Dr A. N. Khosla (1949)	1673	-10%
Central Water and Power Commission (1954-66)	1881	+0.60%
National Commission on Agriculture	1850	-1%
Cental Water Commission (1988)	1880	+0.60%
Cental Water Commission (1993)	1869	-

Source: Eleventh Five Year Plan - 2007-12

Two agencies, namely, Ministry of Water Resources and National Commission for Integrated Water Resource Development (NCIWRD) have estimated the total water requirement for various sectors. It is found out that irrigation sector accounted for a larger chunk of 68 per cent of total water requirement among all sectors.

Table-2 elucidate water requirement for various sections. Water resource management is a very important issue with regard to the conservation and the protection of water. Water demand management is meant to manage the available water resource wisely and to deliver the necessary amount for sustainable development.

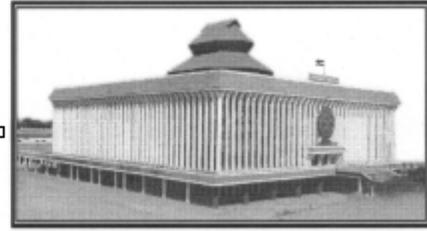


Table - 2: Water Requirement for Various Sectors

Sector	Water Demand in Km ³ (or bcm)				
	Standing sub committee of MoWR			NCIWRD	
	2010	2025	2050	2010	2025
Irrigation	688	910	1072	557	611
Drinking	56	73	102	43	62
Industry	12	23	63	37	67
Energy	5	15	130	19	33
Others	52	72	80	54	70
Total	813	1093	1447	710	843

Source: Nation Commission on Integrated Water Resource Department Eleventh Five Year Plan - 2007-12.

The below table-3 shows that as a consequence of the increasing demand on finite water resource to meet the varied demands of the burgeoning population, its availability is declining with each passing day. While the total water resource availability in the country remains constant, the per capita availability of water has been steadily declining since 1951 due to population growth.

Table - 3: Population Growth and Percapita Water Availability in India

Year	Population (Million)	Percapita Water Availability (Cubic metres)
1951	361	5177
1955	395	4732
1991	846	2209
2001	1027	1820
2025	1394	1341
2050	1640	1140

Source: Eleventh Five Year Plan - 2007-12.

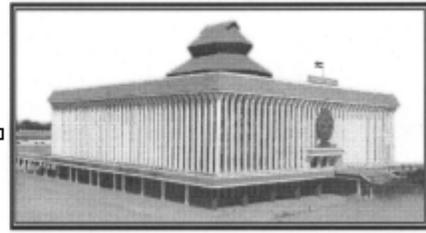
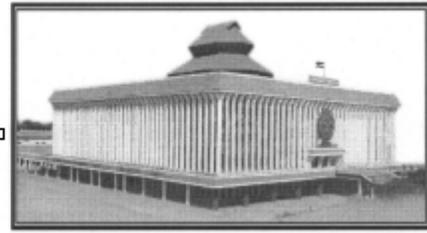


Table-4 explain the irrigation potential created and utilized in India. The pace of creation of additional irrigation potential came down sharply from an average of about 3 per cent per annum during 1950-51 to 1989-90 to 1.2 per cent, 1.7 per cent and 1.8 per cent per annum, respectively, during the Eighth, Ninth and Tenth Five Year Plan periods.

Table - 4: Irrigation Potential Created and Utilized (Million ha)

Plan	Potential Created			Total	Total	Potential Utilized			Total
	Major and Medium	SW	Minor GW			Major and Medium	SW	Minor GW	
Upto 1951 (Per Plan)	9.70	6.40	6.50	12.90	22.60	9.70	6.40	6.50	12.90
First Plan 1951-56	12.20	6.43	7.63	14.06	26.26	10.98	6.43	7.63	14.06
Second Plan 1956-61	14.33	6.45	8.30	14.75	29.08	13.05	6.45	8.30	14.75
Third Plan 1961-66	16.57	6.48	10.52	17.00	33.57	15.17	6.48	10.52	17.00
Annual Plan 1966-69	18.10	6.50	12.50	19.00	37.10	16.75	6.50	12.50	19.00
Fourth Plan 1969-74	20.70	7.00	16.50	23.50	44.20	18.39	7.00	16.50	23.50
Fifth Plan 1974-78	24.72	7.50	19.80	27.30	52.02	21.16	7.50	19.80	27.30
Annual Plan 1978-80	26.61	8.00	22.00	30.00	56.61	22.64	8.00	22.00	30.00
Sixth Plan 1980-85	27.70	9.70	27.82	37.52	65.22	23.57	9.01	26.24	35.25
Seventh Plan 1985-90	29.92	10.90	35.62	46.52	76.44	25.47	9.97	33.15	43.12
Annual Plan 1990-92	30.74	11.46	38.89	50.35	81.09	26.31	10.29	36.25	46.54
Eighth Plan 1992-97	32.95	12.51	40.80	53.31	86.26	28.44	11.07	37.70	48.77
Ninth Plan 1997-2002	37.05	13.60	43.30	56.90	93.95	31.01	11.44	38.55	49.99
Tenth Plan 2002-2007	42.35	14.31	46.11	60.42	102.80	34.42	12.00	40.81	52.81



The ratio of growth of utilization of the potential created declined to 1 per cent per annum during the Ninth Five Year Plan period and improved to 1.5 per cent per annum during the Tenth Five Year Plan period. The average annual rate of utilization remained lower than the average annual addition to the irrigation potential resulting in the cumulative utilization witnessing continuous erosion. This not only amounts to an inefficient use of funds, but also a forgone income from irrigated lands.

Characteristics of Watershed

Each watershed shows the characteristics, which are so much variable that no two watersheds are identical.

Size

The size of watershed forms a basis for further classification into different categories. The nomenclatures are Sub-watershed (100-500 sq. Km.), Mini-watershed (10-100 sq.km), Micro-watershed (1-10 sq. Km.) and mini watershed(Less than 1 Sq. Km.). The size helps in computing many parameters like precipitation received, retained and drained off. Larger the watershed, more the heterogeneity of the other characteristics.

Shape

Watershed differ in their shape based on morphometric parameters like geology and structure. The general shapes are pear, elongated, triangular, circular, etc. Shape determines the length-width ratio which affects the run-off characteristics like runoff-time.

Slope

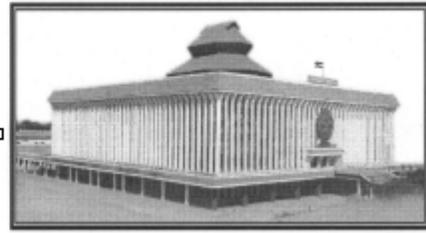
It controls the rainfall distribution and movement, land utilization and watershed behaviour. The degree of slope affects the velocity of over land flow and run-off infiltration rate and thus soil transformation.

Drainage

The order, pattern and density of drainage have a profound influence on watershed as to run-off, infiltration, land management, etc. It determines the flow characteristics and thus erosional behaviour.

Climate

Meteorological parameters like precipitation, temperature, wind velocity, humidity and evaporation decide a quantitative approach for arriving at water availability in a watershed. Climate



is a determining factor for the management of all aspects of watershed. For example, the entire planning of greenery depends on climate.

Physiography

Type of land, its altitude and physical disposition immensely speak about a watershed as to the climate and planning the activities in greening. For example, a hilly track could be useful mainly for forestry, and plains of populated areas could be utilized only for crops.

Land Use

Land use pattern is vital for planning, programming and implementing a management project on a watershed. It is an important statistic for ascertaining the background, appreciating the status and planning the programmes in management. It portrays man's impact on the specific watershed and forms a basis for categorizing the land for the formulation of a pragmatical action plan.

Hydrology

Availability, quality and distribution of surface water is the basis to the final goal of growing greenery in a watershed. Hydrological parameters help in quantification of water available, utilized and the additional exploitable resources for greening the area. They determine the location and design of conservation structures.

Socio-Economics

Statistics on people and their health, hygiene, wants, wishes, cattle and farming practices and share of participation are equally important in managing a watershed.

Strategies for Watershed Resource Management

- Rainwater Harvesting
- Comprehensive Water Policy Reform and Demand Management
- Secure Water Rights
- User Management of Irrigation Systems
- Reformed Price Incentives

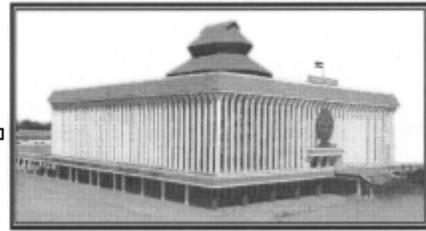


- Appropriate Technology
- Environment Protection
- Tradable Water Rights
- International Co-Operation
- Education and Comity Awareness
- Research and Technology
- Agriculture and Water Conservation Practice
- Education and Community Awareness
- Institutional Support
- Co-operation for the Sustainability of Shared Water Resources.

