

Dams, Rivers & People

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Lead Piece

China suspends 23 power projects including 2 at the Three Gorges Dam on Env grounds

China's State Environmental Protection Agency said the 30 projects including 23 power projects with total capacity of nearly 32,000 megawatts had failed to do proper environmental assessments. Topping the list was a controversial dam on the scenic upper Yangtze River. "Construction of these projects has started without approval of the assessment of their environmental impact... they are typical illegal projects of construction first, approval next," said SEPA vice-director Pan Yue. China's Prime Minister and Vice Premier have supported the move. 22 of the 30 projects have stopped work and paid the stipulated maximum fine of \$ 24 000 each.

Some of the projects may be allowed to start work again with the proper permits, but others would be cancelled, he said. The stoppages would appear to be another step in the central govt's battle to control projects licensed by local officials. The govt has encouraged construction of new power capacity to solve chronic energy shortages, which forced many factories onto part-time working last year. In 2004, China increased its generating capacity by 12.6%, or 440,700 MW. The biggest single project to be halted was the 12,600 MW Xiluodi Dam on the Jinshajiang - or 'river of golden sand' as the upper reaches of the Yangtze are known. Second and third on the agency's list were two power stations being built at the \$22 B Three Gorges Dam on the central Yangtze - an underground 4,200 MW plant and a 100 MW plant.

Criticism The Three Gorges Dam has proved controversial in China and abroad - where more than 0.5 people have been displaced. It has drawn criticism from environmental groups and overseas human rights activists. The damming of the Upper Yangtze has also begun to attract criticism from environmentalists in China. In April '04, central govt officials ordered a halt to work on the nearby Nu River, which is part of a UN world heritage site, the Three Parallel Rivers site which covers the Yangtze, Mekong and Nu (also known as the Salween), according to the UK-published China Review. That move reportedly followed a protest from the Thai govt about the downstream impact of the dams, and a critical documentary made by Chinese journalists. (BBC News World Edition, 190105, Reuters 200105, 250105, South China Morning Post 270105)

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IMD DATA**Rainfall from 01-06-04 to 31-12-04 for the 36 Divisions in India**

Introduction Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) divides the country into 36 divisions and IMD provides division wise rainfall each week on its website (www.imd.ernet.in). In the table below we have compiled the division wise rainfall data during monsoon (June 1 to Sept 30) and Winter (Oct 1 to Dec 31) during 2004 and given for convenient time periods for information and analysis for our readers. After the table we have given some quick observations about this information. IMD website also gives week wise, division wise rainfall for the previous five years for comparison. Relatively less significant winter rainfall figures have been given in a single column.

No	Sub-divisions	010604 – 300604			010704-280704			290704 – 110804			120804 – 250804			250804 - 080904			090904 – 220904			230904 -290904			010604 - 290904			011004 to 311204		
		A	N	%	A	N	%	A	N	%	A	N	%	A	N	%	A	N	%	A	N	%	A	N	%	A	N	%
1	A&N Islands	427	482	-11	240	377	-36	288	191	+51	62	186	-67	104	199	-48	151	194	-22	44	112	-61	1326	1755	-24	431	700	-38
2	Arunachal	408	494	-17	750	541	+39	136	184	-26	97	186	-48	208	161	+29	106	193	-45	83	69	+20	1800	1835	-2	231	244	-5
3	Assam & Megh.	384	567	-32	761	517	+47	110	203	-46	81	207	-61	161	160	+1	155	165	-6	70	58	+20	1727	1885	-8	293	191	+54
4	NG, MN, Tr, Mz	336	361	-7	303	310	-2	121	146	-17	204	144	+42	92	117	-21	195	108	+81	45	49	-8	1309	1241	+5	151	195	-23
5	S Him, WB, Sik	430	496	-13	732	545	+34	92	228	-60	95	215	-56	316	190	+66	112	196	-43	101	75	+35	1897	1955	-3	218	183	+19
6	Gangetic WB	253	240	+5	204	281	-27	155	151	+3	200	135	+48	83	138	-40	202	116	+74	21	65	-68	1121	1136	-1	201	159	+26
7	Orissa	216	205	+6	296	310	-5	221	174	+27	150	159	-6	55	138	-60	80	122	-34	25	45	-47	1047	1160	-10	150	153	-2
8	Jharkhand	174	193	-10	161	305	-43	101	165	-39	251	144	+74	20	130	-85	193	116	+66	11	46	-34	890	1105	-19	128	101	+26
9	Bihar	209	175	+19	406	313	+30	56	141	-60	79	141	-44	99	115	-14	56	116	-52	29	41	-29	934	1048	-11	39	78	-50
10	East UP	180	105	+71	213	279	-24	62	142	-56	110	142	-23	31	108	-61	97	104	-7	8	31	-74	714	914	-22	36	62	-41
11	West UP	62	69	-9	86	242	-64	74	133	-44	141	134	+5	45	94	-52	72	76	-5	20	23	-13	501	773	-35	64	51	+26
12	Uttaranchal	142	164	-14	500	382	+31	215	210	+2	267	199	+34	110	134	-18	114	99	+15	51	33	+55	1400	1223	+14	80	87	-8
13	Delhi, Har, Ch.	69	43	+61	14	156	-92	117	79	+48	111	81	+37	25	52	-52	21	39	-46	0	19	-99	358	470	-24	60	27	+118
14	Punjab	52	42	+26	53	168	-68	88	94	-6-8	67	74	-9	7	56	-87	8	38	-79	2	28	-93	278	502	-45	55	41	+32
15	HP	66	90	-26	99	259	-62	106	138	-23	94	118	-20	22	79	-72	35	56	-37	1	32	-97	423	774	-46	116	111	+4
16	J&K	98	59	+67	90	164	-45	89	102	-13	60	68	-12	16	53	-70	31	42	-26	3	25	-88	387	514	-25	157	153	+3
17	West Raj	25	27	-7	19	93	-80	61	41	+49	44	46	-4	2	35	-94	5	14	-64	3	7	-57	160	263	-39	22	9	+151
18	East Raj	41	61	-33	70	204	-66	176	105	+68	245	113	+117	14	85	-83	14	40	-65	2	15	-87	570	624	-9	38	26	+45
19	West MP	73	108	-32	158	274	-42	222	155	+43	248	137	+81	21	123	-83	26	80	-67	10	25	-60	765	904	-15	40	52	-23
20	East MP	199	144	+39	157	335	-53	222	189	+17	187	169	+11	13	137	-91	84	99	-15	15	22	-32	877	1097	-20	31	59	-48
21	Gujarat	131	123	+7	135	325	-58	511	155	+230	151	121	+25	5	117	-96	14	60	-77	23	29	-21	979	934	+5	23	35	-34
22	Sau, Kut, Diu	98	81	+21	48	181	-73	256	73	+251	23	53	-57	1	53	-98	10	30	-67	21	13	+61	459	486	-6	21	26	-20
23	Konkan, Goa	635	675	-6	680	970	-30	905	404	+124	382	314	+22	56	218	-74	123	130	-5	55	82	-33	2847	2808	+2	44	135	-67
24	Madhya Maha.	197	134	+46	106	216	-51	220	99	+122	91	73	+25	30	63	-52	77	66	+17	81	43	+88	810	700	+16	47	105	-55
25	Marathawada	117	144	-19	150	168	-11	107	89	+20	37	92	-60	34	89	-62	98	73	+34	40	44	-9	590	704	-16	63	96	-34
26	Vidarbha	130	167	-22	178	300	-41	177	152	+16	87	127	-33	36	117	-69	45	80	-42	21	30	-30	683	976	-30	40	75	-47
27	Chhatisgarh	229	189	+22	299	359	-17	223	189	+18	126	177	-29	52	137	-62	60	114	-47	37	37	0	1027	1206	-15	56	82	-32
28	Coastal AP	108	99	+9	203	144	+41	37	66	-44	15	72	-79	56	70	-20	83	75	+11	29	44	-34	531	575	-8	236	326	-28
29	Telangana	58	135	-57	198	214	-7	139	107	+30	48	102	-53	37	87	-57	69	78	-12	18	40	-55	569	767	-26	96	110	-12
30	Rayalseema	32	60	-47	99	81	+22	32	44	-27	6	42	-86	71	48	+48	81	66	+23	25	35	-29	349	381	-8	127	212	-40
31	TN, Pondi	39	42	-6	65	64	+2	16	33	-51	7	40	-82	47	46	+2	95	57	+67	78	30	+160	346	316	+9	435	432	+1
32	Coast Karnatak	800	901	-11	614	1089	-44	479	435	+13	371	351	+6	47	184	-74	83	132	-37	50	71	-30	2444	3174	-23	183	258	-29
33	NI Karnataka	97	98	-2	88	112	-21	80	55	+45	21	52	-60	45	49	-8	74	76	-3	26	43	-30	431	491	-12	71	137	-48
34	SI Karnataka	167	132	+26	143	207	-31	121	86	+41	54	75	-28	52	48	+8	48	69	-30	37	37	0	622	659	-6	138	200	-31
35	Kerala	693	702	-1	350	729	-52	335	244	+37	147	215	-32	25	112	-78	92	113	-19	87	44	+98	1728	2206	-22	438	486	-10
36	Lakshdweep	251	326	-23	262	262	-	74	95	-22	111	103	+8	10	66	-85	130	89	+46	63	40	+58	902	985	-8	303	329	-8
	Total	159.6	162.6	-2				359.9	395.2	-8.9	114.1	118	-3.3	46.6	96.5	-51.7	69.6	82.2	-15.3	27.5	34.8	-21	781.2	893.3	-13	111.8	125.7	-11

A: Actual Rainfall; N: Normal Rainfall: IMD defines this as average of previous six years; (%): Deficient or Excess

Excess: +20% or more; Normal: +19% to -19%; Deficient: -20% to -59%; Scanty: -60% to -99%

Some Observations about monsoon rainfall July is the most important for sowing of kharif crop. The country received (-20% to -28%) deficient rainfall during the July weeks, therefore the sowing of paddy and other kharif crops have been affected severely this year.

➤ The country received excess rainfall during the first two weeks of August, the only such periods during the 2004 monsoon.

➤ Between Aug 26 and September 8, the precipitation in the country was very low, in fact lowest in last five years and the deficiency in these weeks went upto 65.4%. The rainfall figures for different periods during the 2004 monsoon is given in table below for all India situation to give a clearer picture of monsoon behaviour.

Period	Average Rainfall	Normal Rainfall	% Difference
June 1 to June 30	159.6	162.6	-02.0
July 1 to July 14	104.4	129.2	-19.2
July 14 to July 21	48.7	67.9	-28.0
July 22 to Aug 4	135.0	135.0	Nil
Aug 5 to Aug 11	69.1	63.1	+09.5
Aug 12 to Aug 25	114.1	118.0	-03.3
Aug 26-Sept 1	17.2	49.7	-65.4
Sept 2 to Sept 8	22.0	46.8	-53.0
Sept 9 to Sept 22	69.6	82.2	-15.3
Sept 23 to Sept 29	27.5	34.8	-21.0
June 1 to Sept 30	781.2	893.3	-13
Oct 1 to Dec 31	111.8	125.7	-11

➤ Out of 36 meteorological sub-divisions 13 sub-divisions have received deficient rainfall (Below – 20%) during monsoon (June 1 to Sept 30). These sub-divisions are Andaman & Nicobar, East UP, West UP, Delhi-Haryana-Chandigarh, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, West Rajasthan, East MP, Vidarbha, Telangana, Coastal Karnataka and Kerala. Most of the sub-divisions grow paddy during the kharif, therefore the production of rice would be affected.

➤ Generation of hydropower would also be affected in these sub divisions. The installed hydropower capacity in these states is over 17000 MW (including small HEPs).

➤ Eight sub-divisions had 10-20% deficiency in monsoon rainfall: Orissa, Jharkhand, Bihar, East Rajasthan, West MP, Marathawada, Chhattisgarh and North Interior Karnataka.

➤ Rest of the 15 sub-divisions have received 90% to 119% of normal monsoon rainfall.

➤ This year most of the districts of Uttar Pradesh have been declared drought-affected districts. But east UP has received excess rainfall in first 45 days. While the west UP has received deficit rainfall through out.

➤ Kerala receives about 2200 mm rainfall between June to September months. This year it receives –21% rainfall. This is the third successive year when the state has received deficient rainfall. In 2002 & 2003 monsoons the rainfall deficiencies were 35% & 32% respectively.

➤ Andaman & Nicobar Islands are also receiving deficient rainfall for the last six years. The deficiencies were 29% in 1999, 31% in 2000, 25% in 2001, 24% in 2002, 19% in 2003 and 24% in 2004.

➤ In 2004 monsoon Punjab, West UP, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Marathawada, Vidarbha and Telangana have received lowest precipitation in last six years.

➤ This year Tamil Nadu has received highest precipitation in last eight years. Understandably, we hear less about the Cauvery dispute this year.

➤ Andaman & Nicobar, Arunachal Pradesh, Eastern Rajasthan, East MP, Vidarbha, Coastal Karnataka, SI Karnataka, Kerala and Lakshdweep sub-divisions have not crossed its normal rainfall mark in last five years.

Some Observations about Winter Rainfall Out of 36 IMD subdivisions, 19 have received deficit rainfall (<-19%) in post monsoon (011004 to 311204) three months. These divisions includes A&N Islands, Nagaland-Manipur-Tripura-Mizoram, Bihar, East UP, Uttaranchal, West MP, East MP, Gujarat, Saurashtra-Kutch-Diu & Daman, Konkan-Goa, Madhya Maharashtra, Marathawada, Vidarbha, Chhattisgarh, Coastal AP, Rayalseema, Coastal Karnataka, NI Karnataka, SI Karnataka.

➤ 9 subdivisions have received normal rainfall (-19% to +19%) in post monsoon season. These include Arunachal Pradesh, Sub Himalayan-West Bengal-Sikkim, Orissa, Uttaranchal, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Telangana, Tamil Nadu-Pondichery, Kerala and Lakshdweep.

➤ Eight subdivisions have received surplus rainfall (>19% surplus) in the same period. These include Assam-Meghalaya, Gangetic West Bengal, West Uttar Pradesh, Haryana-Chandigarh-Delhi, Jharkhand, Punjab, E Rajasthan, W Rajasthan.

➤ Nine subdivisions have received the highest rainfall in last six years in post monsoon period. Assam-Meghalaya, Haryana-Chandigarh-Delhi, Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Uttaranchal, West UP, East Rajasthan and West Rajasthan.

➤ Andaman-Nicobar Island, Coastal Karnataka, North Interior Karnataka, South Interior Karnataka and Rayalseema subdivisions have received lowest rainfall in last six years during the post monsoon season.

Bipin Chandra and Himanshu Thakkar

New WB Loan for MP Water Sector Restructuring

Threatens Complete Commercialisation, Marketisation and Privatisation in Water Sector

The World Bank has sanctioned, on 7 Sept. 2004, a new loan for *Madhya Pradesh Water Sector Restructuring Loan*. In this project, the WB will give USD 396 m (Rs 17.82 B).

This loan will lead to the complete and fundamental restructuring of the water sector in the state, implementing the full package of the standard Bank “reforms”, transforming the sector into a fully commercial, market operation accompanied by privatisation.

It may be recollected that in 1996, the World Bank had sanctioned a parallel loan in the power sector to the State of Orissa – the *Orissa Power Sector Restructuring Loan*. This had become the model for the power sector restructuring all over the country even though it has terrible consequences. The M.P. water loan is meant to be a similar model for the country. It is likely to have similar serious consequences.

Project Elements Some important elements of the project are:

- Commercialisation of the Sector: The whole of the water sector will be transformed to operate on commercial lines. This means that those who pay will get the water and the service; those who can't will be left out.
- Increase in Tariffs: Commercialisation will include, as its fundamental element, steep increase in the tariffs of water – especially for domestic use, for agriculture. The Loan document states that one of the main problems of the sector is the lack of cost recovery. It may be noted that the power sector reforms in the state have been accompanied by such steep hikes in power tariffs.
- Elimination of Subsidies
- Creation of the State Water Tariff Regulatory Commission: This new commission will determine the bulk water tariffs in the State. (Its role in retail tariffs is not clear yet, but the retail tariffs will certainly be governed by the bulk tariffs). This Commission is on the lines of the Electricity Regulatory Commission, which now determines the power tariffs. One of the argument given by the Bank is that giving the Commission the power to set tariffs will remove tariffs from political pressure. What it means really is that the poor and the downtrodden, who can only influence the policies once every five years through elections, will now lose even that power. And the Government will hide behind the Regulatory Commission every time it is criticised for raising tariffs.
- Constitution of the State Water Resources Agency (SWRA): The loan proposes to constitute a State Water Resources Agency, presumably so that it can function as an autonomous body.

- Large Scale Retrenchment: One of the key problems of the sector, according to the Bank is the overstaffing of the water resources department – even though there has been restricted recruitment since 15 years. It had identified 4500 people are redundant out of a total workforce of 20000. Most of these are class II, III, and IV staff.

- “Voluntary” Retirement Scheme: The loan proposes to introduce a VRS program and has provided for 13 m US \$ (Rs 585 M) for it. It proposes that 1000 people will avail of the VRS scheme in five years.

- Privatisation: The Loan strongly advocates privatisation of various elements as the sector reforms. It aims at a primary target privatisation of 25 minor and 1 medium irrigation scheme. (The private agencies include WUA, panchayats and private sector according to the Bank).

- Water Users Association: It is proposed that water users associations will be formed in the state and in many cases the distribution will be handed over to them. This means that they will be responsible for billing and collection also. While WUAs can be a means to empower people, in the given “reforms” process, it appears to be a means to commercialise the sector and put the burden of facing the anger of the people on the community associations.

