

CHAPTER IV

IRRIGATION & FLOOD CONTROL

4.1 MEDIUM IRRIGATION

4.1.1 The projected outlay for Medium Irrigation for the Eleventh Plan (2007-2012) is Rs. 1000.00 lakhs and the approved outlay for the Annual Plan 2007-2008 is Rs. 30.00 lakhs which is expected to be utilised in full. The approved outlay for the Tenth Plan period (2002-2007) was Rs. 2475.00 lakhs. The actual expenditure during the Tenth Plan period was Rs. 281.49 lakhs. **The proposed outlay for the Annual Plan 2008-2009 is Rs. 40.00 lakhs.**

4.1.2 During the 8th Plan, the Department took up for execution of Rongai Valley Medium Irrigation Project at an estimated cost of Rs.1630.00lakhs. The project provides for construction of 10.50m high barrage across river Rongai and 34.177 Km length Canal. The work is in progress and the construction of barrage is almost completed (95%).The progress of work is hampered due to land dispute and because of this there is cost and time overrun for which the estimate needs revision. The Revised estimate has been submitted to the Central Water Commission for an amount of Rs.13171.52 lakhs for necessary approval. On approval and sanction of the revised estimate, the remaining works for barrage and canals can be completed.

The salient features of the project as per the revised estimate are:-

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|--------------------------------|------------------|
| 1. Cultivable Command area | = 4775hect |
| 2. Net Irrigable area | = 3490hect |
| 3. Crop intensity to be raised | = 78% to 147.20% |
| 4. Cost benefit ratio | = 1.57 |

Apart from irrigation, the project will also help reduce the adverse effect of flood in the area.

4.1.3 The survey and investigation works of four more schemes named below are being taken up by WAPCOS India Limited since the beginning of the Tenth Plan. The Project Reports of all the four schemes are expected to be received soon.

1. Pynthorwah Irrigation Project in Jaintia Hills District
2. Pynthornein Irrigation Project in Jaintia Hills District
3. Mawramhah Valley Irrigation Project in West Khasi Hills District
4. Kodaldhowa Medium Irrigation Project in West Garo Hills District.

4.2. MINOR IRRIGATION

4.2.1. Assured irrigation is one of the major requirements for increasing food grain production in the State so as to enable the farmers to take double/ triple cropping. As against the coverage of ultimate Irrigation potential of 78 % at the National Level, the irrigation coverage in Meghalaya is anticipated to be only 13 % up to the end of 10th Plan period. The ultimate irrigation potential in the State is 218 thousand hectares under Agriculture Sector and 330 thousand hectares under Horticulture. Upto the end of the 10th Plan, only 27.36 thousand hectares of agricultural land has been brought under irrigation.

4.2.2. **The outlay which was proposed for Minor Irrigation during the Eleventh Plan (2007-2012) is Rs. 17172.00 Lakhs** which includes Rs. 4940.00 lakhs as Central Assistance for Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP) with a target of 16500 Hectares to be brought under irrigation and Rs. 2172.00 for Rain water Harvesting Scheme. **As against the approved outlay of Rs. 2200.00 lakhs during Annual Plan 2007-08, the revised outlay for this sector is Rs. 1600.00 lakhs** which includes Rs. 444.00 lakhs under A.I.B.P., Rs. 517.00 lakhs of NABARD Loan, Rs. 8.00 lakhs of grant in aid under Art. 275(1) and Rs. 200.00 lakhs for meeting of committed liabilities in the sector. It is anticipated that 1800 Hectares will be brought under irrigation during 2007-08.

4.2.3. The tentative Plan Budget for Minor Irrigation sector during Annual Plan 2008-09 is Rs. 2200.00 lakhs which includes provisions of Rs. 1000.00 lakhs for A.I.B.P., Rs. 300.00 lakhs for Rain Water Harvesting & Checked Dams and Rs. 200.00 lakhs of NABARD Loan.

4.3. COMMAND AREA DEVELOPMENT

4.3.1. A gap exists between the irrigation potential created and the potential utilized. This is due to various reasons like inadequate provision of field channels, necessity for land shaping / land leveling, etc. In order to bridge this gap, the State Government is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme, viz. Command Area Development which is funded on 50:50 (Central share : State share) basis. The State Government is committed to meet the State's share of Centrally Sponsored Schemes, as far as possible, so as to leverage more funds that are available under such Centrally Sponsored Schemes.

4.3.2. The projected outlay during the Eleventh Plan (2002-07) in respect of Command Area Development is Rs 500.00 lakhs. The approved outlay of Rs. 35.00 Lakhs during Annual Plan 2007-08 is being revised downwards to Rs. 12.00 lakhs due to lesser requirement in this sector. A tentative Plan Budget provision of **Rs 45.00 lakhs** is earmarked for Annual Plan 2008-2009.

4.4 FLOOD CONTROL

4.4.1` The projected outlay for Flood Control for the Eleventh Plan period (2007-2012) is Rs. 3300.00 lakhs and the approved outlay for the Annual Plan (2007-2008) is Rs. 250.00 lakhs which is expected to be utilised in full. **The proposed outlay for the year 2008-2009 is Rs. 315.00 lakhs.**

4.4.2 Every year during monsoon, flood creates havoc especially in different parts of the state including Garo Hills, Khasi Hills and Jaintia Hills. The flash flood damages the standing crops by inundating vast areas of paddy fields, snaps road communication by washing away the road formation and semi permanent timber bridges. Due to this, the State Government has to incur heavy non plan expenditure for repairing of roads and bridges every year. To counteract the flood menace, permanent measures for protecting paddy fields, cultivation lands and habitats are necessary. As such, enhanced allocation is required for flood control projects.

4.4.3 Highlight of Tenth Plan (2002-2007) Achievement:-

The approved outlay for the Tenth Plan was Rs.1100.00lakhs and the actual expenditure during the period was Rs. 1004.59 lakhs. Upto the end of Tenth Plan there are 81 (eighty-one) sanctioned schemes with a total cost of Rs. 1951.81 lakhs. The actual expenditure during the Tenth Plan period was Rs. 962.63 lakhs. Since none of these 81 (eighty-one) schemes could be completed due to paucity of fund, the same have been spilled over to the Eleventh Plan.

4.4.4 Programme for the Eleventh Plan 2007-2012:- With the proposed outlay of Rs. 3300.00 lakhs for the Eleventh Plan period, it is targetted to complete all the spilled over schemes of the Tenth Plan. Besides, 50 (fifty) new schemes are also proposed to be taken up during the Eleventh Plan.

4.4.5 Annual Plan 2007-2008:- The approved outlay for the Annual Plan (2007-2008) is Rs. 250.00 lakhs and this will be utilised in full for implementation of on-going Schemes.

4.4.6 Annual Plan 2008-2009:- The proposed outlay for the year 2008-2009 is Rs. 315.00lakhs. This will be utilised for on-going schemes as also for a few new schemes.

4.4.7 Centrally Sponsored Schemes:-

(I) The Ministry of Water Resources through the Brahmaputra Board has earmarked an amount of Rs.7929.00 lakhs for implementation of Critical Flood Control and Anti Erosion Schemes of which the schemes are to be completed during the Eleventh Plan period. The funding pattern is 90:10. 11(eleven) schemes have been identified against this provision by the State Government.

(II) During the Eleventh Plan, 36 (thirty-six) new schemes are being proposed to the Brahmaputra Board / Ministry of Water Resources involving a cost of Rs. 168.47 crores.**The proposed outlay for the year 2008-2009 is Rs. 32.38 crores.**