Reason for Low Irrigation Efficiency

The reasons that contribute to low irrigation efficiency can be identified as follows:

- Completion of dam/bad works ahead of canals
- Dilapidated irrigation systems
- Unlined canal systems with excessive seepage
- Lack of field channels
- Lack of canal communication network
- Lack of field drainage
- Improper field leveling
- Absence of volumetric supply
- Inadequate extension services



- Low rate for water

Strengths and Weaknesses of Watershed Development Projects in India after 1994

Strengths

- **Project Management Related**

- All ministries issued guidelines
- Community - based Project Management including financial aspects
- Support for capacity building agenda (Community Organization and Training)
- Provisions for maintenance of assets
- Formal role for NGO (Non-Government Organisation) and partnership between government and NGOs
- Several models emerged at operational level for project management at State / district level

- **Project Content Related**

- Integrated NRM approach with a focus on area of micro watershed
- Bilateral projects joined the ongoing projects and diversified the scope of the projects

- **Process Related**

- Community -level decision-making, planning, and execution of watershed projects
- Fund management at community level
- Specific roles of PRIs other Community Based Organizations (CBOs)
- Building block approach (user groups, SHGs form the building blocks of institutional arrangements)
- Clear support and institutional arrangement for project facilitation (Project Implementation Agency [PIA] and Watershed Development Teams)



Weaknesses

- **Project Management Related**

- No dedicated project management teams at State / district levels
- Poor delivery of capacity building services
- Fluctuating partnerships between government organizations (GOs) and NGOs
- State / district level offices gave low priority to watershed projects
- Good experiences could not be up scaled effectively

- **Project Content Related**

- Strong focus on engineering treatment at the cost of integrated approaches
- Little formal support to productivity and livelihoods related agenda
- Post-project sustainability is grossly neglected

- **Process Related**

- Low level of internalization of participatory approaches by projects teams
- Lip service to equity and gender concerns at operational level
- Weak institutional arrangements at community level and reducing role of CBOs

Conclusion

Water is one of the most essential natural resources for sustaining life and it is likely to become critically scarce in the coming decades, due to continuous increase in its demands, rapid increase in population and expanding economy of the country. Variations in climatic characteristics are responsible for uneven distribution among the sectors across the States. No matter who we are, where we are and what we do, we are all dependent on water. We need it every day, in so many ways. We need it to stay healthy, for growing food, vegetation, transportation, irrigation, industry, energy and its sheer life giving properties. For increasing the availability of water resources, there is a need for better management of existing water resources. The vast majority of sicknesses

FOCUS



and deaths of people caused by waterborne illness and it can be eliminated by improved water quality, hygiene, and sanitation. Research and new technology should form the foundation for new strategies designed to address the challenges for increasing food production, improving water supply, and ensuring efficient environmental protection. If initiatives are not pushed forward, water will become a more constraining factor in the quest for inclusive and sustainable growth.

**KISAN WORLD,
JULY 2015.**





Legal Imprints

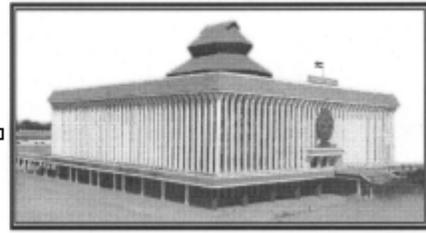
Kanchi Kohli

It was a little over three years ago that the Supreme Court systematically recorded how India's rivers and its riparian ecology had been severely affected owing to the "alarming rate of unrestricted sand mining". The court's order, issued on February 27, 2012, clearly recognised that while small-scale mining of minor minerals from riverbeds was an important economic activity, excessive in-stream sand and gravel mining had caused the degradation of rivers, leading to environmental impacts. This is extrapolated from the fact that there is an increased demand for sand in the building and construction sector as it continues to expand.

This issue is just as relevant today as regular reports on the implications of illegal sand mining across the country show. The Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC) has announced that it will soon introduce a new policy on "sustainable" sand mining. At the same time, the National Green Tribunal (NGT) continues to hear applications relating to this issue and is awaiting remedial action from various State governments. On the one hand, this is a clear acknowledgement that sand mining remains an important environmental, legal and regulatory issue to be dealt with. And, on the other, it throws up deeper questions on whether new or existing policies, laws and judicial directions are enough to remedy the problems arising out of this sector.

IMPACTS OF RIVERBED MINING

Riverbed mining in India is carried out for a variety of purposes- for boulders, fine sand, clay and minor minerals like silica, and so on. While the extraction of sand and gravel from riverbeds has been carried out for generations, truckloads of materials have been extracted with the upscaling of the construction and real estate sector in the country. Sand is an important ingredient in the making of concrete, which is the mainstay of the construction industry.



The scale at which these operations are carried out reveals that riverbed mining is no longer only for flood plain management or use of materials for household purposes. Such extraction is not devoid of its environmental impacts. It is known to cause erosion of the riverbeds and often leaves river-plains increasingly vulnerable to flooding, with the loose landmass being swept away, especially during the monsoons. It is also stated to have salinity intrusion into rivers, damaging the riverine ecosystem.

The order in *Deepak Kumar vs State of Haryana* (2012) 4 SCC 629 made detailed observations on how sand mining was damaging the entire river ecosystem, including fish-breeding areas, affecting the conservation of bird habitats and increasing salinity in the rivers. The order said it also affected the safety of bridges and weakened riverbeds.

According to the Geological Survey of India's (GSI) guidelines titled "Impacts and methodology of systematic and scientific mining in the riverbed material", there are seven major hazards of sand and gravel extraction. These broadly include the impact on the in-stream flora and fauna and vegetative cover, riverbed erosion, degradation and pollution of groundwater, lowering of the water table, and degradation of land (http://www.portal.gsi.gov.in/gsiDoc/pub/riverbed_mining_guidelines.pdf).

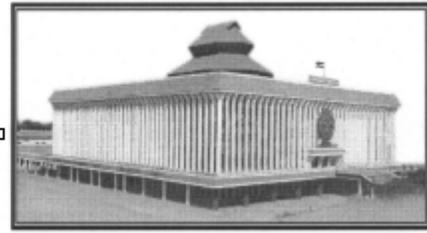
SMALL IN SCALE, NOT SMALL IN DAMAGE

An important aspect of the Supreme Court's judgment was its direction to seek "environment clearance" under the Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification, 2006, for the mining of minor minerals in a lease area less than five hectares (12.5 acres). No sand mining was to be allowed without such approval, it said. The Supreme Court order expanded the scope of the EIA Notification and brought within its regulatory purview mining of minor minerals even under five hectares, which was not the case with the regulation earlier. Only mining areas above five hectares needed to go through the environmental clearance process. The Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF) issued a circular to this effect on May 18, 2012, following the Supreme Court's orders clarifying the requirement. With this, all mining for minor minerals, which mostly sand mining activity is, could only be done with a proper environmental clearance.

The reasoning behind this was that one could not discount the fact that the EIA Notification was being flouted by breaking a homogeneous area into pieces to circumvent the law. The extent of environmental and ecological damage from this also needed to be determined, and the EIA process was to help address this.

NGT AND ILLEGAL RIVERBED MINING

It was not that the impact of sand mining or illegalities of the trade was not known earlier. However, since 2012, this issue has gained significant legal prominence. The directions of the



Supreme Court have also been the basis for regular directions and follow-up by the NGT since August 2013, where the tribunal has reiterated the restriction on mining activity in riverbeds without environmental clearance.

In 2013, the NGT Bar Association filed an Original Application (OANo.171 of 2013) seeking the tribunal's intervention in the illegal sand mining being carried out across many riverbeds, in particular those of the Yamuna, the Ganga, the Chambal, the Gaumti and the Revati. It highlighted that the removal of minerals from riverbeds was causing serious threat to the flow of rivers, to nearby forests and to the overall environment. It also invoked the Supreme Court judgment in the Deepak Kumar case.

On August 5, 2013, the NGT's Principal Bench passed an order restraining the removal of minerals from riverbeds across the country until requisite approvals by the MoEFCC and the State-level Environmental Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA) concerned were obtained. These agencies regulate the grant of approvals (popularly known as "environment clearance") and monitor the non-compliance of EIA Notification under which these approvals are granted.