- Forcible New Legislation: New laws will have to be framed to enable many of these, especially the Tariff Regulatory Commission. The World Bank loan lays down that the draft of the legislation will have to be ready by 31st Dec. 2005. This is a terrible blow to our democratic structure. It is the prerogative of the State Assembly and Parliament to decide when and how and which law will be passed. Yet, the loan attempts to dictate this. It is also quite likely that the loan will force the State to hire foreign consultants to draft this new law. When the Delhi State Govt wanted to bring in such legislation, a foreign consultancy firm was hired to draft the law.

- Consultancy: In keeping with the way the Bank operates, the loan too has provision for large number of consultancy assignments. Some of them, especially those dealing with the “reforms” are likely to be foreign consultants. The project provides for USD 20 m (Rs 900 m) for consultancies.

- Role of DFID: The British Govt's official aid agency – the Department For International Development or DFID – is known for strongly pushing privatisation and reforms in India. DFID has had an important role to play in this loan.

The Bank Project Documents mention that the ADB has also been involved in the preparatory work for this project through a technical assistance grant. Though it is not mentioned which grant, looking at the ADB TAs to MP there is only one that fits - the TA 3715-IND for

developing an integrated water management strategy for MP. According to ADB web site this TA came out of a grant from British aid money. This TA engaged the British consultants HALCROW to develop the water resource strategy.

Now, the TA (and presumably its consultancy outputs) has been a basis for this WB loan. The Bank also says, in the loan document that "DFID has expressed interest in working in the MP water sector with the Bank, particularly in the reform areas", and that "achieving synergy with the efforts of development partners such as the ADB and DFID" is one of its rationale for getting involved in the project.

DFID Trust funds to the tune of US \$ 0.118 M have been spent through the WB for project preparation. One of the contracts given for the project preparation was the Social and Environmental Appraisal, which was done by one Lea Associates South Asia Pvt Ltd.

Issues – Problems and Challenges The project identifies key issues in the water and irrigation sector, which are in a way the key problems and challenges seen by it:

- Lack of effective institutional coordination and particularly collaboration among department in different sub sector
- Inadequate mechanisms and knowledge base for planning, allocating, developing and managing water resources in each basin
- Lack of appropriate legal, regulatory and administrative framework required for financially sustainable water sector.

Issues Identified in Irrigation and Drainage sub-sector:

- Lack of effective user participation and private sector involvement leading to poor services, heavy subsidy and lack of accountability ... poor system performance, low cost recovery, a fiscally constrained irrigation department that is unable to finance adequate maintenance, effective operation and services or needed system rehabilitation, remodelling or investment.
- Low Productivity of water due to the unreliable irrigation supply and inadequate extension services
- Lack of adequate and appropriate human resources in the sub sector, including badly needed critical management skills
- Large establishment costs in the sub sector take up a substantial portion of the state budget leaving only a small amount for operation and maintenance.
- Lack of adequate resources, which is constraining substantial investment, required to rehabilitate and modernize the dilapidated irrigation infrastructure and to expand irrigated agriculture.

Project Components The project has four components, totalling to USD 439 m, out of which the

Bank will give USD 396 m and MP govt the rest. The components are:

A	Water Resource Management - Institutions And Instruments	US\$ 7.27 m
B	Service Delivery -Irrigation And Drainage Institutions	US\$ 38.35 m
C	Improving Productivity Of Selected Existing Irrigation And Drainage Assets Of Five River Basin	US\$ 388.09 m
D	Project Management Support	US \$ 5.52 m

Component A:

"An institution (State Water Resources Agency (SWRA)), would be developed for environmentally and socially sustainable inter-sector water allocation with optimal water resources management in a basin context through out the state."

"An autonomous institution (State Water Tariff Regulatory Commission (SWaTReC) is proposed to be developed to review and monitor water sector cost and revenues, and for rationalized setting of bulk water user fees to enable the sector institution to move towards financial self sustainability."

"At the basin level: The Sindh Basin Development And Management Board (SBDMB) and Tons Basin Development And Management Board (TBDMB) would be created."

Component B:

"This component would support measures related to delivering reliable irrigation at rationalized cost by financially viable entities."

Note that the word "rationalisation of tariff" when used in the "reforms" process invariably means increasing tariffs. The reference to financially viable entities means that ultimately there will be full cost recovery and all irrigation delivery will be done by agencies, which charge on basis of full costs. Same word "Rationalise tariffs" is used in Component A.

Component C:

"This component would operationalize the concept and provide the necessary investment in five basin (Chambal, Sindh, Betwa, Ken & Tons) for

1 "reliable delivery of water measured and supplied on an appropriate volumetric basis in the irrigation systems of these basins to improve system performance, cost recovery and accountability of the services provider

2 an outcome oriented approach with integrated sustainable agriculture intensification, diversification &
3 improved operation and management of the irrigation and drainage schemes, including participatory user management and private sector participation."

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Manas-Sankosh-Teesta-Ganga River Link and Bihar

This is a major unit of the Himalayan component of the Inter-linking of Rivers Project. The Link Canal envisages transfer of water from Brahmaputra to Ganga. The Manas-Sankosh-Teesta-Ganga (MSTG) link canal comprises the following components:

- 1) A dam on river Manas a major tributary of Brahmaputra with live storage of 8750 MCM located about 5 km upstream of Indo-Bhutan border.
- 2) Another dam with maximum height of 253 m and live storage capacity of 4930 MCM on river Sankosh, a tributary of Brahmaputra also located in Bhutan about 12 km upstream of Indo Bhutan border.
- 3) A barrage on river Sankosh – 11 km downstream of proposed dam on river Sankosh.
- 4) The MSTG link canal off takes from the tailrace of right bank powerhouse and joins Sankosh barrage. The link Canal utilises the existing Teesta and Mahananda barrages to cross the rivers and outfalls in to Ganga 60 km upstream of Farakka. The total length of the link canal is 457 km with the following break up: Manas-Sankosh- 114 km, Sankosh-Teesta – 137 km and Teesta-Ganga 206 km.

The link canal is designed to carry a discharge of 1 370 cumecs for Manas-Sankosh reach and 2 355 cumecs of Sankosh- Ganga reach. The bed width of the canal from Manas to Sankosh will be 66 m and beyond Sankosh, it will be 121 m. The full supply depth and bed slope will 10 m and 1 in 20000 for the entire length. The length of link canal in Bihar has been reported as 118 km, which on verification has been found to be 151.2 km. The upper reach has an alternative proposal of a barrage at Jogighopa on main river Brahmaputra and 97.53 km long link canal joining the link canal joining the barrage with the Sankosh barrage involves 100 m lift which has been proposed to be achieved through five pumping stages with a total pumping capacity of 1059 MW. There is a scope of generating 300 MW power at Jogighopa barrage. In view of involvement of Pumping, the alternative is not considered viable. The link canal from Sankosh barrage to Ganga is common for both the alternatives.

Claimed benefits

- 1) Irrigation benefits in 0.6536 M Ha out of which 0.264 M Ha will be in Bihar.
- 2) The release from Manas and Sankosh will be utilised for power generation and the installed capacity of powerhouses will be 1400 MW. A 125 MW powerhouse is also proposed in second stage at Sankosh. There will be seven power stations on the Teesta-Ganga link canal with total installed capacity of 805 MW out of which four power stations with installed capacity of 393 MW will be in Bihar.
- 3) This will augment the flow of Ganga at Farakka for preserving Kolkata port and other purpose. The balance

water will be further diverted to Mahanadi, Godavari, Krishna, Pennar, and Cauvery.

- 4) Navigation facilities to be provided in the link canal.

Water availability and water utilisation 43 208 MCM of water will be available for diversion, out of which 22 560 MCM will be available for Manas dam, 12 433 MCM will be available from Sankosh dam and 8 215 MCM from four intermediate major streams. 4 027 MCM of water will be utilised for annual irrigation in 0.6536 M Ha. The proportionate utilisation in Bihar for irrigation of 0.264 M Ha will work out to 1 627 MCM. The transmission loss has been assessed as 1 268 MCM. The link canal ultimately transfers 37 913 MCM of water to Ganga for fulfilling the fast growing needs at Farakka and further diversion to south. 15 000 MCM of water will be utilised for augmentations of flow of Ganga at Farakka during lean period of January to May.

Water requirement for irrigation in Bihar The proposed command area in Bihar falls under agro-climatic sub-zone IV-5 for which an overall irrigation intensity of 250% has been considered appropriate. The total water requirement for agricultural use from surface water works out to 3 468 MCM. Besides, the non-agricultural requirement of surface water works out to 634 MCM. The total requirement for agricultural and non-agricultural demand add up to 4 102 MCM.

Problems Apprehended The link canal crosses river Mahananda through existing barrage and river Mechi through new existing barrage and then flows parallel to the course of river Mahananda. The following points are very relevant in this scheme.

- 1) The area is very thickly populated. Due to high density of population, there is a lot of pressure on land.
- 2) According to the report the requirement of land for the construction of link canal in Bihar is 3 480 Ha. But on verification this calculation has been found the erroneous. The requirement of land works out to about 7 000 Ha. The acquisition of such vast area of land in this thickly populated area will be very difficult.
- 3) The Link canal is in deep cutting and several places the cutting is more than 10 m. The groundwater in the area is very high. The construction of such deep lined canal will be very problematic. Even after construction, the maintenance of lined canal in such a zone of high water table will remain a constant source of problem.
- 4) The large area of land in thickly populated area will create a big problem of rehabilitation.
- 5) The area is lower reach of Ganga basin and there is problem of flood and drainage congestion of surface water. It is apprehended that these problems will be further aggravated.

(From: Report of Expert Committee on Impact of Inter-linking of Rivers on Bihar: Published by Water Resources Dept, Govt of Bihar, Dec-2003)

RIVER LINK NEWS

Committee set up The Govt has constituted a committee under Secretary, Union Ministry of Water Resources, to carry out consultations with various groups and state govts on the ILR. Secretaries in the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment and MoEF have also been made part of the committee. Besides, there will be 10 other non-official members including scientists and other experts. Rajendra Singh of Jal Biradari, Ashok Khosla of Development Alternatives and Z Hassan, former secretary, MoWR are on the committee. The committee will advise the Govt on the environmental and socio-economic issues covered in the terms of reference for preparation of detailed project reports, R&R and additional studies needed to be carried out to address any other concerns. It will also go in to measures for optimum utilisation of transferred water while preparing the DPRs. Members include:

- 1) V K Duggal, Chairman
- 2) Neena Garg, Joint Secretary MoWR in-charge of the Special Cell is the member-secretary
- 3) Mrs. Sarita Prasad, Secretary, MoSJE
- 4) Dr Pradipto Ghosh, Secretary, MoEF
- 5) R Jeyaseelan, Chairman, CWC
- 6) R K Sharma, Director-General, NWDA
- 7) Z Hassan, Former Secretary, MoWR
- 8) P Sen, Former member, CWC, Kolkata
- 9) Rajendra Singh, TBS
- 10) Mala Kapoor, Sociologist
- 11) Ashok Khosla, Development Alternatives
- 12) Prof M.N. Madhyastha, the Dept Chairman
- 13) A.C. Kamraj, NAWAD Council, Madurai, TN
(BUSINESS STANDARD, BUSINESS LINE 291204)

Centre scraps task force on river linking The Centre scrapped the Task Force on ILR, constituted by the previous govt in Dec 2002, with former minister Suresh Prabhu as the head, had an advisory role in the ILR programme. The Union MoWR said that the Task Force had outlived its utility. It had completed almost all its mandated tasks, except building a political consensus with all states. Now that it has been decided to set up a Special Cell in the Ministry of Water Resources, the Task Force is not required. The Special Cell would be supported by two senior technical officers of NWDA. Building bilateral political consensus on the two prioritised links, Ken-Betwa and Parbati-Kalisindh-Chambal, or the peninsular links could be done at the Ministry level. The TF had submitted two action plans but the UPA Govt has not taken any decision on its recommendations. (THE HINDU 301204)

No consensus on Prioritised links Rajasthan has sought larger share of water under Parbati-Kalisindh-Chambal Link. The Uttar Pradesh Govt is also not satisfied with the proposed feasibility report on the Ken-Betwa Link with Madhya Pradesh prepared by the National water Development Agency. Both the links are estimated to cost about Rs 85 B. (THE HINDU 261204)

'Logic' of surplus basin

The ILR proposal is seen as a simplistic supply side solution put forward from the existing paradigm of water management, which is fighting for its life elsewhere in the world. It is claimed that by swapping of floods in the surplus basin with the scarcity of water in the deficit basins the ILR will put to use 'the water otherwise going waste in the surplus river basins'. The reductionist engineering concepts see rivers mainly in the form of visible flowing water. The totality of ecosystem services provided by water, from the time of a drop falling on the surface of a river basin to the moment of its flowing to the sea have remained marginal and neglected for a long time. As a result, it is not possible for the existing paradigm to recognize and record these various ecological process and their values. For instance, its role in the conservation of biodiversity, as a mobile solvent, the pushing of the sediment load out to the sea and many others. It is this conceptual limitation of the present paradigm that makes it possible for it to describe the outflow of a river to the sea as a 'waste', or finds little difficulty in locating 'surplus' river basins in a limited arithmetic assessment. In following this approach, a simple exercise in arithmetic hydrology has been employed that externalises the ecosystem services provided by water in river basin. Whilst the process for the assessment of the needs of water have been dealt with in the report of NCIWRDP, there is no information given on how the water needs for the continuation of diverse ecosystem services provided by water in the basin would be assessed.

When the reductionist vision of arithmetic hydrology is replaced by the holistic perspective of eco-hydrology, the outflow of a river to the sea is no more seen as a 'loss' but as an essential for the continuation of the ecosystem services of the river. While floodwater in eastern India is seen as a 'harmful surplus' from the viewpoint of arithmetical hydrology, the same floodwater is seen as a source of free minerals for the enrichment of land, free recharge of groundwater, a free medium for the transportation of fish and conservation of biological diversity and free bumper harvest for humans, from the eco-hydrological viewpoint. All river basins have evolved over the geological past by making optimal use of available water resources. There are no inherently 'surplus' river basins. It is convenient for the reductionist viewpoint to ignore the totality and the fact that all drops of water in all river basins as all times are performing several ecosystem services. As a result, any transfer of water from one basin to another is not a simple arithmetic exercise, but one of a complex impact assessment. It cannot be done, without recognizing the diverse social, economic and ecological impacts of such transfers. In the available information on the ILR proposals, there is no reference to the assessment of any such costs.

(From J Bandopadhyay & S Perveen's article in EPW 111204)

JBIC to fund AP links? The Japanese Bank for International Co-operation has agreed in principle to fund the AP gov't's plans to link Krishna and Godavari rivers. A team of JBIC officials are to visit AP in Jan-Feb '05 to assess the feasibility and modalities of funding. Irrigation Principle Secretary who was on Tokyo recently apprised the JBIC officials of the plans to supplement Krishna River waters by diverting Godavari waters, to facilitate which, Polavaram and Dummugudem projects are being taken up. Polavaram right main canal, while irrigating upland areas of W Godavari and Krishna dist, would merge in Krishna upstream of Prakasam barrage. Similarly, Dummugudem project envisages a canal to take Godavari water to Krishna River upstream of Nagarjunsagar. The AP gov't has already given administrative sanction for Polavaram right main canal and is contemplating to soon award the works. (THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS 011204)

ILR implications

Blocked Drainage in Nepal and Bihar

Apart from transferring a small fraction of floodwaters from the river and, thereby, continuing with the flood damages as usual, the proposed ILR canals will further damage the already stressed drainage of the area. This is reflected in the report of the Expert Committee on the impacts of ILR by the Govt of Bihar (2003), which says (Chap-IV-16/17):

1. "The canals, however, specially the Kosi-Mechi and Kosi-Ghaghra are more or less contour canals, and pass through cutting many rivulets and rivers. Flow of water straight from Nepal to Bihar will be partially obstructed causing drainage congestion in Nepal, and may, in case of the pressure on the link canal, cause breaches which may be affecting the territory of Nepal and Bihar lower down in some cases."
2. "The proposed Manas-Sankosh-Teesta-Ganga link canal into Bihar, if at all constructed as proposed will, however badly affect drainage of that area. It cuts many local drainage channels and rivers which join Mahananda and their outfall into Mahananda will be badly disturbed and adverse drainage problem will be created in Araria, Kishanganj, Purnea & Katihar dists."
3. "The NWDA has proposed 339 km long canal, from Kadwan Reservoir to Badua River. This will also affect drainage badly as it cuts across all the rivers, rivulets, irrigation channels and country slopes bringing water from the Chhotanagpur hills towards the Ganga."
4. The proponents should visit the W Kosi Canal and the E Kosi Main Canal and also see the impacts of the canals and the embankments on the flat land in India and Nepal. These canals and embankments are cut regularly by the sufferers of stagnation of waters. There were 60 breaches in the canals and the embankments in Bihar this year. The gov't is complacent that there were 300 breaches in 1987 and the number is much less this year. It forgets that just one breach is enough to make any structure defunct. (DK Mishra, email)

National Convention on ILR

Nationwide organizations join to oppose ILR

The people's movements, experts and social and political activists rejected the ILR. In a resolution, they exposed the hollow claims and made it clear that the ILR's claim regarding flood control and drought proofing are illusory and its technology and economics flawed. The project would result in loss of the habitat and livelihood of rural, tribal and marginalized sections; it would also be the first step in for the privatisation and corporatisation of water. Instead they asked the gov't to make a realistic assessment of the potential of decentralized and participatory rainwater harvesting, least cost schemes and achieve optimum benefits out of existing and ongoing projects after a credible review.