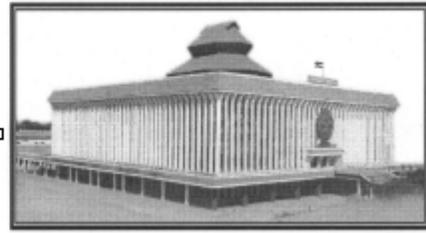
As a follow-up of the earlier directions, on August 14, 2013, the NGT made strong observations regarding noncompliance of its orders by State governments. The bench emphasised that rampant illegal mining of riverbeds continued despite the directions of the higher judiciary and directed all State governments to respond to seven critical issues. Among other things, all State governments were to give information to the NGT on what steps they had taken to implement the Supreme Court judgment along with details on the number of sand mining proposals they had approved or rejected.

Rahul Chaudhary, counsel for the NGT Bar Association, says there are peculiar issues emerging from the manner in which riverbed mining is still being carried out even after the judicial directions. He said that in a case filed by the Noida Lok Manch before the NGT, "there is an issue of sand mining taking place in one State and the supply of the extracted material in another State. While the riverbed is being mined in Faridabad in Haryana, the supply is to Noida in Uttar Pradesh." Some such instances of the follow-up of the tribunal's directions are discussed below.

NON-COMPLIANCE WITH NGT'S ORDERS

Rahul Chaudhary reiterates that "there have been several miscellaneous applications and new cases that have been filed in the NGT following the August 2013 order. NGT has been directing the State governments and especially the regulatory agencies to take strict action against violators and ensure that no illegal mining is carried out."

A closer look at the orders reveals that there are many instances where Miscellaneous Applications (MA) filed by individuals and organisations seeking action against illegal sand mining



in particular contexts. For instance, according to the orders of the NGT on February 3, 2015, a specific MA No. 1109/2013 asking for action of the District Magistrate (DM) against illegal sand mining in Bijnore district of Rajasthan was heard. This was almost 19 months after the NGT's August 5, 2013, directions were issued.

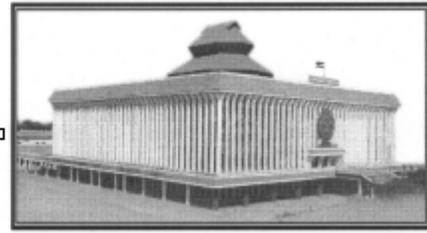
Counsel for the Rajasthan State government assured the tribunal that its orders would be complied with, and the MA was disposed of. On the very next stay in another case (MA No. 584/2014), the NGT summoned the Superintendent of Police (SP) and the DM of Bijnore district in the light of the local Commissioner's report, which showed rampant illegal mining being carried out despite the order of the tribunal.

Applications have also been filed before the NGT seeking a waiver of the compensation to be paid on account of illegal sand mining as directed by the NGT. In one of the cases heard on February 3, 2015, the applicant from Uttar Pradesh, who admitted to carrying mining of "4,500 cubic metres of boulder (gitti) and 15,487 cubic metres of sand", sought an exemption from the payment of compensation. The argument was that the applicant had already paid a royalty of Rs.16,93,902 as compounded fee. This was not agreed to and the NGT directed the payment of another Rs.3,50,000 according to Section 15 of the NGT Act. This had to be done within two weeks.

The NGT also refused to admit pleas against imposing a blanket ban on sand mining. One such application (MA No.587/2014) sought a ban on mining in the Ganga in Haridwar district of Uttarakhand. The NGT's order dated February 4, 2015, did not grant this relief and mentioned that removal of sand from riverbeds is an "established and time-tested practice". What is prohibited "is unregulated, illegal and unsustainable mining activity on the riverbanks". Further, the order added that what was required was a limited and scientific removal of sand while maintaining the ecology and biodiversity of the river.

In another judgment of the NGT dated January 13, 2015, it has yet again been emphasised that even existing mining leaseholders need to get environmental clearance and they have been given three months' relief for the same. This judgment, though issued in *Himmat Singh Shekhawat vs State of Rajasthan* (OA No. 123 of 2014 and MANo.419 of 2014), relating to a particular instance of bajri mining, brought together several applications from the governments of Madhya Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh and Rajasthan seeking exemption and exception for mining activities that were already on. It has once again been directed that no mining should be carried out without environmental clearance.

While some individual applications are being disposed of invoking previous directions, several others are pending before the NGT. These include the Original Application where the tribunal



continues to seek responses and status reports from various State governments on whether sand mining is being carried out with due regulatory approval.

The case is now listed for July 28, 2015, before the NGT's Principal Bench in New Delhi. At the same time, regional benches of the NGT have also issued judgments in site-specific matters and directed State governments to come up with enforcement mechanisms for regulating sand mining. This direction was passed for the Maharashtra State government in a detailed judgment issued by the Pune bench of the NGT in Application No. 44/ 2014 (WZ).

The MoEFCC's report in August 2013, following an inspection in Gautam Buddha Nagar in Uttar Pradesh, acknowledged the existence of rampant and unscientific riverbed sand mining and recommended a "cluster approach" to be adopted for collection of baseline data, which shall adequately cover every single lease area under consideration, before seeking environmental clearance". Such an exercise needs to emphasise various aspects of the transportation of the mined materials, including pollution load due to transportation, available infrastructure, and rate of sedimentation. However, this recommendation is yet to be taken forward.

The MoEFCC's cluster-mining approach was also referred to in the March 2010 report of a group constituted by the Ministry under the chairpersonship of the Secretary. This was done with the purpose of evolving guidelines for sustainable mining of minor minerals. Among other things, this group recommended in its report of March 2010 that given the nature of occurrence of minor minerals and the difficulties in monitoring small-scale mining, mining of these minerals should be done through the creation of clusters. These clusters of small-scale mining activities could operate together, have collective processing and crusher zones, and be monitored likewise. State governments and mine owners' associations were to facilitate the development of environment management plans for these clusters.

Whether or not these recommendations were complied with is yet to be reviewed either through administrative or through judicial processes or through both. An understanding will also need to be developed on whether such a cluster approach will actually resolve the key problems with riverbed sand mining. These include both those relating to the environmental impact and the challenges of being able to actually restrict illegal mining and over-extraction beyond the permitted amount.

RIVERBEDS CONTINUE TO BE UNDER THREAT

This is a telling story of ongoing directions of the courts, repeated assurances from State governments and continuing enforcement lapses in the matter of regulating riverbed sand mining in the country. What falls within the cracks of this conversation is whether the available safeguards and mandatory legal requirements with those relating to the environment are only one of the



facets of this regulatory framework for mining rivers. At the same time, the mafia, which extracts the riverbeds, is known to have strong and far-reaching political connections.

It is three and a half years since the apex court issued clear directions. One has to just take a walk next to a river anywhere in the country and see that the massive excavation of the riverbed is a routine, everyday exercise. Asking a question on whether the operation is in compliance with the law is then either anybody's guess or surely somebody's risk.

**FRONTLINE,
JULY 24, 2015.**





Closing in on Black Money

Sanjeev Sirohi

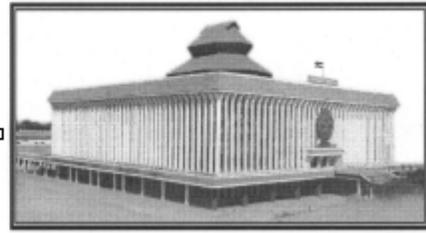
We all know very well how the black money issue had, in the recent past, captured popular imagination. In the national general elections, held in 2014, the BJP vociferously raised it, made it a key electoral issue and promised to bring back billions and billions of rupees stashed abroad, in various banks, illegally. For this campaign, they reaped rich electoral dividends.

The key issue of black money, especially alleged stashing of illicit wealth in safe havens like Swiss banks, has been a matter of huge and acrimonious political debate for a long time. The money is yet to be brought back, but the BJP-led NDA Government at the Centre has made its intentions clear. It has brought in a Bill titled 'The Undisclosed Foreign Income and Assets (Imposition of Tax) Bill, 2015 to fight this menace.

On 20 March 2015, Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley introduced this Bill in the Lok Sabha. In his Budget speech, while fully acknowledging the various limitations and hiccups, under the existing law, in taking strict action against those who stash their black money abroad, Jaitley conveyed the Centre's considered decision to enact a comprehensive new law by which black money, stashed away abroad, could be specifically dealt with. And the guilty would be made to face strict punishment, which could extend to 10-year rigorous imprisonment and a whopping 90% tax under the proposed, new, stringent law.

After this Bill becomes a law, it would be well-nigh impossible for anyone to sit pretty after stashing huge black money abroad. The noose would be tightened and strict action initiated against them. This Bill is proposed to come into effect from 1 April 2016. It will apply to all residents of India.

The provisions of this Bill will apply to both undisclosed foreign income and assets including financial interest in any entity. It is a Bill to make provisions for undisclosed foreign income and assets; the procedure for dealing with such income and assets; and to provide for imposition of



tax on any undisclosed foreign income and asset held outside India and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

The provisions will also apply to beneficial owners or beneficiaries of such illegal foreign assets. The Bill provides for separate taxation of any undisclosed income in relation to foreign income and assets. Such income will, henceforth, not be taxed under the Income-tax Act but under the stringent provisions of the proposed new legislation.

Once this Bill, whose primary objective is to contain the generation and accumulation of unaccounted money stashed abroad in foreign accounts, is implemented, the income-tax assesseees will not only have to disclose their foreign assets but also who the beneficial owners, or nominees, of those assets are. For this, income-declaration forms will have a separate column, seeking the details of foreign assets, accounts and the beneficial owners.

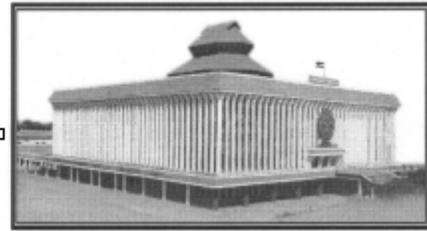
It merits due attention that, for the past two years, income-declaration forms required declaration of foreign income alone. Also, many tax experts feel strongly, “This will increase the accountability of taxpayers to a large extent. More importantly, the new legislation gives taxmen more teeth to hold a taxpayer accountable if an explanation of a foreign asset is unsatisfactory.”

This Bill will entail stringent penalties and prosecution in case of non-disclosures. This is because, as our Finance Minister Arun Jaitley says, “Tax-evasion put a disproportionate burden on honest taxpayers, as they had to bear the brunt of higher taxes to make up for the revenue-loss resulting from evasion.”

No doubt, through this Bill, a very serious effort is being made to check tax evasion and make the culprits accountable. The penalty for non-disclosure of income or an asset located outside would be equal to three times the amount of tax payable - 90% of the undisclosed income or the value of the asset.

However, to protect persons holding foreign accounts with minor balances, which may not have been reported out of oversight or ignorance, it has been envisaged that failure to report bank accounts with a maximum balance of Rs 5 lakh at any time during the year, will not entail penalty or prosecution of any kind. Other safeguards and internal control mechanisms will be prescribed in the rules.

Willful attempt to evade tax, relation to foreign income or asset, will attract a rigorous imprisonment of minimum three years to a maximum of 10 years and a fine. And failure to furnish a return in respect of foreign assets and bank accounts or income will be punishable with rigorous imprisonment of minimum six months to a maximum of seven years. The same term of punishment is prescribed in cases where the assessee has filed a return of income but has not disclosed the foreign asset or has furnished inaccurate particulars.



Stern measures

Also, it has been specifically provided, that failure to furnish a return, in respect of foreign income assets, shall attract a penalty of Rs 10 lakh. The same amount of penalty is prescribed for cases where, although the assessee has filed a return of income, he has not disclosed the foreign income and asset or has furnished inaccurate particulars of the same. The above provisions will also apply to beneficial owners or beneficiaries of such illegal foreign assets.

The proposed legislation also includes tax-evasion as a scheduled offence, under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act. It clearly stipulates that abetment or inducement of another person to make a false return or a false account or statement or declaration under the Act will be punishable with rigorous imprisonment from six months to seven years. This provision will also apply to banks and financial institutions aiding in concealment of foreign income or assets of resident Indians or falsification of documents.

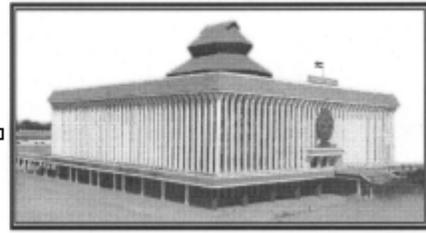
The Bill also proposes to make concealment of income and evasion of tax in relation to a foreign asset a 'predicate offence' under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act. This will enable the enforcement agencies to attach and confiscate the accounted assets held abroad and launch proceedings.

This Bill provides tax-payers a one-time limited window of opportunity to disclose their foreign assets and accounts, to avoid prosecution. This limited window of opportunity will enable tax-payers to file a declaration before a specified tax-authority within a limited period, followed by payment of tax at 30% and an equal amount of penalty. In other words, the tax-payers have to submit 60% of the value of their foreign assets (30% and 30% penalty).

High Penalties

The time-frame of the short window will be notified after the passage of the Bill. According to the sources, the window will be for a few months. According to the Bill, upon fulfilling these conditions, a person shall not be prosecuted under the Bill and declaration made by him will not be used as evidence against him in the Wealth Tax, Foreign Exchange Management Tax, the Companies Act or the Customs Act. Jaitley also made it known explicitly, "Wealth Tax shall not be payable on any asset so disclosed. It is merely an opportunity for persons to become tax-compliant before the stringent provisions of the new legislation comes into force."

An official release made it clear, that the window of opportunity being offered is not an amnesty scheme as no immunity from penalty is being offered. It was also made clear, that this one-time compliance window is not extended to accounts and entities against which the Government and the Income-Tax department have already launched prosecution or probes.



This means clearly, that about 1,000 people, named in an HSBC list of offenders in this regard, would not be able to avail of this limited window of opportunity.

Procuring information about Indian taxpayers from foreign authorities, however, poses a serious challenge. The Government is hoping to address this by joining the Multilateral Competent Authority Agreement on Automatic Exchange of Financial Account Information, as well as through the implementation of the Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act. The Prevention of Money Laundering Act will also be suitably amended to cover tax-evasion.

Under the provisions of the new Bill, the offence will be non-compoundable and the offenders will not be permitted to approach the Settlement Commission for resolution of disputes. There will also be a penalty at the rate of 300% of taxes on the concealed income and assets. “In prosecution proceedings, the willful nature of the default shall be presumed and it shall be for the accused to prove the absence of the guilty state of mind,” read the legislation.

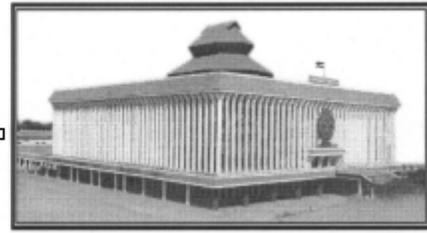
The failure to furnish a return or an inaccurate disclosure in respect of foreign assets and bank accounts or income will be punishable with rigorous imprisonment for a term of minimum of six months to a maximum of seven years besides a fine of Rs 10 lakh even if the assessee has filed returns of income. The second and subsequent offences will be punishable with rigorous imprisonment for a term of minimum of three years to a maximum of 10 years, along with a fine which shall not be less than Rs five lakh but which may extend to Rs one crore.

One-time opportunity

The Bill also empowers the Government to enter into agreements with other countries or jurisdictions for exchange of information, recovery of tax and avoidance of double taxation. The Bill stipulates penalty on undisclosed income or asset located outside India to be three times the tax payable, in addition to the tax payable at 30%.

It is worth mentioning here, that the Government-appointed Tax Administration Reforms Committee (TARC) has opposed amnesty schemes for unearthing black money, saying such measures cause inequity among taxpayers and may not improve the behaviour of evaders. Minister of State for Finance Jayant Sinha told the Lok Sabha in a written reply, “The recommendations of the TARC are under examination of the Government.”

Revenue Secretary Shaktikantas Das sought to remove all misgivings on this count by declaring unambiguously that, “It’s not an amnesty scheme because, under amnesty, you only pay tax, and no penalty. Here, the requirement is to pay tax at 30% and equivalent 30% as penalty. The intention of the Government is not to give a soft-landing facility to anyone. The one-time compliance opportunity is to enable such people, who have hidden assets abroad, to come clean and avail of the opportunity. It is not a revenue mobilisation measure.”



Favouring economy

The Bill empowers the tax-authorities to have powers of discovery and inspection, issue of summonses, enforcement of attendance, production of evidence and impounding of account-books and documents. It also empowers the Centre to enter into agreements with other countries for the exchange of information, recovery of tax and avoidance of double taxation.