The peoples from the NE are firmly opposing any move to tinker with the Brahmaputra, the Orissa organizations have refused that there was any surplus water in Mahanadi and instead narrated the devastations by the Damodar Valley and others large dams. Participants from Kerala, AP, Rajasthan, UP and other states decried the project. The organizations from Bihar debunked the embankments and the Farakka barrage for the worsening the flood situation. Ms Hasna from Bangladesh made a plea for desisting from the project in the interest of millions of farmers and villagers in her country and India. It was made clear that the ILR would accentuate the interstate and international problems. Dr BD Sharma, former commissioner for SC/ST, criticised the judiciary and the President for supporting such an anti-people and impractical project. He suspected there to be a conspiracy to snatch the resources of the common people.

Former Secretary, MoWR Ramaswamy Iyer pointed out that the ILR is not a part of any budget, Plan and will drain resources of the nation with no commensurate benefit. He wondered why the present gov't is not acting on its promise to review the project and is making an about turn by committing the gov't for the project in the Supreme Court. In the inaugural session, the former Union Minister for Agriculture and the former member of Planning Commission, Mr Som Pal revealed that the Planning Commission has prepared a plan of completing the ongoing dams, watershed development and other measures, costing about Rs 1 380 B. However, the union gov't did not take up that citing the reason of lack of finances. There is no surplus water in the rivers to be interlinked, except that in Brahmaputra. The Brahmaputra waters can be diverted either through the Bangladesh, which is geo-politically impossible, or through the 'chicken neck' area from Siliguri, which is too narrow and falls within the seismic zone. He aid the Task Force on the ILR was created to analyse the project and not to support and justify it. Medha Patkar asked the "scientist" President of India not to support such an unsubstantiated project, which has unbecoming influence on governance including the judiciary. (NAPM PR 031204)

MoWR In a 2004 end review Ministry of Water Resources has said that the Consensus Group headed by Chairman, Central Water Commission has submitted its report on the Ken-Betwa and Parbati – Kalisindh - Chambal link on Nov 16, '04. Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh have been requested to convey their consent for signing of MoU for these links for initiating action for preparation of the DPR. MoWR has identified another link in S India between Godavari and Krishna for initiating action for arriving at consensus among the concerned States. (PIB PR 281204)

Ganga water sharing Water resources experts from Nepal, India and Bangladesh warned that the persisting disputes over the water of the Ganga basin could flare up and the ILR in India may further deepen the crisis. "The Ganga basin is a likely arena for some of the serious disputes over water in South Asia in the years ahead," Panos Institute South Asia said in the Preface of a book "Disputes Over The Ganga" on which South Asian experts are carrying out deliberations. Over 20 experts from the three countries gathered on Dec 6-7 in Kathmandu focussed on the problems of flood caused by the Ganges during the monsoon and droughts in the dry season, affecting the region where half a billion people live. The Ganga transverses over 2500 km through China (Tibet), Nepal, India and Bangladesh, with 40% of the people living in poverty. India embarked on an Rs 5600 B ILR in Oct '02. The planners hope that the project, which was announced, without taking Nepal and Bangladesh into confidence, will eventually connect Himalayan and Peninsular Rivers. The Ganga water has been a source of livelihood for over 440 M people of Nepal, India (380 m) and Bangladesh, "the basin will be on the threshold of water scarcity". The experts observed that the Farakka Barrage and other purely engineering interventions on the natural flow of the Ganga, was proving to be unsustainable and unprofitable. "The river itself will soon make the Barrage redundant." They cautioned against manipulation by the western experts and the World Bank, who with misleading opinions were trying to promote India's proposed rivers linking project. "The project is a nexus of certain politicians, engineers and contractors to make their fortune." (Kathmandu Post 071204, New Age 091204)

Ken Betwa Feasibility Report The Ken Betwa feasibility report has been put up by the govt on the following website: http://riverlinks.nic.in/fr_kenbetwa.asp The report seems incomplete with index map and some other things not included. The website, strangely, says that the report submitted in 1996, that is about nine years ago, is yet to be approved by the Technical Advisory Committee of NWDA, no reasons have been given for this. The pre feasibility report of the link or related studies of this link are also not made public. Moreover, while the govt claims that FR of some 16 links has so far been completed, none of the other FRs and none of the PFRs have been made public. (Jan 24, 2005)

DAMS

Lower Suktel Project in Orissa: Human Rights violations

The Lower Suktel Budianchal Sangram Parishad, a peoples' organization formed to resist displacement in 26 villages of Loisingha block of Orissa due to the proposed Lower Suktel Irrigation Project, would like to call attention to the human rights violations that are currently taking place in the villages.

Along with actions of force, violence, and intimidation, compensation distribution in Paradhiapali and Koindapali confirms that Bolangir authorities are acting in clear violation of the ruling of the High Court of Orissa in W.P.(C) No. 13232 of 2004, which states that all dam-related development be suspended until the govt can provide the Detailed Project Report to the LSBSP.

Illicit Actions *Jan 11* Authorities transported residents of Pardhiapali with police escort to Bolangir to receive compensation. The unlawful intentions of the authorities become further apparent by the methods of distribution of compensation. Money was disbursed after 5:30 pm, after office hours. Six platoons of police entered Pardhiapali at 6 pm, staged a flag march, and took guard of the entire village in the name of protecting those who take compensation.

➤ *Jan 12* In the early morning, two platoons of police staged a flag march in GS Dunguripali village. Stating that they were looking for seven movement leaders, including the LSBSP president, the Police occupied the area and prohibited villagers from leaving the region. The intimidation tactics of Police invoked a great sense of fear in the area. When the women of GS Dunguripali demanded reasons for the police presence and flag march, the Police responded with verbal attacks and physical aggression, torturing 61-year-old Murali Sahu in the process.

➤ *Jan 13* In the morning, the tension in Pardhiapali escalated when, with the help of the Police, a few vested-interested villagers attacked the LSBSP Secretary with wooden poles and swords. More violence transpired the same day when, with the help of the police, some people injured eight innocent villagers. When Paradhiapali villagers tried to file an FIR in GS Dunguripali on both incidents, Police refused. 4 children were injured when a police van tangled the electrical wires. The police tried to fix the wiring before the incident could be properly documented.

➤ *Jan 14* Authorities took away the Koindapali people to receive compensation in the same manner.

In addition to violating the order of the Orissa HC, the authorities are violating the human rights of the people of Paradhiapali, GS Dunguripali and Kaoidapali, using occupation, violence, secrecy, and intimidation. Though the project is yet to be cleared by the Union MEF, authorities are distributing money without distributing

accurate information regarding the project in gross violation of the peoples' right to information and right to livelihood! They also clearly intend to break the solidarity of the movement!

The Parishad demands that the Police stop forcing people to accept compensation and the Administration and Police abide by the Orissa HC order and suspend all project-related work until the DPR is released to the people. The LSBSP is supporting small-scale, cost-effective, sustainable irrigation projects. In addition to preventing mass displacement, such alternatives will protect forests, cultures, & livelihoods.

[Dinesh Mishra writes: We all know that such schemes cannot be constructed anymore without massive repression and what we see in case of the Lower Suktel is just a dress rehearsal of the events to come in case of Riverlinking or any such scheme in future.]

I once happened to travel with a very senior bureaucrat in train and we started discussing the Water Related Projects. The opinions differed on the surface but I was confronted with a very peculiar question. He asked me that he was prepared to believe all that I said, in fact, he believed what I was saying but he asked what I had for him after he retired. My answer was, 'nothing'. He said the other side was prepared to give me Ambassadorship, Governorship, Chair of various Committees and so on. Why on earth should I be with you even if I know you are right, he asked me.

It is in the hands of such people, our future lies who very well know which side of the bread is buttered. The legend goes that Kautilya used to pray to the God everyday for giving courage to the 'Sabhyas' (members of the council of the King) to speak the truth. Let us all pray that those who rule us at different levels also have the courage to speak the truth.]

CAG Report CAG audit review of AIBP funded projects in Orissa (Audit report on Orissa - civil for 2002-03) has indicted Land Acquisition Officers of Lower Suktel for financial mismanagement. "Advance payments of Rs 780.7 M were made to LAOs between March 1997 and Feb 2003 by five Drawing and Disbursing Officers for payment of land compensation in respect of Lower Indra, Jonk, Anandpur Barrage, **Lower Suktel** and eight Minor Irrigation schemes. The DDO *unauthorisedly debited advances as final expenditure. The LAOs did not render the accounts with paid vouchers. No action was taken as of March 2003 for recovery of the advances.*"

"Rs 93 M were paid to the Special LAO, Bolangir upto 2003 for acquisition of land. No Land Acquisition case was however, initiated and the preliminary works like enumeration of displaced persons and property survey of the villages coming under the area of submergence were also not completed as of April 2003." (LSBASP, Dinesh Mishra and CAG)

Tehri oustees facing another displacement

The Tehri Dam oustees, who were settled at Athurwala on the outskirts of Dehradun 25 years ago, are again facing displacement. Eighteen farmer families from Tehri are part of 245 families on the govt list to be displaced for the airport expansion at Jolly Grant. The 18 families, who were allotted land near the airport at Jolly Grant in 1981, have put their foot down, refusing to comply with the Govt's order. (THE TRIBUNE 131204)

HC asks Tehri authorities to file a detailed reply The petitioners N D Jayal and Shekhar Singh have filed an application in the Uttaranchal High Court pleading for directions about:

1. Status of rehabilitation in the urban & rural areas.
2. Environment Plan that was to be implemented in a time bound manner including catchment area treatment, command area development etc.
3. Why Tunnel T-1 was closed down even when all the necessary rehabilitation and environment directives were not complied with by the authorities.
4. Participation of the affected people in the decision making process of the Monitoring Committee;
5. Rehabilitation has been recognised as part of Article 21 of the Constitution. Hence, all R&R related decisions have to be just, fair & reasonable.
6. MoEF, as the nodal ministry, be directed to file its quarterly reports before the Court.

On Dec 21 '04, a bench of Justice V S Sirpurkar (Chief Justice) and Justice Rajesh Tandon asked the authorities to file a detailed reply. (MATU PR 221204)

Failure of Malprabha project in Karnataka People in the N Karnataka are agitated over the failure of the Malprabha Project in Krishna basin, which has led to acute shortage of water in Hubli, Dharwad and several other towns in

To cover the blunder of Malprabha project, it is now proposed that Mahadayi waters should be transferred to Malprabha

the region. The project was launched in 1970 to cater to the drinking water and irrigation needs. The shortage is due to the reduction in the inflow of water to the river because of which the dam built near Sauandatti in Belagaum is working below its storage capacity. The Malprabha project encompasses four districts of Dharwad, Gadag, Belagaum and Bagalkot besides nine talukas, which are drought prone areas. Rs 4 B has been spent on the project so far. To cover the blunder of Malprabha project, it is now proposed that Mahadayi waters should be transferred to Malprabha, to which Goa and environmental conscious people have strong objections. Dharwad MP recently met the Union WR minister in this regard. Strangely, NEERI has given report that the diversion will have no environmental harm. (BUSINESS LINE 131204)

Bodhghat HEP resurfaces with NEERI help

The (4 X 125 MW) Bodhghat HEP involves a major dam on the Indravati River near Barsoor village, about 100 km from the district headquarters of Jagdalpur in Bastar district in Chhattisgarh. The main dam would be 855 m long and 90 m high, with additional dams of 500 m and 365 m length on the left and right flanks. The Project's total land requirement is 13 783 Ha, of which 5 704 ha is forestland. The project would displace nearly 10,000 tribal people from 42 villages. The tribals, mostly Gonds and Madias, rely on the forest and a little agriculture. The projects planned along the Indravati would completely devastate these fragile cultures, pushing them into ecological poverty and destitution, as the forests they rely on are destroyed. This will, in turn, force them to move to the few remaining unpopulated forest areas, setting off a vicious cycle of destruction. One estimate puts the total loss to wildlife habitats at 20,000 Ha. Discharges from the Bodhghat turbines would flood grassland habitats in the Bhairamgarh Sanctuary, about 60 km downstream. The most dangerous aspect of the project is that its functional effectiveness is directly linked to six more projects proposed downstream: Kutru- I and II, Nugur I and II, Bhopalpatnam and Inchampalli. Together, these projects would effectively wipe out what is arguably the most pristine riverine stretch in central and peninsular India. The ecology of the Indravati Tiger Reserve and Bhairamgarh Sanctuary in Chhattisgarh and the proposed Kopela-Kolamarkha Sanctuary in Maharashtra and other surrounding tiger and wild buffalo habitats will be lost. A WII report in 1989-90 had strongly advised against the project, due to the vast repercussions it would have on the Indravati River, the tiger reserve, the region's tribal population and especially the endangered wild buffalo. The wild buffaloes of Bastar are considered to be the purest wild genetic stock and their conservation is critical. As a result of this report, forest clearance to the project was denied in 1994 and the environmental clearance was subsequently revoked. Since then, however, the National Environmental Engineering Research Institute was engaged to prepare a report, which we must presume recommended that the project go ahead. On the basis of this report, the proposal was re-submitted to the Centre in April 2003. In early 2004, MEF granted in-principle clearance for the diversion of 5,700 Ha of forestland. (www.sanctuaryasia.com for campaign details)

Demand to Cancel the Chhattisgarh dam People from 30 villages in proposed Baruka dam area in Gariaband have constituted a struggle committee to oppose the dam. The villagers said that they would not allow the dam at any cost. The proposed dam would lead to submergence of 40 villages and over 1 M trees. The project is yet to be cleared by the MoEF. Earlier the Central Govt had assured that work on the dam wouldn't resume. (*DESHBANDHU* 191204)

Teesta irrigation Project:

DEEP EMBARRASSMENT

The W Bengal irrigation dept has realised that the first phase of Teesta project is largest and most expensive in the region. Conceived in 1943, the project got Central approval in 1975 and the fieldwork started in 1976 with a targeted completion date for 1986.

	Planned	Actual
Completion date	1986	2008 Now for Phase I
Cost B Rs	0.76	9.00 already
Canal length	237 km	100 km so far
Irrigation, M Ha	0.922	0.1
Power Capacity	67 MW	22 MW

(THE ECONOMIC TIMES 171204)

Dondadhar and Dadranal Dams in Orissa A meeting in Dec 2004 of over 100 people from 9 villages and 4 R&R sites was organised by Adivasi Kranti Sangathan to discuss the issue of those displaced in 1979 by the Dondadhar and Dadranal dams in Dhenkanal district. In all, 17 villages submerged in these two dams. During 1978-80 all the displaced families of these villages were resettled in Khontapal R&R colonies and each family was given a house plot and three acres of agricultural land on lease for ten years. In 1990, the lease expired and all this land came under reserve forests. Though the people continue to live in these colonies and cultivate lands, they have no land rights, residential rights, not even possession rights and none therefore have any resident certificate, cannot avail loans from bank, no sale of land is possible. It is as if these people here do not exist. (Nandini Oza, Zindabad Trust)

Dam sediment reducing trout fish in Kulu The country's biggest trout fish farm in Kullu is in danger because of a Hydro project. An upcoming HEP upstream on the Sujun Nullah in Kullu district has led to large inflows of sediments this year resulting in decreasing the water level. Senior fisheries officer at the farm, said, "HEP has affected this trout fish business a lot. Water level decreases after every 34 days and we happen to save fishes with difficulty." The Patlikuhl Farm produces over 200,000 eggs every year and 15 T of trout fish. He said trout fish need 6-8 ppm of oxygen from running water, but after the HEP turned critical the density of sedimentary particles in the water has increased often resulting in fish dying of suffocation. He said the problem arose after the HEP tripped, resulting in sharp drop in water flow. "HEP is made without proper technique. Silt is accumulating and when it drains out, it flows into this farm and then farm will be finished forever. We have written about this to the company and also to govt but it seems they are not bothered and only busy in making money and electricity," said a farmer. HP produces 500 T of trout fish every year. With the use of latest technology, authorities say the production will be 5000 T soon. (ANI PR 081204)

Tipaimukh Project The Centre has completed technical and other formalities for the 1500 MW Tipaimukh HEP. The project has received the CEA clearance and the Central Govt has signed the MoU with the Manipur Govt. after receiving NOCs from Assam and Mizoram. Two project sites have been approved and the environmental impact assessment and EMP studies have been completed, it is claimed.

➤ **Protests** 17 organisations of India and abroad have objected to the dam at the confluence of the Tuivai and Barak rivers adjoining Bangladesh. The indigenous people of Manipur and Mizoram have been campaigning against the project raising questions concerning the environmental impact on them. The organisations argue that in the public hearings proper documents relating to the dam were not supplied. Rather, they allege, NEEPCO authorities supplied fake documents. The NEEPCO authorities have so far been ignoring the demand of the people to supply them with the copies of the EIA despite the statutory provisions for supply of such reports. They also allege that the authorities concerned have paid no attention to the legal requirement of holding public hearings in Manipur and Assam, which will also be affected by the project. Also, the need to consult the riparian countries is also ignored by the authorities.

➤ Officials and experts in Dhaka fear the unilateral Indian move to construct the dam and regulate water flow of the Barak, which feeds both the Surma and Kushiara rivers in Sylhet, will have lasting adverse effects on livelihoods, ecology and environment in a vast region of Bangladesh. One of the largest river systems in Bangladesh -- the Meghna with its distributaries -- is dependent on the waters from the Surma and Kushiara and the dam will adversely affect the flows. The Naga People's Movement for Human Rights also condemned the govt decision of constructing the 162.8 metre-high dam. With a storage capacity of 15.5 B cubic metres, the dam will have largest among existing Indian reservoirs. Bangladesh has been asking India since 1972-3 to furnish it with the latter's detailed plan on Tipaimukh.