Jaitley, while voicing his concern on honest taxpayers bearing the brunt of higher taxes, due to evasion, also apprehended, “The money stashed away abroad by evading tax could also be used in ways, which could threaten national security. No Indian can hold unauthorised and undisclosed assets or income outside this country. Those, who hold it, will have to pay taxes, disclose asset and bring the money back to India. If they don’t, they are going to be severely prosecuted under the law.”

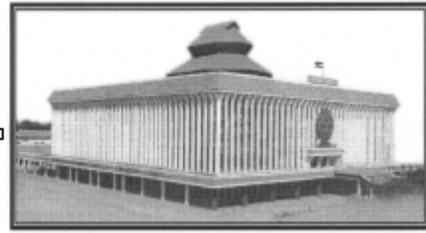
The Bill itself states categorically, “Evasion of tax robs the nation of critical resources necessary to undertake programmes for social inclusion and economic development. It also puts a disproportionate burden on the honest taxpayers as they have to bear the brunt of higher taxes, to make up for the revenue leakage caused by evasion.”

An official statement, however, stated on a bright note, “The Government is confident that this law will act as a strong deterrent and curb the menace of black money stashed abroad by Indians.”

There can be no two opinions, that the enactment of this proposed new Bill will most certainly enable the Central Government to tax undisclosed foreign income and assets acquired from such undisclosed foreign income, and punish the persons indulging in illegitimate ways and means of generating money, causing extensive loss to the revenue. It will also prevent such illegitimate income and assets kept outside the country from being utilised in ways which are severely detrimental to India’s social, economic and strategic interests and compromising severely with its national security.

**ALIVE,
JULY 2015.**





Health Centre Management

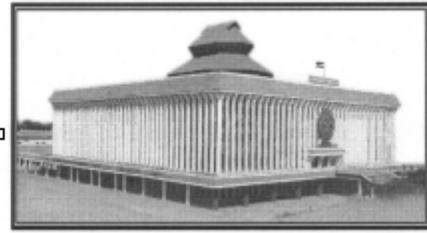
Vijayalakshmi V.

The most peripheral and first contact points between the primary health care system and the community is a Health-Sub centre. The purpose of a Health Centre is largely preventive and promotive, providing elementary drugs for minor ailments. It also provides a basic level of curative care. This book on 'Health Centre Management' is written mainly for student nurses (Both undergraduates and postgraduates).

The author has presented her work in 19 chapters. Community needs assessment and sub centre planning are detailed in chapter 1, including community needs assessment, need assessment techniques, assessment of training needs and role of health workers in primary health centres (PHCs) and sub centres (SCs). Chapter 2 (Health Care Facilities) explain features of health care facilities and classification of health care delivery system. Sub Centre Action Plan is detailed in Chapter 3.

Chapter 4 (Accredited Social Health Activist) is explained including the details of ASHAs, the main components of ASHA, roles of Auxiliary Nurse Midwife, Anganwadi worker, Panchayati Raj Institutions & NGOs, as well as organizing selection and training of ASHAs. Chapter 5 details the role of NGOs and their coordination with government departments, with special reference to health research and primary health care. Chapter 6 (National Health Programmes in India) & Chapter 7 (Health System Organization) are informative.

Chapter 8, Health Management Information System details the process of Health Information System maintenance. Types of records maintained, mode of maintaining the records, electronic records, the uses of records, and types and mode of preparing reports are explained clearly in this chapter. Chapter 9 details the referral system, including its meaning, establishment of community-based referral system, and components of a referral system. The chapter concludes with a note on Electronic Discharge Referral System.



Detection, treatment and control of National Health Diseases are detailed in Chapter 10 including causes and more of curing therein. Chapter 11 details administration of health services in India, roles of health administrator, objectives and principles of Public Health Administration, committees on National Health Administration are included in this chapter.

Chapter 12 (Meeting, Counseling, Journals, Circulars and Handouts) identifies the role of health programmes. Mode/Styles of conducting meetings, counseling & its role in health care, techniques and challenges of counseling, role of public health journal are explained in this chapter. The chapter concludes with a note on Health service circulars and preventive health care handouts.

Chapter 13 focuses on continuing Education and self-development, detailing types, aims, format of continuing education and resources of Nursing continuing Education. Methods of Self-development and tools of success in self development are also explained in this chapter. Chapter 14 details the 'Immunization Procedure' against infection or disease. Supplies and maintenance of drugs (Chapter 15) and procurement and management of supplies and equipment (Chapter 16) are most informative.

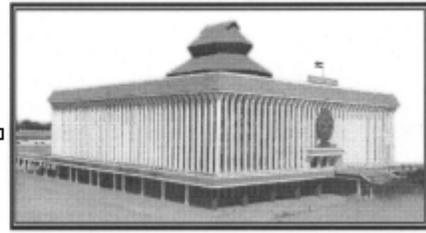
Chapter 17 focuses on communication which is very important in understanding and treating the ailment fundamental principles for better communication, process of communication, types of communication, levels and mode of communication are detailed in this chapter. Chapter 18 discusses the writing skills, speech and language development to enable health plan staff to write better (improving writing and speaking abilities in local languages English). The need for translation services are also highlighted in this chapter.

Chapter 19 is the concluding chapter highlighting about comprehensive school health (CSH). Components of CSH are detailed in this chapter.

This is a useful book not only for Nursing students, but also for health workers of PHCs, such centres and community Health Care Centres. This could serve as a guide for many NGOs and Volunteers promoting community health care.

**SOUTHERN ECONOMIST,
JULY 1, 2015.**





Maharashtra Legislative Assembly
RESUME OF WORK TRANSACTED
FROM 9TH MARCH, 2015 TO 10TH APRIL, 2015

The First Session for the year, 2015 commenced at Vidhan Bhavan, Mumbai on the 9th March, 2015 and was prorogued on the 10th April, 2015. During the session period, the House sat for 23 days and transacted business for a period of approximately 170 hrs and 23 minutes.

BRIEF REPORT OF THE FIRST SESSION :-

The Assembly commenced its sitting with the singing of “**Vande Mataram**”.

GOVERNOR’S ADDRESS :-

On the first day of the session i.e. on the 9th March, 2015, Hon’ble Governor of Maharashtra addressed to both the Houses of State Legislature. Motion of thanks for the address of Hon’ble Governor was moved in the House on the second day of the session i.e. the 10th March, 2015. Discussion was held, on the 11th and 12th March, 2015 and Motion of thanks was adopted by the House without any amendment on the 12th March, 2015.

OBITUARY REFERENCE :- .

During the Session Obituary references were made on the passing away of S/Shri Raosaheb Ramrao alias R. R. Patil, M.L.A. and Former Deputy Chief Minister, Prakash (Bala) Sawant, M.L.A., Jagannathrao Shankar Jadhav, Ramesh Panya Walvi, Ex-M.L.A. and Minister, Bhagujirao Shankarrao Gade-Patil, Sukhdev Pundlik Uike, Ramkishan Ramchandra Dayama, Vishwnath Suryabhan Jadhav, Ex-M.L.A., Senior Social Worker Com.Govindrao Pandharinath Pansare, S/Shri Sadashivrao Dadoba Mandlik, Ex-M.L.A. and Minister, Dhondiram Ganapati Waghmare, Nandkurnar Damodar Kale, Appasaheb alias S.R.Patil, Uttamrao Nathuji Dhikle, Ex-M.L.A.



All members of the House stood in silence for a short while as a mark of respect to the memory of deceased.

CONGRATULATORY MOTION :-

During the Session congratulatory motion was passed unanimously in the Legislative Assembly, regarding receipt of *Dnyanpeeth Award* to senior litterateur Prof. Bhalchandra Nemade.

FINANCIAL BUSINESS :-

Hon'ble Finance Minister presented the Supplementary Demands for the year 2014-2015 on 10th March, 2015.

The motion was carried and discussion and voting on Supplementary Demands was held on 16th and 17th March, 2015. Total 33 demands for grands of Supplementary Demands were passed by the House. Total 176 cut-motions were received on supplementary demands. Out of these 115 cut-motion were admitted and 61 were disallowed. No cut-motion was moved in the House.

A publication which bring out "Economic Survey of Maharashtra" for the year 2014-2015 was presented to the House on 17th March, 2015. The salient features of the State's economy along with the statistical tables are given in the publication.

L.A. Bill No. IX of 2015 - The Maharashtra (Supplementary) Appropriation Bill, 2015 - Total 7 points were raised to take part in discussion on Appropriation Bill, Out of these 6 points were allowed to be moved and 1 point was disallowed. The Finance Minister replied to the points raised on Appropriation Bill, after that L.A. Bill No. IX of 2015 - The Maharashtra (Supplementary) Appropriation Bill, 2015 was passed by the Legislative Assembly on the 18th March, 2015.

On 18th March, 2015 Hon'ble Minister for Finance and Planning laid before the House the "Directives by the Hon'ble Governor in respect of regionwise disbursement of allotted expenditure for the annual plan for the year 2015-2016 undersection 7 of Development Board for Vidarbha, Marathwada and the Rest of Maharashtra Order, 2011.

Hon'ble Finance Minister presented Budget for the year 2015- 2016 to the House on the 18th March, 2015.



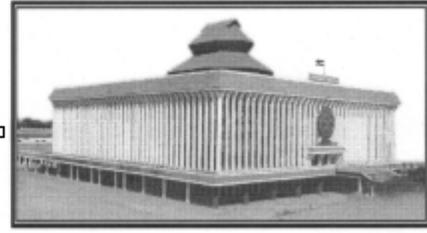
Hon'ble Finance Minister moved the motion on 23rd March, 2015 under Rule 57 of Maharashtra Legislative Assembly Rules, to suspend the provision of seven days notice required for the general Discussion to be held on Budget under Rule 246(1). The motion was carried and the general discussion on Budget was held on 23rd and 24th March, 2015. On 24th March, 2015 Hon'ble Finance Minister replied on general discussion.

Motion on Vote on Account for the year 2015-2016 was moved in the House on 25th March, 2015 by Hon'ble Minister for Finance. On the same day L.A. Bill No. XIII of 2015 - The Maharashtra Appropriation (Vote on Account) Bill, 2015 was passed by the House.

Hon'ble Finance Minister moved the motion on 25th March, 2015 under Rule 57 of Maharashtra Legislative Assembly Rules, to suspend the ten days notice required for the Discussion and voting on demands for grants under rule 251 (1). The motion was carried and discussion and voting on demands for grants on the Budget was held on 25th, 26th, 27th, 30th and 31st March, 2015. Total 257 demands for grants of the Budget were passed by the House. Total 1169 cut-motions were received on budgetary demands. Out of these 998 cut-motion were admitted and 171 were disallowed. 1 cut-motion received after the prescribed period. No cut-motion was moved in the House.

L.A.Bill No.XVIII of 2015 - The Maharashtra Appropriation Bill, 2015 - Total 8 points were raised to take part in discussion on Appropriation Bill. Out of these 7 points were allowed to be moved and 1 point was disallowed. The Finance Minister replied to the points raised on Appropriation. After that L.A. Bill NO.XVIII of 2015 - The Maharashtra Appropriation Bill, 2015 was passed by the Legislative Assembly on 1st April, 2015.

On 18th March, 2015 Hon'ble Chief Minister (Law and Judiciary Department) laid before the House the Information of Statutory Development Board-wise Actual Plan/Non-Plan Expenditure for the year 2013-2014. On 19th March, 2015 Hon'ble Minister for Labour (Industries Power and labour Department), Hon'ble Minister for State for Food, Civil Supply and Consumer Protection laid before the House the Information of Statutory Development Board-wise Actual Plan/Non-Plan Expenditure for the year 2013-2014. On 20th March, 2015 Hon'ble Chief Minister (Urban Development), Hon'ble Minister for Cultural Affairs, Hon'ble Minister for Parliamentary Affairs (Information on Non-Plan Expenditure for the year 2013-2014) laid before the House the Information of Statutory Development Board-wise Actual Expenditure. On 24th March, 2015 Hon'ble Minister for Water Resources, Hon'ble Minister for Revenue, Hon'ble Minister for Planning (Planning Department), Hon'ble Minister for Higher and Technical Education laid before the House the Information of Statutory Development Board-wise Actual Expenditure. On 25th March, 2015 Hon'ble Chief Minister (Home Department and General Administration), Hon'ble Minister for Co-operatives, Marketing and Textile) laid before the House the Information of Statutory Development Board-wise Actual Expenditure. On 27th March, 2015



Hon'ble Minister for Minorities Development and Wakf laid before the House the Information of Statutory Development Board-wise Actual Expenditure. On 30th March, 2015 Hon'ble Minister for Social Justice and Special Assistance laid before the House the Information of Statutory Development Board-wise Actual Expenditure. On 31st March, 2015 Hon'ble Minister for Public Works (Excluding Public Undertaking) laid before the House the Information of Statutory Development Board-wise Actual Expenditure. On 1st April, 2015 Hon'ble Minister for Water Supply and Sanitation laid before the House the Information of Statutory Development Board-wise Actual Expenditure. On 6th April, 2015 Hon'ble Minister for Women and Child Development, Hon'ble Minister for School and Sports laid before the House the Information of Statutory Development Board-wise Actual Expenditure. On 9th April, 2015 Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, Dairy Development and Fisheries laid before the House the Information of Statutory Development Board-wise Actual Expenditure. On 10th April, 2015 Hon'ble Minister for Tribal Development, Hon'ble Minister for Medical Education (Medical Education and Drug Department) laid before the House the Information of Statutory Development Board-wise Actual Expenditure.

LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS :-

5 (Five) Ordinances that were promulgated during the inter-session period were laid on the table of the House on the second day of the session i.e. on the 10th March, 2015. 5 (Five) Notices of disapproval motions were received but were not moved in the House.

Following 16 Bills were considered and passed by the House.

- (1) L. A. Bill No. II of 2015 - The Maharashtra Municipal Corporations and the Maharashtra Municipal Councils, Nagar Panchayats and Industrial Townships (Amendment) Bill, 2015.
- (2) L. A. Bill No. III of 2015 - The Maharashtra Police (Amendment) Bill, 2015.
- (3) L. A. Bill No. IV of 2015 - The Maharashtra Village Panchayats (Amendment) Bill, 2015.
- (4) L. A. Bill No. V of 2015 - The Maharashtra Universities (Amendment) Bill, 2015.
- (5) L.A. Bill No. VI of 2015 - The Nanded Sikh Gurudwara Sachkhand Shri Hazur Apchalnagar Sahib (Amendment) Bill, 2015.
- (6) L. A. Bill No. VII of 2015 - The Maharashtra Civil Courts (Amendment) Bill, 2015.

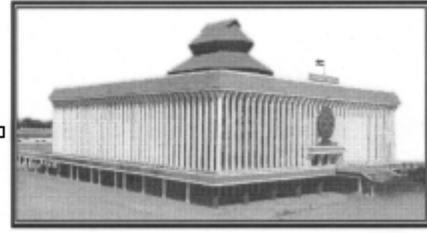


- (7) L. A. Bill No. VIII of 2015 - The Maharashtra (Urban Areas) Protection and Preservation of Trees (Amendment) Bill, 2015.
- (8) L. A. Bill No. IX of 2015 - The Maharashtra (Supplementary) Appropriation Bill, 2015.
- (9) L. A. Bill No. X of 2015 - The Maharashtra Fire Prevention and Life Safety Measures (Amendment) Bill, 2015.
- (10) L. A. Bill No. XIII of 2015 - The Maharashtra Appropriation (Vote on Account) Bill, 2015.
- (11) L. A. Bill No. XVI of 2015 - The Maharashtra Tax Laws (Levy, Amendment and Validation) Bill, 2015.
- (12) L. A. Bill No. XVII of 2015 - The Maharashtra Municipal Corporations (Amendment) Bill, 2015.
- (13) L. A. Bill No. XVIII of 2015 - The Maharashtra Appropriation Bill, 2015.
- (14) L. A. Bill No. XXI of 2015 - The Maharashtra Land Revenue Code (Amendment) Bill, 2015.
- (15) L. A. Bill No. XXIII of 2015 - The Maharashtra Stamp Act (Amendment) Bill, 2015.
- (16) L. C. Bill No. IV of 2015 - The Maharashtra Municipal Corporations and the Maharashtra Municipal Councils, Nagar Panchayats and Industrial Townships (Second Amendment) Bill, 2015.

MOTION :-

The House devoted its valuable time for discussing following matters of public importance under rule 293 of the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly Rules :-

- (1) “Considering the loss sustained by Kharif and Rabbi crops due to unseasonal rainfall and hailstorm caused in the month of October-November 2014 and February 2015 in the State, Necessity to apply the crop insurance scheme in the State in a revised manner based on



climate estimate as a permanent measure to cope with natural calamities occurring repeatedly in the State, Necessity to implement Soil Health Card for farmers, Necessity to regulate the availability of seeds and fertilizers by way of planning and supply the same at a controlled rate and ease, Necessity of chalking out plans, implement water-rich farm mission and providing agricultural solar pumps and measures to be adopted by the Government in the matter be taken for consideration.”