➤ **Mizos against the dam** The public hearing conducted by the Mizoram Pollution Control Board has not gone in favour of the dam as the people to be affected have strongly objected to it. The MPCB sources said "The affected people and the organisations who came for the public hearing were not satisfied with NEEPCO's plans for their rehabilitation and compensation. They also said they wanted free power as well for which NEEPCO did not seem to have an answer". The Human Rights Network of Indigenous People North East Chapter opposed the dam saying it was in contravention to the Indian Constitution where tribals and their lands were protected. They said they could never agree to projects where the rights of the people are violated and would rather forego development if these rights were to be ignored. (Imphal Free Press 071204, Project Monitor 161204, The Daily Star-Bangladesh 271104 The Assam Tribune 050105)

Report on Tipaimukh Dam Public Hearing The first public hearing on Tipaimukh HEP was organized by the Mizoram Pollution Control Board on Dec 2 at Darlawn, Mizoram. It ended without arriving at any conclusions. The only agreement from the panel and the participants was that they were not informed properly. Many who came from the villages to be affected complained that they knew very little about the hearing before and during the hearing process itself. Of the 14 villages to be affected, only about seven villages turned up including villagers of Darlawn. The villages present were also represented by the leaders only and no public turned up. Out of total 56 participants, seven were NEEPCO officials, four from MPCB and towards the end only 23 participant remains. No DPR or EIA & EMP were provided to the participants, before or during the hearing. The issue discussed was mostly about land and survival issues of people to be affected. Another issue raised by the participants is that the Tipaimukh dam project should not go ahead unless and until the Tuirial and Tuivai project problems are resolved. What is particularly new to the power sharing arrangement by the two affected states of Mizoram and Manipur is that NEEPCO and Mizoram had already signed an MoU, that provisioned 50% free power to Mizoram out of the total 12% energy promised. The public hearing held on was actually scheduled to take place on Sept 22, '04 and was postponed as a legal notice was served on MPCB about the violations. However, the public hearing on Dec 2 continued to violate the norms and should be termed illegal.

➤ Union Minister for Heavy Industries and Member of Parliament from Silchar in Assam, Santosh Mohan Dev, has been saying that the Tipaimukh project has been cleared by the CCEA and that the project implementation would soon start. This is clearly illegal as even the legally mandatory public hearings are yet to be conducted in Manipur and Assam. (CCDD PR 021204)

Problems caused by Kosi, Gandak dams India has expressed commitment to solve the problems faced by Nepal owing to the Kosi and Gandak dams constructed through mutual consent within Nepali territory. India expressed this commitment during the meeting of the Joint Committee on Kosi and Gandak Projects that concluded in Patna in Bihar. The two countries signed the Kosi and Gandak River Treaties in 1954 and 1959 respectively for irrigation and power generation. Over 5,000 bighas of land from Bharadaha to Nirmali in Saptari district, Nepal is facing erosion ever since the construction of the Kosi dam. Similarly, India is yet to pay the contractually agreed compensation to owners of the land requisitioned for constructing the dam. India had also agreed to provide the contractually agreed volume of water for irrigation of Nepal's land and to repair the gates of the dam, as India is responsible for control of water flow. Lack of maintenance of the gates of Kosi dam has caused inundation problems in dozens of villages in Saptari. (THE KATHMANDU POST 161204)

HYDRO PROJECTS**KPC Hydel generation down**

The Karnataka Power Corp has a total installed capacity of 4640 MW of which 3165 MW is from HEPs. The upcoming HEPs of KPCL include Almatti Dam Powerhouse (290 MW) and Varahi-II (230 MW). The hydel generation has dipped substantially from 11 700 MU in 1999-00, 9 244 MU in 2001-2 to 7 018 MU in 2003-4. (POWER LINE 1104)

Demand for Mizoram HEP Over 40 MPs have urged the PM to revive the 60 MW Tural HEP in Mizoram, which was approved by the Centre at a debt equity ratio of 15:85. The Rs 3.687 B HEP was undertaken by the North Eastern Electric Power Corp and the civil works were started in Sept 2001. The Mizoram Rajya Sabha MP, Mr Lalhming Liana said over Rs 2 B has already been spent. The project has affected over 400 families who have lost their land and means of livelihood. (BUSINESS LINE 281204)

Kameng HEP Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs approved the 600 MW Kameng HEP in Arunachal Pradesh by NEEPCO at an estimated cost of Rs 24.969 B including Interest During Construction component of Rs.2.491 B. The power would be allocated to the various states of the North East and supplied as per PPA. The HEP located in the W Kameng district is utilizing the flows of Bichom and Tenga Rivers (tributaries of the Kameng River). (PIB 241104)

Chukha HEP The tariff for the power to India from the 336 MW Chukha HEP in Bhutan is to be increased by 33% from Jan 2005. The new rate was approved by India on a request by Bhutan. The HEP is the single largest source of revenue for Bhutan. The HEP potential in Bhutan is claimed at 20000 MW. About 360 MW has been developed. (Waterpower magazine 151204)

States agree to fore go free Hydropower? The Union Ministry of Power is proceeding on a case-by-case basis to convince states to forego some free power in the initial years in order to make the HEPs viable. However, it is being opposed by states like Himachal Pradesh, Uttaranchal and Meghalaya -- states with significant HEP potential. It is claimed that J & K and Arunachal Pradesh have agreed to the proposal. At present, states where the HEPs come up get 12% of the power generated each year free. An earlier attempt by the power ministry to move a Cabinet nod to the effect had to be abandoned in the face of stiff opposition from some states. The J&K govt has agreed to forego some percentage of the free power in the initial years from the 450 MW Baglihar HEP, which is expected to generate 2,804 MU. The saved power will be sold, which will make the HEP viable. Arunachal Pradesh has agreed to a similar proposal in the case of two HEPs and so is the Madhya Pradesh govt for the Omkareshwar HEP. (BUSINESS STANDARD 101204)

Himachal Pradesh:**CAG:****Financial bungling in Larji HEP**

The CAG has unearthed serious financial irregularities in the Larji HEP, which is already under the scanner of State Electricity Regulatory Commission for its abnormally high construction cost. The CAG has pointed out various instance of overpayment, inadmissible and irregular payments to contractors. The excess amount paid to contractors detected so far was over Rs 200 M and given the scale of irregularities, it may even cross Rs 500 M. Excess payment of over Rs 40 M was made on account of damage to the coffer dam. The contractor was required to repair the dam at its own cost but the board paid for it. The board had while approving the rates for lining work for tunnel included the cost of special types of gantry to be used for carrying out 1160 cubic meters of lining. However, subsequently the quantum of work almost doubled to 2300 cubic meter and the payment to the contractor was made at the same rate. The cost of gantry came to about Rs 4000 per cubic meter and it should not have been paid for the 1140 cubic meter of additional lining. This led to excess payment of over Rs 60 M. The cost of 126 MW HEP has increased from Rs 6.67 B to over Rs 12 B, making it a costly HEP. The cost is touching Rs 100 M per MW. The cost of generation will come around Rs 4.8 per unit. (THE TRIBUNE 091204)

Conditions for HEPs The CM has said the SEB should provide 12% free power as royalty to the govt from the HEPs on the pattern of IPPs and Centre. The govt has decided to have equity participation in all HEPs. The govt has made it mandatory for all HEPs to release at least 10% of the water down stream for the aquatic life. (THE TRIBUNE 131204)

HEPs to SJVN The govt has decided to hand over two more HEPs to Sutlej Jal Vidyut Nigam, a 25:75 joint venture between the state and the centre: the 465 MW Luhri and the 450 MW Khab. The Luhri HEP is now to be completed in the 11th Plan (2007-12).

➤ **HP HEP PFRs approved** The Centre has cleared 11 of the 15 HEPs in HP (for which PFRs were prepared) in Sutlej basin with total installed capacity of 2860 MW including: Pawari (480 MW), Khab (450 MW), Yangtang (261 MW), Bajauli Holi (180 MW), Gondhala (144 MW) and Luhri (465 MW). The Centre has also assured to provide grant for DPRs of these projects, short-listed due to low tariff projections. (BUSINESS STANDARD 031204, RASHTRIYA SAHARA 061204)

Private HEP cancelled Citing delays, HP cabinet has cancelled a deal with the 70 MW Dhamwari Sunda HEP in Shimla district. The cabinet gave permission for signing the PPA with NHPC, which was executing the 800 MW Parbati II, 300 MW Chamera-II and the 231 MW Chamera III. (THE TIMES OF INDIA 011204)

NHPC Writ on delay of Dulhasti HEP A writ petition against the delay of completion of Dulhasti HEP, causing loss of over Rs 50 B has been filed in the Jammu & Kashmir High Court, wherein it has been demanded to have a thorough investigation by Central Bureau of Investigation. The Division Bench of Chief Justice SN Jha and Justice SK Gupta issued notices to the concerned authorities including Govt and NHPC. The petition has been filed by N K Dogra, president All India NHPC Employees Front through Advocate Nitin Bhasin. The counsel submitted that the people of the country would have got electricity at the rate of Rs 0.89 per unit if the HEP would have been completed in time, but people would now get the electricity at the rate of Rs 5 per unit. The project was handed over to French Consortium in 1989 and the cost was fixed at Rs 12.6 B and time fixed was ending 1994. The civil contractor of the French Consortium in 1992 abandoned the project on the pretext of militancy. The project was handed over to NHPC with assets worth millions of rupees whose fate is unknown. In 1997 M/s Jai Parkash Associates was awarded the contract and was supposed to complete the same by March 2001. As there was deliberate delay in the completion of the project, so the cost rose to Rs 42 B and may further escalate due to the negligence and undue favour shown by the official respondent to M/s JP Industries. (Daily Excelsior 231204)

Sewa HEP The NHPC has completed 295 m long diversion tunnel of the Rs 6.65 B Sewa II HEP in J&K. Work has been going on to complete the headrace tunnel by 2006 so that the project could be commissioned by 2007. The project envisages a 53 m high dam over river Sewa from where the water would go through a 10.02 km long tunnel into a powerhouse at Mashka village just opposite to Power House of Chamera I at Khairi. The project is to generate 535.52 MU in a 90% dependable year. (Daily Excelsior 011204, BUSINESS LINE 161204)

NHPC wants Cauvery HEPs After a gap of about six years the NHPC has taken up the issue of the long pending HEPs across the Cauvery River in Karnataka and Tamil Nadu. The NHPC had proposed to undertake 4 HEPs – Shivanasamundram (2x135 MW), Mekedatu (2x80 MW), Hogenakal (120 MW) and Rasimanal (200 MW) – in the 1990s. The first meeting was held in 1998 and a draft MoU between two states and NHPC was prepared. In 1999 the two states backed out citing the pending award by the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal, which has not yet given its judgement, 15 years after being set up. However, the two states seem to have changed their approach as they are said to be agreeable to the projects now. The two projects need forest clearance from Supreme Court. The Karnataka and Tamil Nadu govts will have to write to the National Board for Wildlife, which will foreword the proposal to the apex court. The Karnataka's forest dept sources said that 200-300 Ha of forestland including the

Cauvery Wildlife sanctuary would have to be delineated. There is also some forestland in Tamil Nadu, which require clearance. (DECCAN HERALD 091204)

FM to NHPC: dilute holding The finance ministry has asked the power ministry to include the NHPC for dilution of its holding through initial public offering. Power Grid and the Power Finance Corp are also on the list. (POWER LINE 1204)

Pre Feasibility Reports The NHPC has submitted PFR of 41 HEPs with a total installed capacity of 18,972 mw to the Central Electricity Authority till April 2004. The NHPC was allotted 43 schemes with total installed capacity of 21345 MW out of 162 HEPs under the '50,000 mw HEP initiative' launched last year. NHPC wants to generate 20 000 mw by the end of 11th plan. NHPC has 8 HEPs with a combined installed capacity of 2,475 mw. Six units of 125 mw each under the Indira Sagar project had also been synchronized. Projects with a total installed capacity of over 32,000 MW were under various stages. In Arunachal Pradesh, NHPC wants to take up HEPs with total installed capacity of over 22,000 mw. (Daily Excelsior 011204)

NEWS FROM THE NARMADA VALLEY

Central Team drops tour of SSP in midway The Central Govt Team sent by the Union Minister for Water Resources on a tour of the Sardar Sarovar Project affected areas in the Narmada Valley and the resettlement sites have dropped the planned tour midway and returned. A 3 member team consisting of Shri Manoj Agrawal (Secretary to the Minister, WR), Shri Varshneya (CWC) and Shri Afroze Ahmed (Director of R&R, NCA) were on a tour, in Dec '04, which was to include the SSP-affected villages in the Nimad plains of Madhya Pradesh, the villages in Jhabua district of M.P and Nandurbar district of Maharashtra, the 6 colony-affected villages near the SSP site and the Gujarat resettlement sites in order to assess the progress in rehabilitation of families affected by the SSP Dam. The team did not complete the stipulated tour and returned to Delhi early on Dec 11, attending only one of the three days planned. The team did attend three large meetings in the Nimad plains, where villager after villager said that they are affected under the current dam height of 110 m, but have not yet been rehabilitated! The meetings were held in Piplud (district Badwani), Picchodi (100% adivasi village in district Badwani) and Khaparkheda (district Dhar). They said vociferously that they were only being resettled on paper and on govt websites such as the NCA website where 'zero' balance families are shown for rehabilitation under 110 metres. In reality, over 11,000 families still remain to be rehabilitated at the current dam height, which is a clear violation of the Narmada Tribunal Award and the Supreme Court verdict of 2000. The falsity of the 'zero' balance families was clearly proved in front of the officials. (NBA PR 131204)

Media Watch:**Business Standard's trial balloon again:
NHDC may take over Maheshwar HEP**

The Business Standard newspaper has been floating this story again and again for a couple of years now. It claims that sources and MP state govt officials say either the 400 MW Maheshwar HEP in Madhya Pradesh will be abandoned or handed over to the NHDC (a joint venture of state govt and NHPC). The work has been at a standstill since Oct 2001. Shree Maheshwar Hydrel Power Corp is developing the Rs 22.81 B HEP. The high power tariff and huge submergence are some of the reasons. The promoters have not reached financial closure so far. It will be a costly affair for the NHDC, though it claims that it can complete it in 30 months. Execution will be difficult for any company since it will have to work under tough conditions and the power cost may be Rs 9-10 per unit. (BUSINESS STANDARD 101204)

Maheshwar HEP, top defaulter of PFC

In Sept 04, once again Maheshwar HEP had the dubious distinction of being the top defaulter of the Power Finance Corporation. The MHP outstandings then were Rs 977.7 M, 535 M being outstanding for over a year. That is the situation at the largest private Hydro Project of India. (PFC)

MP Govt stalls public hearing for Women The Narmada Bachao Andolan has severely criticised the Madhya Pradesh Govt and the Khargone Dist administration for stalling the public hearing for women in the Narmada Valley before the National Commission of Women by declaring prohibitory orders on Dec 5. The Chairperson of NCW returned to Delhi without attending the hearing. Still around 1500 women and 500 men broke the ban orders and held a daylong public hearing in front of collector's office at Khargone. The women and the NBA gave a Letter of condemnation to the District officials and expressed their anger at the completely illegal use of Section 144 in order to prevent them from meeting and speaking before a statutory body such as the NCW. NBA said that women affected by four dams in the Narmada valley- Upper Beda, Dalit women from Harsud displaced by Indira Sagar, women from Maheshwar project and tribal women from Maan dam had gathered for public hearing. The people affected by the Upper Beda dam have been fighting for the last 8 years. This dam being built on the Beda River – a tributary of Narmada, is part of 30 large dams being built in the Narmada valley. Fourteen tribal and Banjara villages would be submerged by the project. In 1999, the MP had passed an order to constitute a Committee to examine decentralised water alternatives in lieu of the Upper Beda dam, but it did not allow the committee to function and even began work on the project early this year. (NBA PR 061204, THE HINDU 121004)

Omkareshwar submergence The award for evacuation for 3 out of 7 villages coming under submergence at the height of 179.6 m has been passed. The seven villages are Selani, Bakhtgarh, Gunjari, Palri, Sukwa, Indravati and Takari. The height of the dam will be raised to 190 m and 12 more villages are coming under submergence at this level including Ekhand, Tonki, Bhimalgaon, Hasankheda, Kelwa Bujurg, Rampura, Dhawdi, Kothmir, Nayapura, Guyadi, Premgarh and Borkheda. (DANIK BHASKAR 241204)

Rajasthan Narmada Canal The Rajasthan govt has claimed that out of 77 km length of Narmada main canal in the state, 66 km have been completed and the remaining work will be completed by March 2005. The govt has given Rs 1 B this year for the project. Out of 2this amount, Rs 250 M has been given to Gujarat as state share. Rs 20 B would be spent on the Narmada project canals including 1403 km distributaries and 600 km minors. (DANIK BHASKAR 251204)

ISSUES ABOUT RIVERS

Ganga erosion study The Centre is studying the proposal of Farakka Barrage authorities for sanctioning Rs 500 M to check erosion along the banks of Ganga and Padma rivers in Murshidabad district of W Bengal. The Farakka Barrage authorities were entrusted with the task of taking anti erosion measures from Farakka to Jalangi. (BUSINESS STANDARD 061204)

No trace of Saraswati River Union I&B Minister said that excavation conducted so far at nine sites has not revealed any trace of the lost river Saraswati. The present Govt has not extended the project, which was started by the previous govt. The project report of Sept '03 envisaged a cost of Rs 360.2 M, which was later, reduced to Rs 49.8 M. (THE TIMES OF INDIA 071204)

YAP-II The implementation of the Yamuna Action Plan II in Delhi, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh has started from Dec 2004. The Minister of State for Environment and Forest said that in the Rs 6.24 B project Delhi's share was Rs 505 M, UP's Rs 1.24 B and Haryana Rs 625 M. The Action Plan is being carried out with a 13.33 B yen loan from the Japanese Bank for International Co-operation. (BUSINESS LINE 041204)

INTER STATE DISPUTES

Tamil Nadu for review of PAP agreement At the TN-Kerala talks, Tamil Nadu said that the review of the Parambikulam-Aliyar Project agreement needs to be completed expeditiously. The PAP agreement that came in to force in 1958 pertained to the sharing of waters of rivers in the Bharatpuzha, Chalkudy and Pariyar basin including the following rivers: Anamalyar (Pariyar basin), the Sholayar and the Parambikulam (Chalakudi) and the Alayar (Bharatpuzha). All the rivers emanate from TN and flow westwards before joining the sea. Under the agreement, while TN's entitlement was

30.5 tmcft, Kerala was to get around 20 tmcft. Since the establishment of the Joint Water Regulation Board in 1970, TN always gave Kerala its due except in the last two years, TN claimed. This despite TN didn't realise its share. Our realisation never went beyond 22-23 tmcft, TN said. Kerala is agreeable to TN's long standing demand for diverting the Anamalyar waters to the tune of 2.5 tmcft, it wants more water at the Manacadvau weir. At present, Kerala is entitled to 7.25 tmcft. TN finds it "virtually impossible" to meet this demand. TN has said there was no excess water to be shared with Kerala. TN has to feed water to about 0.17 M Ha whereas Kerala has to give water for 8 000 Ha of double crop wet lands in the Chiitupuzha valley, TN claimed. [FOR DETAILS SEE TRAGEDY OF COMMONS.] (THE HINDU 021204)

IRRIGATION

WB aided irrigation project fails to deliver

Despite spending over Rs 66 M, Chhainsa distributory and the water channel of the Kheri Kalan minor distributory in Faridabad dist of Haryana has failed to deliver. This World Bank aided project is known as longest lift irrigation scheme of the state. The project had been approved by the govt in 1994-5 and the construction work, which started in Nov 1999, was completed in Dec 2001. While the purpose of the scheme was to supply water to the farmers of the tail end villages like Alipur, Garonda, Chhainsa, Mohammadpur, Narahwali, Heerapur, Mohna and Aterna the farmers of the region were dismayed when the water failed to reach their fields, even after completion of the project. Corruption has been alleged and vigilance enquiry launched, without any results. The distributory collapses when the dept tries to run it at full discharge capacity. This has happened several times. (THE TRIBUNE 271204)

Supreme Court Stay on AP irrigation contracts The SC has stayed the award of 21 major irrigation contracts by the Andhra Pradesh govt involving over Rs 200 B. A Bench of Justice NS Hegde and Justice SB Sinha stayed a judgement of the AP High Court on a review petition, which cleared the decks for the award of the contracts on the ground that agreement had been entered into, bank guarantees had been furnished and substantial resources had been pumped in by the contractors. In the PIL challenging the govt's action in short listing pre-qualified contractors for entrusting the work of completing the ongoing irrigation projects, the HC had struck down the decision and restrained the Govt from awarding any of 26 projects estimated to cost over Rs 260 B. The state govt identified 51 major packages, each costing over Rs 1 B and 62 medium packages, each costing around Rs 500 M for the 26 projects. (THE HINDU 161204)

Farm works for Rayalseema 303 works estimated to cost Rs 1.07 B would be taken up in the Rayalseema district in Andhra Pradesh to be executed in the next two years in Kurnool and Cudappah districts. In Kurnool district, 106 works are to be taken up at a cost of Rs 625 M to develop 6 069 ha of new ayacut and to stabilize the existing ayacut of 2 494 Ha. In Cuddapah dist, 197 works costing Rs 382 M would be taken up to create 3520 Ha of new ayacut and to stabilize the ayacut of 19 200 Ha. (THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS 171204)

Plan panel, MoWR for Central funding The Planning Commission and water resources ministry want to the Centre to fully fund select major irrigation projects to ensure speedier completion. There are about 160 major irrigation projects, which include a few projects that were started prior to the 5th Plan period. The Plan panel and the Water resources ministry is of the view that about 15 large projects, which would benefit over 0.1 M Ha each or more than one state should be fully funded by the Centre. The 160 major projects were estimated to involve an expenditure of Rs 1000 B at the beginning of the 10th Plan. At present, most of the irrigation projects are implemented and largely funded by the states. A recommendation to this effect may be made under the mid term appraisal of the 10th plan, now underway. These sources say that AIBP is not particularly useful for implementation of very large projects. Major projects include SSP, Sarayu Nahar, NSP, UKP-II and IGNP. (THE ECONOMIC TIMES 231204)

Dukrikheda Reservoir A delegation of 500 farmers from Pipariya tehsil in Hosangabad district met CM demanding increase in capacity of the Dukrikheda dam. Farmers said that reservoir was completed in 1956. The

Dam Details

Height above lowest foundation:	18 m
Length:	1890 m
Gross capacity:	12.26 mcm
Net Capacity:	12.1 mcm
Irrigation benefit projected:	2670 Ha
(National Register of Large Dams, 1990)	

source of water for the reservoir is Pasa River and Ghogra nala. It had reached the maximum level only 4

times & 25 villages are not getting irrigation. The govt's proposal for strengthening the reservoir is pending with the MoEF. (Central Chronicle 201204)

IGNP Rajasthan has decided to dean and repair the Indira Gandhi Canal to ensure proper distribution of water. The leakage from the canal will be reduced. The CM emphasised that while special attention would be paid to proper distribution of water, all possible "legal efforts" would be made to ensure that the state gets its full share in the Ravi-Beas waters. The govt entered in to an agreement with the farmers assuring that there would no reduction in the water supply. She said the gates of the Harike Barrage in Punjab should be repaired without delay to check unnecessary leakage. The CM sanctioned Rs 50 M for repairing the canal's Anupgarh section. (THE HINDU 181204)

Rajasthan Farmers stir Over 40 persons, including a former MLA and officials, were injured when farmers, on agitation for irrigation water for rabi crop, clashed with police at Anupgarh and Gharsana (Sriganganagar dist) in NW Rajasthan. Hundreds of farmers were taken in custody. Already five persons were killed on Oct 26-27, four of them agriculture labourers.

➤ One farmer was killed in police firing near Kajuwala town of Bikaner dist. Over 1000 farmers were moving towards Kajuwala town to take part in "maha padav" organised by the Kisan Majdoor Vayapari Sangharsh Samiti there. The agitation was in support of the demand of assured irrigation in the Phase-I area of the IGNP. Police has registered case under the National Security Act on arrested leaders of the Samiti.

➤ Farmers ended their two-month old agitation following an agreement with the state on Dec 12. The govt assured that there would be no reduction of water supply and that the charges against the arrested farmers would be withdrawn. The present level of water supply from the canal amounting to 5.23 cusecs per 1000 acres in phase I and 3 cusecs per 1000 acres in phase II would be maintained. The water will be supplied through the phase I canal having the capacity of 8200 cusecs every year and the phase II canal with the capacity of 5900 cusecs coming from Pong dam. The agreement specified that the canal waters would be supplied in Phase-I on seven-day cycle, while the supply of drinking water would be fully protected. A committee is to be constituted to look in to the overall situation in the IGNP command area. The committee will have irrigation and agriculture experts and four representatives of the Samiti.

➤ 50% of the Rajasthan's share in from Pong was for IGNP-I and rest for IGNP-II. The land in phase I is fertile, while that in Phase II area is sandy and porous. It is claimed that the command area that was initially 0.64 M ha has gone upto 1.44 m ha with lift canals taking water to places such as Jodhpur, nearly 600 km away. The Congress and the BJP worsened the situation by indiscriminately permitting the construction of too many canals to serve the political constituencies. This reduced the water availability in phase I so much that the canal which used to have enough water 190 days in a year now releases water for 30-35 days a year. This meant that kharif crop could not grow at all, while rabi crop cannot even be sown. (FRONTLINE 031204, THE TRIBUNE 041204, 061204, THE HINDU 071204, 131204)

BBMB Water for Rajasthan Following PM's intervention, the Bhakra Beas Management Board has allotted "adequate" water to Rajasthan for release to Indira Gandhi Canal System. Earlier the Rajasthan CM warned of unrest in the border areas if the water issue with Punjab was not settled soon by the Centre. Out of the 8.6 MAF water due to Rajasthan as per agreement 0.6 MAF is yet to be given. The water needs of the canal area have gone up along with the population increase. (THE TRIBUNE, THE HINDU 041204, 051204)

Rajasthan HC panel for Canal Leakages The Rajasthan High Court has constituted a high level committee to look into the woes of farmers at the tail end of Kota Barrage canal not getting water for irrigation. A division bench of the court constituted the committee headed by Divisional Commissioner, Kota, on a public interest litigation highlighting govt's apathy towards maintenance of channels from Kota barrage on river Chambal. Half of the water released from the barrage goes waste at the head of the canal due to improper maintenance and seepage, which resulted in farmers at the other end not getting irrigation water, the petitioner alleged. The committee, which includes district collectors of Kota, Bundi and Jhalawar, besides chief engineer of command area development dept, will chalk out a plan to ensure availability of water to farmers, the court said. (PTI 181204)

The big question is, if this is the situation of canals in Chambal basin in Rajasthan, is there any justification for the Parbati Kalisindh Chambal River Link that is being proposed for transferring more water to Chambal basin?

improper maintenance and seepage, which resulted in farmers at the other end not getting irrigation water, the petitioner alleged. The committee, which includes district collectors of Kota, Bundi and Jhalawar, besides chief engineer of command area development dept, will chalk out a plan to ensure availability of water to farmers, the court said. (PTI 181204)

RAINWATER HARVESTING, SOIL CONSERVATION

CSE film on RWH gets award A documentary on rainwater harvesting produced by Centre for Science and Environment has recently received a nomination at Earth Vision, the 13th Tokyo Global Environmental Film Festival. It also won the Best Documentary Award on the special theme of "Water for Life" at the Vatavaran Film Festival. The film was also one of the four finalists in the Campaign category of the prestigious Green Oscars. The 90-second film created by leapfrog, has been directed by Nandita Das, scripted by Soumya Sen and shot by Ravi K Chandra. (THE HINDU 121204)

Plan panel for Integrated water mission The Planning Commission thinks it would be reasonable to integrate existing water schemes in to one and have a National Water mission to administer them. It feels that there are too many schemes; some working at cross-purpose and other are not addressing the real issue. The panel is of the view that at present, there is little management in watershed management. The agriculture dept has four schemes running for watershed programme. But the Panel's assessment is that these programmes are area based and totally focussed on farmers. The dept of land resources has several schemes but they are not equipped to "scientifically harness the watershed based programmes for treating degraded land". The water resource ministry has no scheme for it. According to Commission, dept of land and water resources may be merged in to one, as the dept of land resources needs engineering support and supervision in planning works and the expertise is available with dept of water resources. (THE TIMES OF INDIA 021204)

CAG ON RAJASTHAN IRRIGATION

The Comptroller and Auditor General of India has audited the Accelerated irrigation Benefit Programme, launched in 1996-97 with the main objectives of accelerating completion of on going irrigation projects. In Rajasthan 10 major and medium irrigation projects taken up under the AIBP and these are incomplete and under progress as on March 2003.

Expenditure on Irrigation Projects in Rajasthan under AIBP

(Rs in Million)

No	Project	Estimated Cost		When Revised	Expenditure before inclusion in AIBP	When included under AIBP	Outlay under AIBP	Expenditure under AIBP
		Original	Revised					
1.	Mahi	313.60	8348.80	2000	5985.70	1999-00	1048.10	857.60
2.	Gang Canal (M)	4457.90	4457.90	1999	446.20	2000-01	720.90	725.90
3.	Pachana	10.30	1250.30	2002	401.60	1997-98	595.70	546.90
4.	Chhapi	59.10	939.60	2002	279.10	1996-97	542.00	518.10
5.	Ganbhiri (M)	117.60	167.10	1994	126.60	1998-99	24.40	23.00
6.	Bisalpur	520.00	6579.1	2000	2050.4	1998-99	865.90	873.30
7.	Chauli	288.7	955.3	2001	55.00	1998-99	571.50	573.40
8.	Narmada	4675.3	13920.0	1999	1257.00	1996-97	1014.00	1011.20
9.	Jaisamand (M)	124.00	241.10	1999	86.60	1996-97	77.90	75.60
10.	IGNP Stage-I	891.2	22674.4	1993	13305.9	1997-98	8246.6	7262.00
	Total	11457.70	59533.6		23994.1		13707.00	12467.00

Huge gap in irrigation potential targeted, potential created and utilisation

(Thousand Ha)

No	Project	Potential before AIBP	AIBP			Total potential	Potential utilised	% potential utilised
			Targets	Potential created	Shortfall (%)			
1	Mahi	56.13	15.07	4.42	71	60.55	2.10	3
2	Gang Canal (M)	449	515	183	64	632	267.67	42
3	Pachana	4.5	6.10	5.93	3	10.43	4.30	41
4	Chhapi	Nil	10	6.50	35	6.50	2.43	37
5	Ganbhiri (M)	2.20	2.58	1.73	33	3.93	1.30	33
6	Bisalpur	2.50	79.30	15.00	81	17.50	12.00	69
7	Chauli	Nil	8.96	0.30	97	0.30	-	-
8	Narmada	Nil	251.00	Nil	100	Nil	-	-
9	Jaisamand (M)	4.61	3.74	2.76	26	7.37	-	-
10	IGNP Stage-I	5.65	90.86	13.89	85	19.54	19.54	100

Improper selection Three modernization projects were irregularly included under AIBP because these were under the category of extension, renovation and modernization. Jaisamand and Gambhiri projects were shown as completed in Annual Progress Report (2001-2) of Irrigation Dept but were actually incomplete (March 2003). In Jaisamand project 28 works of distribution system were executed to the extent of 25 to 75% only. For Gambhiri Project, Technical sanctions (Rs 144 M) for three rehabilitation works were issued (2002-3) under Rajasthan Water Sector Restructuring Project by the ACE, Udaipur. Thus, the project cannot be treated as completed. Expenditure in Bisalpur and Narmada projects at the time of selection (1998-9) under AIBP was much less (33% and 27%) than the requirement (75% of estimated cost). Further, Under the Bisalpur project the targeted potential was less than 0.1 M, which was necessary for selection under AIBP.

Lack of planning Execution of IGNP Stage-II was being taken up (1971-2) in two parts. As per revised

project estimates in 1993 CCA in flow area was 0.873 M Ha (estimated cost Rs 12.23 B). Due to execution of works of both the systems at the same time, the work remained incomplete and required potential (0.515 M Ha) could not be created. It was also observed that though canal works were completed (1998-9) by IGNP, the water courses in various systems could not be completed as on March 2003 by CAD due to lack of coordination between the two depts.

Selection of Bisalpur dam and Narmada projects under AIBP was not correct, as these projects were not in advance stage of completion

Financial mismanagement In three projects a advance payment of Rs 56.8 M made up to March 2003 by three divisions to the Sub-divisional officers, Land Acquisition Officers and other executing agencies for execution of works, disbursement of land compensation, etc was irregularly charged finally to projects instead of Miscellaneous Public Works advances against the officer concerned. In Gang canal modernization project expenditure to the extent of 92.42% was made in the last quarter of 2000-1.

Diversion of funds In eight projects expenditure of Rs 226.7 M was incurred on the other activities not covered under the programme such as cars, computer, coolers, running and maintenance of buildings, etc (Rs 217.4 M), office expenses (Rs 3.2 M) and the payment of arrear of wages (Rs 6.1 M) pertaining to the period prior to inclusion under AIBP.

Jaisamand Dam Not taken up to safety level The Jaisamand irrigation modernization project cleared (May 1992) by Planning Commission was selected (1996-7) under AIBP with aim of raising the height of the dam up to safety level (from 301.1 m to 306.84 m) to accommodate flood water discharge, construction of 39 additional structures for lining of main canal etc. It was observed that expenditure of Rs 75.6 M was incurred during 1996-2001 on modernization works, which were still incomplete and height of the dam was not raised, the project shown as completed in 2000-1 as per published progress report for 2001-2 without raising height of the dam up to safety level.

Extra cost of Rs 6.017 M and liability of Rs 4.687 M As per financial rules no works should be commenced without detailed estimate based on actual survey and investigation. It was observed that the detailed estimates (Aug 1998) of earth work excavation of cutting reaches in RD 23.5 to 24.5 and RD 25 to 27.5 of Right Main Canal of Bisalpur project were prepared on the basis of trial pits up to 3 m depth only. However, on execution actual depth of these reaches varied from 7.76 m to 12.42 m and strata at lower reaches was different. This resulted in heavy increase/ variation in quantities of earthwork.

Avoidable extra expenditure Various construction works of three projects (March 1996 to March 1999) were left incomplete by the contractors due to dispute in classification of strata, frequent changes in specification, etc. The balance works were rewarded (Sept 1998 to Jan 2003) on higher tender premium, resulting in avoidable extra expenditure of Rs 19.5 M. Avoidable extra expenditure of Rs 12 M was incurred on removal of silt and shrubs from canal, removal of earth and betonite material, repair of village road bridges (damaged due to late allotment of earth lining work) and increased quantity of earth work. In four divisions of IGNP works were allotted to contractors but they did not commence the work as no agreement was executed. The dept initiated action late by 9-15 months against contractors under condition of notice inviting tender. Eight works allotted (1997-2000) to contractors were not commenced/ completed, but action against defaulters to levy compensation under agreement was taken late by 11-52 months. Re-awarding these works caused higher tender premium resulting in extra expenditure of Rs 9.717 M.