(2) “Considering continuous assaults being committed in the State on activists working for right to information and social causes since last certain months, Death of veteran thinker and social activist Comrade Govind Pansare occurred in an assault committed’ on him and his wife on 16th February 2015 at Kolhapur, Antisocial tendencies attacking the thoughts of Shahu-Phule-Ambedkar are on the rise in the State leading to maligning of the image of a progressive State like Maharashtra, Day by day increase in atrocities being committed against children, women, minor girls and scheduled castes, Preventive action to be taken by the Government and action taken or to be taken by the Government to arrest the assaulters of Comrade Govind Pansare immediately be taken for consideration.”

(3) “Considering the proposals of Infra-1, Infra-2, RAPDRP are pending with the State Power Distribution Company since the tenure of previous Government in the State, necessity to install the transformer having capacity of 100 k.v. by making improvement in the present 63 k.v. transformer as current transformers are not in working condition, necessity to implement feeder management scheme to avoid the loss caused to the feeder, necessity to make efforts to acquire the maximum fund under Dindayal Upadhyay and IPDS scheme of the Central Government, necessity to create separate category for power loom industry in the State, silk industry, fisheries, animal husbandry should be incorporated in the industries category while supplying electricity to this category, necessity to supply electricity at specific rate by creating separate category for supplying electricity to the schools and hospitals in the State, measures to be adopted by the Government in the matter.”

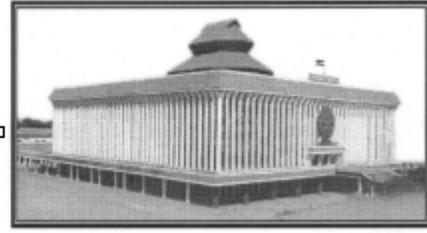
(4) “Considering a backlog of irrigation in Vidarbha, Marathwada and Konkan on large scale, 50% posts of Section Engineers are vacant in the department, necessity to make improvement and immediate measures to complete the project speedily for delay caused in completion of Marathwada Irrigation Project work, necessity of the roads admeasuring more than 23000 KM in Vidarbha to remove the huge backlog of Road Development in Vidarbha and Marathwada upto the average of State Road Development, inconvenience on the large scale to the rural people and pathetic condition created in providing health services due to various vacant posts in Health Department in Vidarbha, directives issued by Hon Governor regarding irrigation, roads, health in Vidarbha-Marathwada are not followed, immediate action to be taken by the State Government and its reaction.”



(5) “A demand being made by the farmers in the State to give Fair Remunerative Price (FRP) to sugarcane, the rate of sugar during production in industry was 2800 which fallen down at 2200 rupees now, sugar factories cannot afford to pay increased rate to farmers as the rate of ENAA / RS / SDS have also collapsed, necessity to give solace to farmers by providing concrete financial aid to them by spending amount for reserved stock of 50 lakh tons and for its storage, acute necessity to declare package by adopting policy decision by considering the problem created in the sugar industry sector in the State as well as adverse effects to be felt on sugarcane producing farmers, measures adopted or to be adopted by the Government and its reaction in the matter.”

(6) ‘The maximum amount out of revenue is received by the State from Mumbai city, necessity to implement special scheme with a view to solve the problems like electricity, water, transportation, etc facing by Mumbai city which is financial capital of the country due to negligence on the part of the Government ,necessity to implement BRTS scheme in Mumbai, considering the increasing population of Mumbai city it is necessary to speed up the work of project of trans-harbour link, Worli-Haji Ali sea link and nariman point coastal route, necessity to complete Metro-2 project on priority basis, necessity to implement time bound reconstruction programme by giving extra FSI to BIT, BDD Chawls, necessity to complete Dharavi Slums Rehabilitation Project speedily, similarly, necessity of carrying out rehabilitation of slum dwellers residing in slums at land near Mumbai Air port and Sanjay Gandhi National Park in the same vicinity, necessity to complete deem conveyance proposals immediately which are pending, necessity to carry out rehabilitation of the farmers who became displaced due to housing projects of CIDCO by giving them compensation in time, necessity to make available houses for mill workers by considering the said matter specially in order to complete the said work as early as possible, action to be taken and measures to be adopted with a view to remove the problems facing by Mumbai and Navi Mumbai immediately.’”

(7) “Near about 317 Castles and forts of historical importance are existing in Maharashtra, among them 47 forts have been declared as national preservation monument, similarly new generation is deprived from these valuable assets due to lack of preservation of old Marathi films, possibility of increasing tourism on large scale if the said castles and forts, folk art and old Marathi films will be preserved, no demand has been made with the Central Government in the last five years for required fund for Archive of Marathi films by National Film Archive, necessity to establish Marathi Language University as well as to make reorganisation of Marathi Language Department, sports policy has not been properly implemented for years together since its declaration, necessity to implement sports policy properly to encourage sports and sportsmen in the State, necessity to make special efforts for the participation of more sportsmen from Maharashtra in the next Olympic, immediate action to be taken by the Government in all these matters and Government’s stand in the same.”



(8) “The Report of Committee appointed under the Chairmanship of Dr. Vijay Kelkar to take review of the problems of Balanced Regional Development under the Government Resolution No. Backlog 2009/C.R.405/D-1416, dated 31st May, 2011 in accordance with the directives of the Hon’ble Governor of Maharashtra dated 27th May, 2009 as well as 19th March, 2010 be taken into consideration.”

HOUSE ALSO DISCUSSED THE FOLLOWING MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE AS LAST WEEK MOTION UNDER RULE 292 OF THE MAHARASHTRA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY RULES :-

“Considering negligence of Government towards the schools owned by Government despite around 1 crore 63 lakh students are studying in the schools run by Municipal Corporation, Government schools are on the verge of closure due to declining standard of teachers, decision taken by the Government to close the schools where percentage of attendance is less than 20 per cent eventhough there is a criteria of establishing school at the distance of 1 k.m. for each habitation as per the National Education policy of Year - 1986 as well as there is no any provision in context of closure of these schools under Right to Education Act, pitiable condition of schools where only one teacher is teaching in the state, approval given by the Education Department to 1975 schools in the entire state after conducting survey with the help of Google Map instead of taking consideration the factual condition of the schools by visiting the school personally, non-implementation of the recommendations made by Dr. Ram Takavale Committee to establish separate University by dividing Mumbai, Pune, Nagpur University.also it is necessary to improve the skills of local un-skilled workers through ITI and Engineering /Technology Institutes, pitiable condition befallen on private and Government Medical colleges in the State due to lack of sufficient teaching staff and basic facilities, decreasing number of the students in Engineering and ITI curriculum in Mumbai, measure to be adopted by the Government be taken into consideration.”

CALLING ATTENTION NOTICES :-

During the First Session 2015, 2954 notices of Calling Attention on matters of urgent public importance were received, out of which 150 notices were admitted out of which 55 notices were orally answered on the floor of the House and remaining 92 notices were laid on the table of the House on the last day of the Session.



QUESTIONS:-

(A) Starred Questions -

For this session, 11085 notices of Starred Questions were received; out of which 1015 questions were admitted and 124 questions were orally answered in the House.

(B) Unstarred Questions -

5 Notices of Unstarred Questions. were received during the session. Out of which 2 Unstarred Questions were admitted, Replies to the 500 questions, previously admitted as Unstarred, were laid on the table of the House by Principal Secretary in the form of printing lists of 50 each.

(C) Short Notice Questions-

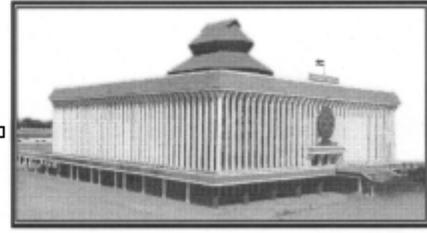
5 Notices of short notice questions were received during the session. Out of which 2 question was admitted, 2 questions were orally answered on the floor of the House and 3 questions were disallowed.

HALF-AN-HOUR DISCUSSION :-

(A) General (Under Rule 94)

239 notices of Half-an-hour discussion were received, out of which 114 notices were admitted and 5 notices were discussed on the floor of the House during the session.