The conditions under which environmental clearance was granted to Bisalpur Project were not fulfilled. MEF reminded the state govt about the violations in Sept 2000, Jan 2001 and Dec 2001 (but took no action).

Irregular expenditure According to records an expenditure of Rs 35.2 M was incurred on construction of cross drainage over Gajner, Kolayat and Phalodi lift canals without provisions in RPE 1993.

Targets not achieved No irrigation potential was created in Narmada Project, as the canal works in Gujarat portion were not completed and dam was yet to reach useful height. In other projects, the shortfall in creation of additional irrigation potential was 3 to 97 %.

Non-fulfilment of Env. Conditions Environmental clearance for Bisalpur drinking water cum irrigation project was granted (Dec 1997) by Govt of India, subject to fulfilment of conditions, which were not fulfilled by the State Govt despite repeated instruction by the Govt of India (Sept 2000, Jan 2001 and Dec 2001).

➤ The construction Bisalpur and Chhapi irrigation projects were started without obtaining clearance of Forest Dept. The Govt of India, Ministry of Env & Forest, while sanctioning diversion of forest land in favour of irrigation Dept, held (Dec 1997 and Jan 1998) that the State Govt violated the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. They directed payment of cost of compensatory afforestation and cost of penal afforestation, which was twice (in Bisalpur project) and four times (in Chhapi project) of the original cost respectively. It was observed that due to delay in payment of cost of compensatory afforestation and cost of penal afforestation the dept had to pay extra sum of Rs 5.519 M on account of revision of wage rates and there was a further liability of Rs 161.9 M (in Bisalpur) Rs 29.6 M and Chhapi project (Rs 132.3 M).

(From Audit report of Rajasthan Govt (Civil) by CAG of India for 2002-3)

WATER OPTIONS

Mine water harvesting Scientists, mining engineers and environmentalists have called for a national policy on mine water management. The experts had gathered at a symposium "water resources management in mine area" in Bhubaneswar in Orissa. They suggested that nearly 30 M people living in and around mining areas could have access to potable water if rainwater harvesting in the new as well as old mine pits are scientifically managed. The country has nearly 2500 operational mines extracting about 618 MT of ore per annum. The water holding capacity of fresh mine pits created every year is 300 MCM. With increasing open cast mining in recent years, the water harvesting capacity of these areas are is expected to go up considerably. (THE ECONOMIC TIMES 221204)

Total anarchy in water management: Yugandhar

Lamenting on total anarchy in the country over water resource management, Planning Commission member B N Yugandhar has suggested integration of various central govt programmes. He suggested raising of allocation for watershed development efforts from Rs 12.5 to 40 B. Addressing an awards' function of Development Support Centre, a local organisation, set up by ex-govt officer Anil Shah in 1994 to encourage watershed development and rural development activities, Yugandhar said 80 m ha in arid, semi-arid and sub-humid areas in India, remained uncovered under govt programmes and there was no plan yet to manage this land. Water resource management system in the country is most inefficient and ineffective with no regulatory law being implemented properly, he said adding, it is here that volunteers can bring social sanity and discipline in water management.

"The programmes, sponsored by the Central govt, do exist but they have a slow pace. Their success depends on direct involvement of primary stakeholders through decentralised participatory approach," he said. He praised NGOs' work in this direction. He said a ruthless decentralisation of delivery systems was required to make rural development schemes more effective.

Awards He earlier awarded Alka Jani of Kutch Mahila Vikas Sangathan the Gram Vikas Paritoshik, 2004, besides bestowing the Gram Vikas Fellowship, 2004, on Pankaj Dave of Aga Khan Rural Support Programme for work in Surendranagar district. He said Efforts of such people help gauge importance of sustainable natural resource management, which was not paid much attention so far. Alka Soni got the award trophy, Rs 50,000 cash and appreciation letter for organising women's associations and self-help groups in Kutch district through Kutch Mahila Vikas Sangathan under a federal structure. Through her organisation, she is currently resisting new industries in the region exploiting groundwater resources, nullifying the efforts of watershed development. She has donated the award money to her institution.

Pankaj Dave, area manager of AKRSP's Sayla (Surendranagar) centre, got the Gram Vikas Fellowship of Rs 20,000 for his skills in disputes' resolution. He is currently working on a project for producing cheese from goat milk and thus ensuring 50 % increase in the price goat milk to malधारis. (Indian Express, 160105)

PSI's 2005 Calendar on Himalayan Jal Sanskriti In continuation of its tradition, the People's Science Institute of Dehradun in Uttarakhand has published the 2005 calendar – Himalayan Jal Sanskriti 2005 – of traditional water structures in Uttarakhand. Among thousands of traditional water structures in the state, this year twelve precious ones have got place in the planner styled 12-paged calendar. In Uttarakhand,

water-harvesting structures are known as *naulas*, *dharas*, *panderas*, *mangras*, *khals*, *chals*, *guhls* and *gharats*. They provide water for drinking, bathing, washing, worshiping, watering livestock, irrigation and village industries. It is estimated that they meet about 35-40 % of the annual water demand. They are living examples of sustainable technologies and have been sustained over centuries by a culture and customary practices of reverence and conserving water. The structures covered in the calendar include Molthi *mangra* (Molthi village, Pauri dist), Panthyud *naula*, Banjani *naula* (both in Syunrakot village, Almora district), Navgraha *dhara*, Bah *kund* (both in Narayankoti village, Rudraprayag district), Tharkot *dharas* (Tharkot village, Pithoragarh district), Ganga-Jamuna *dharas* (Guptakashi, Rudraprayag district), Tiyan *dhara* (Tiyan village, Uttarkashi dist), Kainyur *Mangra* (Kainyur village, Pauri dist), Kanikot *naula* (Kanikot village, Champawat dist), Kapina *naula* (Almora city), Nag *naula* (Dungra village, Champawat dist). The very live photograph of the structures in the calendar have been taken by Devraj Agrawal, designed by Shalini Sinha and supported by Ravi Chopra, Sail Das, Narendra Jamwal and Dinesh Sharma. The basic aim of PSI behind the publication of calendar is to create awareness of the *Jal Sanskriti* of Uttarakhand. (From the calendar of PSI, psidoon@sancharnet.in)

Village revives degraded land, forest, water

In the 1980s protests against limestone quarrying in the doon valley started from Nahin Kala village in Uttaranchal. The agitation led to India's first environmental PIL being filed in the Supreme Court and the quarries were banned. After the quarries wound up the village was left with a stretch of bald land. For nearly 10 years, the village assiduously protected its 40 sq km forest. Today, three dying water resources have been rejuvenated and the forest is a hotbed of biodiversity. Paryavaran Vikas Samiti, a village based institution leads the movement. The forest, which PVS protects is a reserve forest and is called the Nahin Kalan Peoples' Protected Forested Area. It has three villages and three hamlets around it. People have usufruct rights over forest produce. The forest is now supplying all the biomass needs of the villagers. Wild animals have returned to the forest. Water springs have sprung back. In the lower altitudes, there are numerous *dharas* in the forest. Even during summer, these *dharas* overflow. Water from the village *dhara* irrigates field located below. There is a second one at the other end of the village. Both are perennial. (CIVIL SOCIETY 0105)

Punjab watershed project The centre has approved the Rs 22.2 M Lehtagaga Watershed project submitted by the Sangrur District Rural Development Agency. Rs 20.35 M will be released by centre, while Rs 1.85 M will come from state. 62 villages in Lehtagaga and Adana blocks will be covered in five years. (THE TRIBUNE 281204)

BOTTLED WATER

SC dismisses Coke-Pepsi petitions The Supreme Court dismissed the two petitions filed by Pepsi and Coca-Cola, challenging a Rajasthan High Court order asking them to print on containers the extent of pesticides residues in their products. While dismissing the special leave petitions, the bench allowed them to approach the HC with a plea as to what manner they could comply with its directive and allowed the companies to come back to SC if their petitions were not entertained by the HC. The SC also suspended for two weeks the implementation of the HC order as the counsels for the two companies said the print on the containers would read as “the contents may have traces of pesticide which is well below the prescribed standard”. In its Nov 3 judgement, the HC had directed the companies, which control 99% of the soft drink sales in India, and all other carbonated beverage manufactures to disclose the composition and contents of the products, including the presence of pesticides and chemicals, on the bottle, package or container. SC order of Dec 6, 2004 asked, “Why should the consumer not know as to what he is consuming? You can declare in your print line that the sugar used by the soft drink manufacturer contained pesticide... we do not see anything unreasonable or unconstitutional in the HC order”. Arun Jaitley and Harish Salve represented the soft drink manufacturers. (THE ECONOMIC TIMES, THE TIMES OF INDIA 071204)

SC to soft Drink Manufacturers: “Why should the consumer not know as to what he is consuming?”

Final product norms on soft drinks In a major step towards checking adulteration in soft drinks, the Drinks and Carbonated Beverages Sectional Committee (FAD 14) of the Bureau of the Indian Standards has decided to segregate soft drinks as a separate category for setting final product standards. It was decided that a core committee would be established to set the final product standards for pesticides residues, this committee will also set norms for their caffeine content and labelling requirements. H N Saiyed, director, National Institute of Occupational Health, Ahmedabad, will head the committee. (DOWN TO EARTH 301104)

GROUND WATER

Water table decline in Delhi The Central Ground Water Board has noted that levels are rapidly falling in areas especially where the water table is already critical, at depths of 40-70 m. In the South dist, the water level declined from 40.95 m below ground level in 2001 to 68.4 m in 2004. The causes for this sharp fall in the South and South West areas can be attributed to rampant construction activity without supporting water supply by authorities. Post monsoon, in Nov '01 there were no areas with water levels below 40 m. By Nov 03, 4.1% recording stations showed water level 40-70 m deep. (THE INDIAN EXPRESS 271204)

No to free power to save groundwater The Draft note on mid term appraisal of the 10th Plan prepared by the Planning Commission has suggested that state govts

Planning Commission: “vulnerability of agricultural output to weather shock appears to have increased in recent years due to depletion of reservoirs and groundwater sources.”

Campaign Some NGOs have formed an alliance to launch an all India campaign against soft drink companies like Pepsi and Coke. While a PIL has been filed in Supreme Court by Adv Prashant Bhushan asking govt to regulate soft drink companies. The PIL sought and evaluation of the health aspects of the ingredients, a regulation of the chemical additives in the soft drinks and to make it mandatory for these companies to disclose all the contents in the cold drinks. There would be ‘Jan Panchayats’ at the sites where judges and officials of the company would be invited to listen to people’s complaints in relation to pollution and depletion of water around the areas where these companies extract groundwater – free of cost. (THE HINDU 191204)

WB HC: Obey, or we will ban Coke, Pepsi The Calcutta high court said on Nov 19 that if Coca-Cola India and Pepsi Co. India fail to comply with its order to file affidavits on a writ petition, it would be constrained to ban the sale of their drinks in W Bengal.

should stop the practice of giving free or subsidised power, particularly if it is unmetered, to contain indiscriminate use of groundwater. The draft on agriculture has also suggested that water charges should be collected for canal irrigation. It says that along with levying charges, effort should be made to improve the irrigation service in command areas and the artificial recharge of groundwater in water stress areas should be taken up in a big way. The draft note reasons that farmers would be willing to pay higher user charges if the efficiency of service improves. It notes that vulnerability of agricultural output to weather shock appears to have increased in recent years due to depletion reservoir and groundwater sources in many parts of the country. (THE ECONOMIC TIMES 041204)

Punjab: RWHS in new houses Water harvesting systems will be made compulsory in new houses being constructed in Punjab. The Department of Soil Conservation has decided to write to PUDA, municipal councils and corps against approving maps of houses that do not have any provision for rainwater harvesting.

URBAN WATER SUPPLY

DELHI: Hike of water tariff The Delhi Jal Board under has hiked the water tariff 5-10 times for all classes. The new tariff structure was cleared by the DJB on 30 Nov at a meeting chaired by CM. The fare has been divided into two parts – a fixed access charge and a variable component that depends on your actual consumption, means those who consume more should pay more. The domestic category will be divided into several sub categories for levying 'access charge'. According to new tariff, a family of five with a consumption of 6 KL will just have to pay the access charges. A household that consumes 25 kl a month will pay Rs 154 instead of the existing bill of Rs 32. The DJB has increased the water connection charges for all three categories to Rs 3000, Rs 4000 and Rs 6000.

The hike was criticised as anti people and anti poor move. What is worse is that people are being asked to pay more for something that is hardly available in quality as well as quantity. Availability of water in Delhi is 600 MGD against the demand of 860 MGD at the disposal of the consumers. Of this, 40% of the water is lost because of leakage and theft leaving hardly 400 MGD at the disposal of consumers. The Govt is unable to provide drinking water to even 50% of the population in the Capital and it has the audacity to go ahead and raise the tariff in an unprecedented manner.

UP clears release of water The Uttar Pradesh govt has issued the requisite order for release of 80 cusecs for 10 weeks. The water is to be used for flushing and trial run of the Sonia Vihar water treatment plant and its distribution system. Necessary directions were issued to dismantle a strong brick wall connecting the Upper Ganga Canal and the 30 km long loose conduits, which would supply water to Sonia Vihar. The UP Jal Nigam has constructed the Conduit. UP Irrigation Dept official clarified that it was only for trial run and not for any other use. The Delhi Jal Board has to discharge the entire water in to the Yamuna for use by UP farmers.

HC pulls DJB, MCD on water quality The Delhi High Court has asked from Delhi Jal Board and Municipal Corp of Delhi to explain how the water supply was contaminated in Delhi. The division Bench of Justice B C Patel and Justice B D Ahmed directed the MCD and DJB to identify places where the water was most polluted. The court also asked them to test water samples from different supply points. The HC asked the MCD and the DJB to make sure the tap water supplied by them was potable and ensure that there was no need to further treat it. In Aug, the MCD informed the Court that 25% of potable water samples tested by it were "unfit" for drinking. (THE TIMES OF INDIA, THE HINDU 011204, 031204, 291204 THE INDIAN EXPRESS 161204)

CHENNAI: Veeranam to deplete groundwater? The DMK president has expressed doubts over the success of the Veeranam expansion scheme for providing

additional drinking water supply to Chennai. He said after the new Veeranam scheme failed to bring sufficient water to Chennai residents, the CM had now announced the expansion scheme at a cost of Rs 3 B, which would tap ground water by using pumps with higher capacity. The move would lead to the depletion of ground water in the area affecting the local people. (THE INDIAN EXPRESS 101204, THE HINDU 191204)

Privatisation in W Bengal

The Left Front govt in W Bengal has directed every municipality and corporations, including Kolkata Municipal Corp, to stop doling out water free from 2005-6. The state govt will also float a company after restructuring and privatising Kolkata Metropolitan Water and Sanitation Authority, which will be given the responsibility of collecting service charges from the KMC and other civic bodies for the water they supply. The state govt was contemplating handing over distribution of water and maintenance of waterworks to private companies. The govt has even decided to stop the supply of water to the corps and the municipalities if the money collected, as charges do not accumulate. State municipal affairs minister pointed out that Kolkata Metropolitan Development Authority had been incurring a huge deficit (last year it was over Rs 500 M), as most of the civic bodies did not pay the state. He said the state govt would get over Rs 4 B from the KMC. (THE TIMES OF INDIA 151204)

RURAL WATER SUPPLY

AP The Rural Water Supply wing has completed the phase I & III works facilitating water supply to 73 fluoride hit villages in and around the Nalgonda town in Andhra Pradesh at a cost of Rs 0.75 B. Under phase I, water will be supplied to 44 villages in Munugodu and Nalgonda mandals while 99 villages in Nalgonda and Narketpally mandals will get water under phase III. The remaining villages will be supplied water by Sept '05. (THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS 191204)

WB Aid Till date WB has given aid to four states for rural drinking water: Maharashtra, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh and Kerala. (DANIK BHASKAR 231204)

AGRICULTURE

WB funding for ICRISAT The International Crop Research Institute for Semi Arid Tropics is expecting World Bank funding to exceed \$13 M this year compared to \$11 M last year. WB's special project funding to ICRISAT stood at \$ 6 M in 2000. The institute has also received pledges worth \$15.4 M for 73 projects. Nearly two thirds of the annual budget of \$26 M came from special projects. The institute's vision 2010 was to increase agricultural productivity and food security, reduce poverty & protect the environment in semi arid systems. (THE ECONOMIC TIMES 171204)

AP Farmer Commission recommendations

According to the report by the Andhra Pradesh Farmers' Welfare Commission headed by Prof Jayati Ghosh, the causes for the widespread crisis in the agriculture are complex and manifold, reflecting reduced levels of public intervention and terms of investment and regulation. The commission has probed into the causes of suicides by farmers and the problems of the agricultural sector. It stated that the economic strategy of both the state and union govt has systemically reduced the protection to farmers and exposed them to market volatility and private profiteering without adequate regulation. The commission held discussions with a large numbers of farmers during its field visits apart from consulting experts. By late 1990's, the crisis was found to be the consequence of inadequate agricultural services pertaining to seed supply, machinery, soil testing, market information and market intelligence. The commission recommended registration of actual cultivators, including tenants and women, meeting all the credit requirement of the farmers, restoration of tanks and other minor water bodies, revival of the public extension network, provision of quality inputs at affordable prices, creation of market stabilisation fund and provision of employment for 100 days for every adult in the rural areas. (BUSINESS LINE 131204)

MP plans to revive Babai farm project After a long process of negotiation with Reliance Industries, the Madhya Pradesh govt is again trying to revive the controversial 1280 Ha Babai farm project in Tawa command area. Spaceage Advanced Technology Ltd has evinced interest and they are likely to offer more than what Reliance had offered for farm and would invest Rs 2.3 B. The Reliance group had earlier planned to invest in the farm and later backed out after offering Rs 155 M for the farm. According to the new Industrial Promotion Policy 2004, any project above Rs 100 M in the agro industry sector is considered a mega project, which has been made the thrust sector and the only the apex committee under the CM can clear it. (BUSINESS STANDARD 301204)

WB again: abolish Farm Subsidies A Recent WB report 'India: Re-energising the agriculture sector to sustain growth and reduce poverty', says that sustained growth in foodgrain production enabled India to achieve self-sufficiency and eliminate the threat of famines and acute starvation. The report asks India to move away from the existing subsidy based regime and instead, invest in building a foundation for a highly productive, globally competitive and diversified farm sector. Experience has shown that a more rapid productivity growth in agriculture can have major impacts on poverty reduction through direct effects on producer incomes, indirect effects through changes in food prices, employment and wage effects and growth-induced effects throughout the economy. (BUSINESS LINE 201204)

Organic farming boosts biodiversity Says a review of worldwide studies that compared organic farming with conventional agricultural practices. Previous studies had shown that organic farming merely benefits wildlife around the farms. The review was conducted by two groups of researchers – one from English Nature, a UK govt agency supporting wildlife conservation, and the other from Royal Society for the Protection of Birds – who had no vested interest in organic farming. Typically, each of the 76 studies reviewed measured biodiversity in groups of organism ranging from bacteria to earthworm, beetles, mammals, birds and plants. Of the 99 separate comparisons of groups of organism, 66 found the organic farming benefited wildlife, eight concluded it was detrimental and 25 produced mixed results. (DOWN TO EARTH 151104)

FOODGRAINS MANAGEMENT

Farmers vs. traders on E-choupal The licensed traders in Madhya Pradesh, who have proceeded on stir, appear to be fighting a losing battle. They want the govt to force the farmers to sell their produce not to the privately set up centres but to them only. The farmers had hitherto been taking their produce to the Krishi Upaj Mandis, set up under the Mandi Act, and selling their produce to the licensed grain merchants. The traditional grain merchants are virtually getting out of business as the farmers feel they not only get better prices at the new centres but also better treatment. The previous MP govt had altered the state agricultural marketing law in 2000 & provided for mandi samities to give license to private parties to set up purchase centres outside the mandis by paying Rs 10000. The corp giant ITC introduced its e-choupal model in MP in Sept 2001 in a big way. It has set up 47 hubs. Each hub has 30-80 e-choupals. Each echoupal has an Internet connection where the farmers can know the current rates for a particular commodity in any city in MP or outside. In the evening, the ITC hubs announce the procurement rates for various commodities for the next day. The licensed traders demand amendments in the Mandi Act to make it mandatory for the corporate sector to go for open bidding at the mandi premises. (THE TRIBUNE 161204 THE HINDU 181204 THE ECONOMIC TIMES 231204)

SUGAR

Free sale mechanism scrapped The govt has decided to scrap the monthly release mechanism for free sale sugar from the cane-crushing season beginning Oct '05. The 10% levy on the sugar production will continue. This follows the govt's acceptance of all the recommendations of the committee on revitalisation of the sugar industry headed by Food and Public Distribution Secretary. The monthly release mechanism has been in vogue since 1942, when the Sugar and Sugar Products Control Order was promulgated. Rs 3 B fund is annually required for the levy sugar operations. Out of 553 sugar mills, the condition of 175 sugar mills is not good. (BUSINESS STANDARD 171204)

Sugar SAP increased in UP The Uttar Pradesh Govt announced the state advised price for sugar cane at Rs 1070 per T for 2005-6 crushing season. The price has increased by Rs 120 over from Rs 950 per T last year. The superior quality sugarcane price is fixed at Rs 1120 per T up from 1000 per T. (THE ECONOMIC TIMES 141204)

Maharashtra Relief package Maharashtra has sent a Rs 13.4 B relief package proposal for the sugar Industry to centre. The State sugar industry has been facing serious problems because of severe shortage of sugarcane due to drought. There are 183 sugar mills, 165 in the co-operative sector. (BUSINESS LINE 141204)

POWER SECTOR

Tribals threaten suicide 34 tribal families of Bhendwad and Jambalpada villages in Palghar area of Maharashtra have threatened that they will commit suicide if compensation for their acquired land is not given. The tribals are here since 1962 and as per revenue dept, are recognised landholders. The govt has bulldozed their houses. In this land, govt wishes to rehabilitate 1167 people displaced from Akkarpatti and Pofaran villages for the proposed 1400 MW Tarapur nuclear power plant. (HINDUSTAN 201204)

NLC plan The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved Neyvilli Lignite Corp's Rs 11 B thermal power project and the related Rs 2.5 B mine project in Rajasthan. The proposed 2.1 MT per annum mine is for the 2x250 MW TPS. The power plant will cater to the demands of Rajasthan and the N region. The CCEA also approved Rs 6.918 B for the expansion project of transmission system to be completed in 35 months to facilitate evacuation of power from NLC-II expansion project for the various beneficiaries of South. (BUSINESS STANDARD 021204, BUSINESS LINE 301204)

ADB loan for transmission The Asian Development Bank will provide a \$ 400 M loan for the upgrading of the National Power Development Plan to strengthen and expand the capacity of the national transmission grid with 765 KV and 400 KV lines and substations of Power Grid Corp. PGCIL's NTDP entails an investment of about \$126 B up to 2012. (BUSINESS LINE 231204)

MP Tariff hike Power tariff was enhanced by 5% in Madhya Pradesh, MERC said. Rates were reduced for certain categories but domestic consumers were hardest hit with 11% hike. MPSEB proposed an overall hike of 14.23% for all parties. (THE HINDU 121204)

CERC for review of draft policy The Central Electricity Regulatory Commission has asked the govt to review the draft national electricity tariff policy framed by the N K Singh Task Force. It has voiced serious misgivings for not being consulted on the national tariff process initiated by the previous Govt and wants the Govt to start afresh, in consultation with all states, the CEA and power tariff regulators. (THE ECONOMIC TIMES 081204)

MSEB split plan Maharashtra has started a process to trifurcate Electricity Board in next 6 months. Based on the findings of feasibility report, the govt will slice the utilities further to make way for independent companies that will take care of different zones. As per the current plan, 6-8 companies will be formed for Thane, Konkan, Pune, Marathawada, Vidarbha & Central Maharashtra and a few for generation. (THE ECONOMIC TIMES 081204)

Notices on supplying power without licence The Himachal State regulatory Commission issued notices to the Bhakra Beas Management Board, the NHPC and the Sutlej Jal Vidyut Nigam for distributing power without licence. These PSUs have been purchasing power from the SEB and supplying to its colonies in contravention of Electricity Act, 2003. Section 12 of the Act makes it mandatory for public utilities to obtain a licence for distributing power. (THE TRIBUNE 171204)

Punjab tariff cut The Punjab ERC has slashed the tariff rates by 3-13%. The PERC is giving relief of about Rs 4 B to various categories, except the agriculture sector. There will be a reduction of 3% in rates for non-subsidised agriculture sector tubewells. Of the Rs 4 B relief about Rs 3 B will go the large-scale industrial and bulk power consumers. The minimum monthly charges have been reduced by 10%. (THE TRIBUNE 011204)

DVC clears Tata proposal The board of the Damodar Valley Corp has cleared Tata Power's proposal for a 51% stake in 1000 MW Maithon Right Bank project. The DVC and Tata Power have reportedly signed a MoU and the proposal has now been sent to the union power ministry for approval. The Jharkhand Govt has given forest clearance to the Project, which has also received the clearance from CWC. (POWER LINE 1204)

POWER GENERATION

Karnataka The Karnataka govt has announced that it will add 4000 MW of power generation capacity over the next four years through Karnataka Power Corp. The addition will be from the projects at Bellary, Almatti, Bidadi, Varahi, Gundiya and Raichur. (POWER LINE 1104)

AP The Andhra Pradesh Generation Corp proposes to set up two gas based projects of 1400 MW each at Vemagiri and Shankrapalli and a 500 MW unit at Bhoopalapalli. Reliance has agreed to supply 14 MCM gas a day to the projects. (POWER LINE 1204)

POWER FINANCE

India Power Fund The Union Govt has agreed to the formation of the India Power Fund as an asset management company for making contributions in power projects. PFC, the NTPC, other PSUs and FIs are expected to provide an initial contribution of Rs 10 B towards the fund. (POWER LINE 1204)

IDBI The Industrial Development Bank of India has sanctioned Rs 15 B for funding power projects during 2004-5. In last 4 months IDBI has signed assistance worth Rs 40 B to 3 large projects adding up to 1700 MW. (BUSINESS LINE 151204)

PFC to issue infrastructure bonds The Power Finance Corp is making a Rs 1.25 B issue of infrastructure bonds with income tax benefits. PFC expects to raise upto Rs 2.5 B, since it has a greenshoe option of Rs 1.25 B. (POWER LINE 1204)

POWER OPTIONS

Energy conservation in Maharashtra The Maharashtra Energy Development Agency has established a separate dept for energy conservation. This dept, along with the National Productivity Council, has prepared a draft action plan. MEDA is being assisted by USAID and the International Institute of Energy Conservation. MEDA's action plan targets a peak demand saving of around 1000 MW through demand side management by 2012. As per MEDA estimates, DSM alone can help bridge the demand gap of 2500 MW. (POWER LINE 1204)

1500 micro HEPs planned in J&K The Governor of Jammu & Kashmir Lt. Gen. (Retd) SK Sinha said that 1500 micro HEPs would be set up to overcome power scarcity and generate economic activity in border areas. The Army has already taken up 300 projects during 2004-5. Over 1000 would be launched next year. He praised Dr Anil P Joshi for his pioneering work in this area. With upgraded turbines, the water mills would greatly help in generating electricity during nights and operating grinders, looms and lathes during the day. There will be no T&D losses either. (Daily Excelsior 161204)

Biomass India has a vast potential for power generation through co-generation projects, estimated at around 19500 MW. Biomass or the usable agricultural residue can be used to generate over 16000 MW of grid quality power. In addition, bagasse fuelled plants can provide around 3500 MW. Current capacity is 613 MW. During 2003-4, 129.5 MW was added in six states. Most of the new projects are coming up in Karnataka, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh. Projects with 644 MW are currently under implementation.

➤ Alwar Power Company is commissioning a 12.5 MW project based on Sarson ki Tudi (extract of mustered plant). The company has acquired land from Rajasthan Finance Corp and has claimed that the plant will produce 7.5 MU daily. The company has also signed the PPA with Jaipur Electricity Distribution Corp. (POWER LINE 1204, DANIK BHASKAR 311204)

Tidal proposal of W Bengal The WB govt has obtained the in-principle clearance from the MoEF for power generation from tidal waves from the coastal Sundarban region. A feasibility study has already been initiated on the Digha Beach. (BUSINESS LINE 091204)

AP Wind Power Wind power field was currently witnessing a record number of installations and wind turbines with higher yield and technology were finding their way in to the country, said the Executive Director of the Centre for Wind Energy Technology. This year, there is a possibility of installation of wind power projects for 1000 MW, taking the total wind power generation to 3500 MW. According to Non-Conventional Energy Development Corp of Andhra Pradesh, so far 93.47 MW wind power projects were established by 26 developers. The state has an estimated wind energy potential of 745 MW at 31 sites. (BUSINESS LINE 051204)

Power from Burn Technology, not Renewable The Municipal Corp of Delhi has proposed a power project based on burning garbage and claiming it as renewable. Earlier MCD had negotiated with the Energy Development Ltd, an Australian burn technology provider. The MCD had to withdraw from entering into the agreement with EDL for a waste to energy plant at Gazipur. An incinerator referred to as the WTE plant came up at Timarpur in E Delhi in the 1980s. The Danish incinerator installed here at a cost of Rs 440 M was operational for exactly 21 days and was then shut down because the waste being generated was unfit for burning and had a low calorific value. And since then it has been laying idle and incurring maintenance cost to this day. This new proposal is akin to falling in the same trap. The Capital's waste composition is 41.81% stones and ash, which makes the technology non-viable as it becomes difficult to separate them.

➤ Energy generated from waste by burning it is highly polluting. Attempts are underway by vested interests to promote non-renewable energy incinerator or burn technologies as renewable energy technologies. But the Ministry of Science and Technology's agency Technology Information, Forecasting and Assessment Council is promoting SELCO International Ltd's pelletisation based WTE plant. Villagers from the Gandamguda, Perencheru panchayat of Ranga Reddy district, Andhra Pradesh and Elikatta village, Shadnagar where SELCO's installations are located are complaining of pollution and unbearable stink. Similar plants have been installed in Vijaywada and others are proposed. The plants involve burning of pellets, which releases heavy metals and persistent organic pollutants like dioxins. These toxins are building up in the environment, especially the aquatic ecosystem of the villages such as Osmansagar and Himayatsagar drinking water bodies in its vicinity. The emission of the notorious pollutants in Gandamguda is linked to cancer, immune and reproductive system disorders, birth defects, and other health threats. (Toxic Links 091204)

Locals Generate Power In Novel Way Villages in Ilam district in Nepal now have electricity after locals devised a novel way of producing electric power by mixing used battery cells and animal dung. The new method has proved to be a boon for the economically deprived populace. (THE KATHMANDU POST 231204)

ENRON SAGA

Offshore banks claim \$291 M Seven offshore banks incorporated in Austria, France, the Netherlands, Switzerland and the UK have launched arbitration proceedings and slapped a claim against the Indian govt for failing to protect their loans to the DPC following its closure in 2001. Formal proceedings have been initiated under the bilateral treaties between these countries and India. (BUSINESS LINE 111204)

Funds to restart The govt has mandated the SBI, LIC, IDBI and ICICI Bank to issue guaranteed bonds in order to generate funds for the DPC. Rs 55 B is required up front for setting foreign shareholder's claims and to make the project up and running. The restart of phase-I of the 2184 MW DPC, completion of Phase-II and setting up the gas facility are estimated to cost Rs 9.5 B. (BUSINESS STANDARD 091204)

SOUTH ASIA

Pakistan Lahore statement: Water for People On Dec 16, '04 over 50 civil society organizations, academia, journalists and other concerned citizens gathered in Lahore for consultation on drinking water issues, especially the threat of water privatisation. At the end of the workshop participants made a statement:

- Water is a human right and it has been recognized in various international instruments. The issue of water – its quality, its quantity, and its ensured availability to all people regardless of income or social status is one of the most pressing challenges today. The provision of safe drinking water to population remained at low priority and under financed. The cost of unsafe drinking water to individual as well as society has never been calculated. The overall governance crisis and declining quality of institutional performance are causing the poor status of water delivery. The instruments used by IFIs have not helped to improve basic social services, rather these institutions created a vicious cycle of debt. The policies starved developing countries from financial resources to invest in human development. Inadequate access to water forms a core of people's poverty. Improving access of poor people to water will make a major contribution towards poverty reduction. The govts, multi-lateral banks, and corps have tried to respond the water scarcity challenge in a way, which threatens historical entitlements of poor. Rather than facilitating easy accessibility of water to all, the corporate water model aims to put price tag and earn profits. Govt should protect this right to water by policy and appropriate enforcement mechanism. Private sector governed by corporate greed will not be the solution and global experience has demonstrated the failure of private companies. Water should be managed as a public good under public domain. Citizens can play an effective role, all the information related to water sector strategies, agreements with IFIs should be made public. Peoples participation is a core to development.

Bangladesh Conference on Transboundary Rivers A

3-day international conference on regional cooperation on Transboundary Rivers ended in Dhaka with a call to India to scrap the ILR project and decommission the Farakka Barrage. The 500 international participants focussed on the perils due to the impediments on the natural flow of the rivers. Farakka has caused miseries to the people of W Bengal and Bihar in India and of Bangladesh. Most experts viewed that ILR would meet the same fate as that of the Farakka Barrage. The impact of ILR on Bangladesh will be acute and perilous, compelling mass migration of people who are heavily dependent on waters of the Ganga and Brahmaputra. Indian High Commissioner in Dhaka informed the concluding session that the project was still at 'conceptual' stage and India would consult Bangladesh before embarking on it. Despite over 2% population growth in BD, population in Ganga water dependent area fell from 34.2% 1991 to 33.3% in 2001 due to migration to other parts of the country. If Brahmaputra and Ganga are diverted the impacts are only a matter to guess. Water Resources Minister cautioned of large-scale migration if ILR is implemented.

- The conference laid emphasis on regional cooperation in managing the major river systems shared by neighbouring countries. There is no substitute for cooperation and information sharing in harnessing common rivers. The rights of the coriparians have to be recognised. The Conference was concerned that the ILR would have severe implications in the lives of 630 M people dependent on these rivers.