- (1) "Implementation of Housing projects are on large scale for MIG and LIG by CIDCO in Navi Mumbai region, flats are sold at prevailing rates in these Housing projects, title of lands below these building lies with the CIDCO as it has leased these lands for a period of 60 years utmost necessity to convert lease-hold land in Navi Mumbai region as well as those transferred to the Navi Mumbai Corporation for civic amenities in to free hold land on the basis of Aurangabad region, action taken or to be taken by the Government in this matter and its reaction thereon."
- (2) "Revelation of illegal sand mining instances by Revenue Department in all talukas in Raigad districts, seizure of thousands brass illegal sand stock and vehicles in the area of Alibaug, Pen, etc, necessity of inviting tender in the news paper for auction of sand as



sand required for entire district, consequent common people have to suffer burden owing to illegal sand mining, action to be taken and measures to be adopted by the Government in the matter.”

- (3) “Inclusion of 65 to 70 percent villages in Alibag Taluka under the Mumbai Metropolitan Region Authority Development plan, after presenting the proposals of development works like road improvement, basic amenities in the Alibag Taluka under the Mumbai Metropolitan Region Authority Development plan they are pending for approval, though several villages have been included in taluka they are facing difficulties in development work merely due to non receipt of approval, consequently, approval be given as per the demand without any delay to concerned works having availability of fund, action to be taken and measures to be adopted by the Government in the matter.”
- (4) “Increasing number of cancer affected patients day by day due to consuming of Tobacco, Gutkha, Paan Masala, and Cigarette in the State, resultant, families have been devastating due to the same, Tata Memorial Hospital is the only Cancer Hospital, necessity to make available hospital for cancer patients in the State, necessity to conduct public awareness as well as necessity to levy tax on such things on large scale by imposing ban on consuming tobacco in public place to overcome cancer, action to be taken and measures to be adopted by the Government in the matter.”
- (5) “The hundred acres of land adjacent to Daund City is acquired for State Reserve Police Force, Buildings of the office are dilapidated, danger caused to the houses of staff due to dilapidated buildings, continuous demand being made by the citizens, Nagar Parishads and local representative’s to transfer lands acquired by State Reserve Police force but adjacent to the city to Municipal Corporation for various Government and public convenience, measures to be adopted and action to be taken by the Government in the matter.”

(B) Arising Out of Questions -

55 notices of Half-an-hour discussion were received out of which 26 notices were admitted and 9 notices were discussed on the floor of the House during the session.

STATEMENT UNDER RULE 47 :-

32 Statements were made by the Ministers under Rule 47 of the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly Rules.



STATEMENT UNDER RULE 48 :-

2 Statements were made by the Member under Rule 48 of the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly Rules.

ADJOURNMENT MOTION (RULE 97) :-

267 Adjournment motion notices were received during the session, and all notices were disallowed, 31 statements were made by the Ministers.

PRIVILEGES :-

- (1) During the period from 9th March, 2015 to 10th April, 2015, 18 (Eighteen) notices for raising question of breach of privilege and contempt were received.
- (2) 11 (Eleven) members were allowed to raise the question involving breach of privilege and contempt in the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly.

GOVERNMENT RESOLUTION (RULE 110) :-

Government Resolution by Minister for School Education -

This House hereby resolves to send a proposal to Ministry of Defence, Government of India to set up new Military School in Chandrapur District on the lines of Military School at Satara.

NON-OFFICIAL BUSINESS :-

(A) RESOLUTIONS (Under Rule 106) -

338 notices of Private Member's Resolutions were received and 189 notices were admitted and 2 notices were discussed on the floor of the House.

- (1) "Considering the adverse effect to be felt on the progress of the students due to non availability of laboratories, Libraries and other educational facilities due to lack of grant meant for the students from secondary school started on the unaided basis in the State this House recommends the Government to offer hundred percent grant from this academic



year to all the secondary schools started on unaided basis in the State.”

(2) “This House recommends the Government that a monument be set up at Chari in the memory of Late Narayan Nagu patil who was leading the strike of farmers 76 years ago by from Alibaag Taluka (District Raigad) to enact Tenancy Law and law of those who cultivates land can get land.”

(B) BILLS -

Twenty two Notices of Non-Official Bills (Private Member’s Bills) were received in this session. Out of which nine notices of Bills were admitted. Three Bills were introduced in the House and one Bill was taken for consideration and was withdrawn by the Members-in-charge with the leave of the House.

COMMITTEE REPORTS :-

48 Reports of the various Corporations (Public Undertaking) and One Enquiry Report of Government of Maharashtra were presented to the House.

On the whole, the session passed off peacefully. At the close of the session, valedictory address was made by the Hon’ble Speaker in which statistical information regarding the business conducted during the session was read out. Hon’ble Speaker thanked the Leader of the House, the Leader of Opposition, the Leaders and Deputy Leaders of Parties and Groups and each and every Member of the House for their kind co-operation and courtesy extended to him in conducting the business of the House.

The Session was concluded on 10th April, 2015 with established convention of **singing of National Anthem and announcement of Governor’s Prorogation Order** by the Hon’ble Speaker.

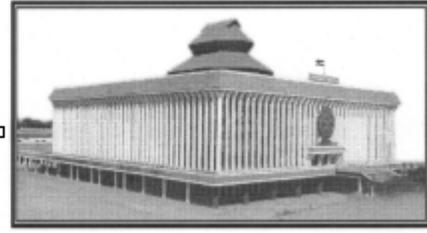


FOCUS



THE LEGISLATIVE BODIES IN SESSION DURING THE MONTH OF JULY 2015

Sl. No.	Name of Assembly/Council	Duration
1.	Chhattisgarh Legislative Assembly	20.07.2015 - 31.07.2015
2.	Madhya Pradesh Legislative Assembly	20.07.2015 - 31.07.2015
3.	Maharashtra Legislative Assembly	13.07.2015 - 31.07.2015
4.	Maharashtra Legislative Council	13.07.2015 - 31.07.2015
5.	Mizoram Legislative Assembly	07.07.2015 - 09.07.2015



Site Address of Legislative Bodies in India

Sl.No	Name of Assembly/Council	Site Address
1.	Loksabha	loksabha.nic.in
2.	Rajyasabha	rajyasabha.nic.in
3.	Andhra Pradesh Legislative Council	aplegislature.org
4.	Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly	aplegislature.org
5.	Arunachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly	arunachalassembly.gov.in
6.	Assam Legislative Assembly	assamassembly.nic.in
7.	Bihar Legislative Assembly	vidhansabha.bih.nic.in
8.	Bihar Legislative Council	biharvidhanparishad.gov.in
9.	Chhattisgarh Legislative Assembly	cgvidhansabha.gov.in
10.	Delhi Legislative Assembly	delhiassembly.nic.in
11.	Goa Legislative Assembly	goavidhansabha.gov.in
12.	Gujarat Legislative Assembly	gujaratassembly.gov.in
13.	Harayana Legislative Assembly	haryanaassembly.gov.in
14.	Himachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly	hpvidhansabha.nic.in
15.	Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly	jklegislativeassembly.nic.in
16.	Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Council	jklegislativecouncil.nic.in
17.	Jharkhand Legislative Assembly	jharkhandvidhansabha.nic.in
18.	Karnataka Legislative Assembly	kar.nic.in/kla/assembly
19.	Karnataka Legislative Council	kar.nic.in/kla/council/council



20.	Madhya Pradesh Legislative Assembly	mpvidhansabha.nic.in
21.	Maharashtra Legislative Assembly	mls.org.in/Assembly
22.	Maharashtra Legislative Council	mls.org.in/Council
23.	Manipur Legislative Assembly	manipurassembly.nic.in/
24.	Meghalaya Legislative Assembly	megassembly.gov.in/
25.	Mizoram Legislative Assembly	mizoramassembly.in
26.	Nagaland Legislative Assembly	http://nagaland.nic.in
27.	Odisha Legislative Assembly	odishaassembly.nic.in
28.	Puducherry Legislative Assembly	www.py.gov.in
29.	Punjab Legislative Assembly	punjabassembly.nic.in
30.	Rajasthan Legislative Assembly	rajassembly.nic.in/
31.	Sikkim Legislative Assembly	sikkimasembly.org
32.	Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly	assembly.in.gov.in
33.	Tripura Legislative Assembly	tripuraassembly.nic.in/
34.	Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly	uplegassembly.nic.in
35.	Uttar Pradesh Legislative Council	upvidhanparishad.nic.in
36.	Uttarakhand Legislative Assembly	ukvidhansabha.uk.gov.in
37.	West Bengal Legislative Assembly	wbassembly.gov.in/
38.	Telengana Legislative Assembly	telenganalegislature.org.in