- **Expatriates against ILR** The expatriate Bangladesh communities in Europe have launched campaign against the ILR plan. Convener of London based "Save Bangladesh Rivers" campaign said the plan would cause environmental disaster. They have raised the issue to the UK Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs. The head of DFID in Bangladesh recently informed him that "The British govt is well aware of the issue" and "UK govt staff in Dhaka and New Delhi will monitor development". (The New Nation, The Daily Star 191204, 211204, The Financial Express 231204)

Work on Kaptai HEP to start The Japan Bank for International Cooperation has agreed to provide Tk 3.59 B for two 50 MW power units at Kapatai HEP. The power ministry will mobilise the remaining Tk 2.37 B from its own sources. The Tk 5.96 B project is likely to begin soon. Earlier, the Power Development Board sent the proposal to the power ministry. The ministry could not reach a decision over the last one-year due to opposition from tribal leaders. Tribal communities opposed the proposal saying that the plant would submerge thousands of acres, displacing hundreds of families. They argued that water level in Kaptai Lake would rise. After assuming power, the alliance govt reviewed the project and engaged a firm - Atlanta - to carry out a social impact study in 2001. The firm claimed the project was economically viable and environment-friendly. (The Financial Express 041204)

Nepal Seeks Indian investment for HEPs Nepal sought investment from India to remove the bottlenecks from its HEP plans and other areas, including agro-based industries and mineral exploration. Nepal is considered to have viable potential of 46,000 MW, secretary of Ministry of Industry claimed. Nepal invites investment from India on Build Own Operate and Transfer basis. (PTI 091204)

Melamchi: an example of social injustice The former Water Resource Minister of Nepal has said that the Melamchi Water Supply Project is an example of social injustice. The benefits from the USD 464 M project would be enjoyed by 1.5 M residents of Kathmandu but its cost would be borne by every Nepali. "Foreign aid for drinking water in Kathmandu will affect the probability of aid in other places of the country for similar projects," he said. The 10th 5-Year-Plan has allocated 80% of the total money on drinking water sector to the MWSP. The remaining 20%, according to experts, would go to other urban areas. The Project has selected China Civil Engineering Construction Corp along with Sharma and Lama Joint Venture for constructing the project's adit road (23 km access road) at double the bid of Korean contractor Hanil Koneko. Koneko, dismissed in May '04 on grounds of incompetence, had agreed on a contract bid of Rs 460 M. Now the bid has been upped to Rs 960 M. The project, originally scheduled to complete in 2008, and already delayed by a couple of years, will supply 170 MLD water to the Valley upon completion of its phase-I. The project is receiving financial assistance from the World Bank, Asian Development Bank, NORAD (Norway), SIDA (Sweden) and JBIC (Japan), among others. (THE KATHMANDU POST 211204, 271204)

Sri Lanka Kotmale HEP still in turbulence The Japan Bank for International Cooperation has agreed to continue with \$ 297 M financial support to the 150 MW Upper Kotmale HEP, Ministry of Power and Energy sources said. The Environmental Impact Assessment had been approved by the Central Environmental Authority but with certain conditions. Earlier, people protested against the UKHP because of planned diversion water from Devon, Puna and Ramboda falls, but later the Ministry agreed to stop the diversion. Instead, water will be diverted mainly from the Kotmale oya. Meanwhile, the Alliance for Protection of Natural Resources and Human Rights protesting over the UKHP requests the govt to consider severe environmental and social problems that involve the project and also to consider promoting green energy. (Sunday Observer 121204)

AROUND THE WORLD

US Dam Removal to Aid Salmon Ruled Out The administration ruled out the possibility of removing federal dams on the Columbia and Snake Rivers to protect 11 endangered species of salmon and steelhead, even as a last resort. The govt declared that the eight large dams on the lower stretch of the two

rivers are an immutable part of the salmon's environment. Endangered fish can be protected by a variety of measures, including carrying fish around dams and building weirs - a new type of weir that works like a water slide - to ease young fishes' journey through dams as they swim downstream to the ocean. The total cost of the 10-year effort was projected at \$ 6 B. Assuming annual expenditures of \$ 600 M, this represents a slight increase over existing spending for this purpose. The decision is a departure from the Clinton administration's approach to salmon protection. In 2000, it adopted a policy that allowed for dam removal, although only if all other measures had failed. Environmentalists say the administration is retreating from the goal of recovering salmon to robust populations, settling for the status quo. The policy is a roadmap to guide the operations of the federal agencies and authorities that operate dams on the Columbia and Snake Rivers. It also includes an appendix with detailed prescriptions for "reducing the risk factors" for eight of the 11 species. (The New York Times 011204)

Death of Glen Canyon Some of the proposed dams on the Colorado River were never built, but the Glen Canyon dam, located in an unprotected area was completed in 1963. Over the next 17 years, water backed up for 186 miles, forming lake Powell and inundating Glen Canyon and hundreds of miles of side canyons. David Brower, who was executive director of the Sierra Club, called it the death of Glen Canyon. Now a severe western drought is shrinking Lake Powell at the rate of upto a foot every four days. Since 1999, the vast reservoir has lost over 60% of its water. The change may be permanent. "Short of several back to back years with 100 year- runoff, lake Powell will never be full again," said Tom Myers, a hydrological consultant in Reno. Downstream users now consume 16.5 MAF of water, but on average only 15 MAF flow in to the system each year. Add more than a MAF of water lost to evaporation and it is obvious that only during relatively wet years is it possible to add water. The struggles over Glen Canyon and other dams on the Colorado River above the Grand Canyon were among the battles that led to the National Environmental Policy Act, the Endangered Species Act and the Clean Air and Water legislation. Today the lake is down 129 ft, back to the size it was in 1970, covering 131 sq miles. Canyon walls are lined with a chalky white bathtub of calcium carbonate 10 story high, where the water once reached. Towering benches of silt line the former lakebed. In the two years, depending on the weather, Lake Powell could reach minimum draw down level or inactive pool. A year or two after that, water could drop another 120 ft. (FRONTLINE 031204)

China 300 M consuming polluted water The Water resources Minister has said that water of 705 lakes and rivers are polluted and 300 M people are threatened. Out of these 190 M are consuming water polluted beyond the prescribed limits. (RASHTRIYA SAHARA 241204)

HEP closed to save farming The prolonged severe drought in S China's Guangdong province has forced authorities to order the closure of 100 HEPs to save water for farming. Electricity supply in the province would be reduced by 1000 MW following the move. Water levels in the Dongiang river, which sustains over 36 M people in the province, have dropped drastically in the drought, the worst in over 50 years. Over 0.73 M Ha have been affected. (DOWN TO EARTH 311204)

Power projects without approvals The Director of the Energy Bureau of the National Development and Reform Commission said that most of the investments in power sector are illegal and is placing the nation's sparse coal supplies under greater stress. He said that power plants with a total generating capacity of 120 000 MW have started construction without receiving necessary approval. "Illegal" investment mainly occurs in E China, the Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, Hebei Province, Guangdong Province, and the Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region. With rampant investment in new projects, the risk now facing the industry has switched from a supply shortfall to potential oversupply. "It is quite difficult to stop the projects that have already started construction." China's energy industry needs \$ 1.2 T by 2020, excluding investment of importing overseas resources. The govt plans to spend \$ 4.8 B to find new sources of coal by 2020. (China Daily 291204)

Problems at 3-G After an inspection of the Three Gorges Project between Nov 8 and 12, 37 deputies of the National People's Congress came to the conclusion that problems remain with the TGP with respect to relocation of local residents, the protection of local water resources, the prevention of geological disasters, and the placement of superfluous labour. Regarding the relocation of local residents, a uniform policy is not in place yet, resulting in discrepancies in compensation and scandals in certain places. Regarding the protection of local water, more investment is needed for the treatment of the water. The unchecked growth of algae in the Chongqing section of the Reservoir, for instance, has been crying out for special treatment. The vice director of the 3-G Construction Commission of the State Council, said that the total static investment in the Project stands at \$ 11.23 B. Of that, the main project accounted for \$ 4.75 B, power transmission and transformer \$ 2.51 B, and the R&R \$ 3.99 B. 950 000 residents have been relocated, 36.8 M sq m housing space has been built, and 1 326 enterprises have been relocated or closed down. (Interfax 091204)

First wholly foreign funded HEP China's first wholly foreign-funded medium-sized HEP - Qinghai Zhiganglaka project dammed the river. The HEP is the sixth cascade station slated for the upstream of the Yellow River, which costs 1.42 B yuan. It is jointly developed by the US AES Group and Hong Kong Zhenxing Group. The 192 MW project can produce up to 760 MU. (People's daily 301104)

Renewable energy development strategy China is at a critical stage in its renewable energy development. The govt is currently proposing to increase the contribution of renewables from the current level of less than 1% to around 12% by 2020. It will only meet these targets if appropriate policies and mechanisms are put in place and implemented. China has substantial RE resources and has initiated various programs to expand their use. There has been progress in biomass- solar- and wind-based technologies, and total installed capacities at the end of 2003 were: Grid-connected wind power: 568 MW; Solar photovoltaic systems: 50 MW; Solar water-heating systems: 50 million m². The annual output of high-efficiency bio-energy from gasification, biogas and bagasse cogeneration reached 4.5 M m³, 5 B m³ and 1.7 B KW respectively. The govt's Medium- and Long-term Energy Development Strategy and Plan has specific targets for power generation from renewable sources. The target for 2010 (60 GW) will represent about 10% of China's total installed power generation capacity. The equivalent figure for 2020 (Target: 121 GW) is about 12%. China will also pay considerable attention to the development of RE heat sources and to liquid biofuels, etc. (Renewable Energy Access 031204)

Investments in power China will invest \$24 B to build 4 new HEPs on the Jinsha river, the main tributary of the Yangetz river: - Xiluodu, Xiangjiaba, Wudongde and Baihetan - with a combined installed capacity of 38500 MW. The power will be transferred from W China to the E. (POWER LINE 1104)

Rest of the World Judge stops Deforestation for Brazilian Dam In a setback for a consortium led by US-based aluminium giant Alcoa, on Dec 16 a Brazilian judge reversed his earlier decision, and upheld a restraining order prohibiting deforestation for the 690 MW Barra Grande dam. The Federal District Judge cited "serious accusations that in the Environmental Impact Study facts of extreme relevance were omitted such as the existence of over 2 000 Ha of primary Atlantic Coast forest." Dam-affected communities and experts applauded the judge's decision, which suspends the completion of the 180-m high dam. The \$450 M HEP is already 90% built. Movement of Dam-Affected People vowed to continue the fight on behalf of the 2,000 families who have lost their lands to the project. (IRN PR 191204)

8 ancient Dams discovered in Iranian plain A team of experts from Iran, France and Belgium have unearthed the relics of 8 Achaemenid dams in the Morghab plain, in S Iran. Housing ancient empires' palaces in Pasargadae, the flat land is one of the most ancient plateaus in the country and archaeologists have already discovered artefacts dating to several millennia B.C. "Since recognizing the irrigation system of ancient people, especially those living under the reign of the Achaemenid Empire, is significant, we attempted at

discovering archaeological structures with help of the past research projects and newly developed tools," said a French expert with the team. The study has led to the discovery of 8 ancient mud-brick dams and aerial photography and other techniques indicate they date back from the Achaemenid era. Two of those dams were over 20 m tall while the rest were 8-10 m high. These irrigation dams had stone floodgates. (Iranian Cultural Heritage NewsAgency 171204)

WAPCOS bags Salma Dam contract Water & Power Consultancy Services Ltd has been awarded the Reconstruction/ Rehabilitation and completion of Salma Dam Project (3 x 14 MW) in Herat Province in Afghanistan. It has been awarded by Ministry of External Affairs, Govt of India under Technical & Economic Cooperation at a total cost of Rs 3.51 B. WAPCOS is a Consultancy Organization under the Ministry of Water Resources. WAPCOS will provide Engineering consultancy services. The project is to be completed in 4 years. (PIB 021204)

Nam Theum-2 The Asian Development Bank will lend \$ 36.1 M to Laos over the next two years. Part of the amount will be used for the Nam Theum-2 HEP in the Greater Mekong region. 95% of power from the 1070 MW HEP will be exported to Thailand and is to aid Laos's revenue by \$2 B over the next 25 years, it is claimed. (POWER LINE 1104)

GENERAL ENVIRONMENT ISSUES

HP forest project The World Bank has approved a flagship project based on social forestry with an outlay of Rs 5.4 B for the sub-mountain terrains in Himachal Pradesh. The forest minister claimed that according to the "satellite survey" the green cover had increased significantly. With the notification of wildlife sanctuaries the development was affected on the fringe of sanctuaries and the state govt would submit a new proposal to the Union Govt considering the difficulties and needs of the public inhabiting on the fringe of sanctuaries. (THE TRIBUNE 111204)

Biodiversity Act, Rules opposed The environmentalist have opposed the Biodiversity Act 2002 and Rules 2004 and said that it undermined the communities dependent on biodiversity for their livelihood and they stated that the Act and Rules go against the concept of public participation. The MoEF has made a "mockery" of public participation. The Kalpavriksh said, "after the draft of Biodiversity rules were put up for public comments in 2003, several citizens and groups sent their concerns and suggestions, none of these were taken into consideration by the Ministry. Hence, the Ministry has undermined the role and capacity of communities towards biodiversity conservation. This is further strengthened by absence of serious dialogue with various stakeholders". (THE HINDU 081204)

Draft NEP opposed Various environmentalist groups have rejected the Draft New Environment Policy 2004, released by the Union Govt in Aug 2004 for comments. The groups, under Rashtriya Paryavaran Manch, have termed the draft as a document "unduly influenced" by the West, the World Bank and the WTO and devoid of "Indian ethos" of conservation and man's symbiotic relationship with nature. The Rashtriya Paryavaran Manch has written to the MoEF on the need to "completely overhaul" the policy. (THE HINDU 011204)

Petition against Sethu project PH dismissed The Madras High Court has dismissed a writ petition against public hearings on the Sethusamudram Shipping Channel project as premature and directed Collectors of six coastal districts to complete the hearing expeditiously. The Coastal Action Network petition sought to declare the hearing as "not compliant with the requirement of law." (THE HINDU 181204)

J&K plans for eco-restoration of Jhelum, Chenab, Shivaliks The Jammu & Kashmir govt has finalized a Rs 318.5 M plan for the eco-restoration of Jhelum, Chenab and Shivaliks for 2004-5. The plan is a part of the centrally sponsored Rs 1 B eco-restoration project for degraded catchment areas of Jhelum, Chenab and Shivaliks to be completed during the 10th Five-year plan. It was stated at a meeting held to review progress on the eco-restoration project for Jhelum, Chenab and Shivaliks and Macro-management scheme for Agriculture. Rs 54.6 M have been incurred during the last fiscal on the eco-restoration project for treatment of 89 micro watersheds. Over Rs 160 M have been earmarked for eco-restoration of about 14 400 Ha of degraded catchment areas of Jhelum South and Jhelum North during 2004-5 whereas Rs 80 M would be spent on eco-restoration of Chenab and Rs 78.1 M on Shivaliks eco-restoration. About 7554 Ha of degraded area of Chenab and 9965 Ha of Shivaliks' are to be treated under the project during 2004-5. Rs 170 M have already been spent on the project so far during 2004-5. The project is being implemented by the forest dept. (Daily Excelsior 251204)

Gujarat wants funds for coastal management The Gujarat forest dept has asked the central govt to fund an "exclusive project for coastal management of Gujarat". The state had found that the existing plans to fight environmental degradation along the 1 600 km Gujarat coastline were not adequate. According to the latest Forest Survey of India statistics, the designated forestland in 13 coastal districts of Gujarat is only 8.13%, while the total tree cover is 6.51%, compared to the state figures of 9.8% and 7.73%, respectively. The paper proposes plantation on 60 000 Ha, green wall along 0.1 M ha of private land along coastal regions, distribution of 65 M seedlings, apart from steps towards scientific conservation and management like setting up a coastal management institute and marine biodiversity interpretation centres with realistic data base. The first

phase of the project for five years is expected to cost Rs 2.5 B. It says that the excessive use of groundwater, resultant degradation leading to higher salinity levels (pH levels of 7.6 to 9.5) hampering vegetation, non-availability of sweet water, winds carrying salt dust during the monsoon creating adverse conditions for tree plantation, the spread of sea water in many areas, frequent cyclonic storms and droughts and excessive biotic pressure characterise the coastline. The paper points out that these problems get complicated as a result of uncontrolled exploitation of marine resources. It adds, "Ports and jetties create problems for management of the Marine National Park and Sanctuary" and "salt works in over 1 500 Ha release by-products like brine" as other problems along the coast — 11 731.72 sq km area, forming 5.98% of the total geographical area of the state. The project in the first phase proposes to take up 139 coastal villages of Kutch forming 16.16% of the coastal area, 147 villages of Saurashtra (50.66%), 43 villages of central Gujarat (5.1%), and 231 villages of south Gujarat (27.6%). In all, 414 villages along the coastline with 7 244.55 sq km need to be covered, as also 122 villages within five km range with 802.95 sq km, and 301 villages beyond five km with 3 684.21 sq km. (THE TIMES OF INDIA 231204)

Himalayan ice dams and floods According to a Professor of Earth and space sciences in University of Washington David Montgomery, geological evidence points to the existence of at least three lakes, and probably four, at various times in history when glacial ice from the Himalayas blocked the flow of the Tsangpo River in Tibet. Carbon dating shows the most recent lake, about 780 ft deep, burst through the ice dam 1100-1400 years ago, rapidly draining some 50 cubic miles of water. The second lake, over 2200 ft deep, dates from about 10 000 years ago, and likely held over 500 cubic miles of water. When that ice dam broke, it caused one of the greatest floods on Earth since the last ice age. The Tsangpo is the world's highest river, with an average elevation of 13 000 ft, about 500 ft higher than S America's Lake Titicaca, the highest lake. The Tsangpo flows to the eastern edge of Tibet before it turns south and plunges through a deep gorge into India, where it eventually becomes the Brahmaputra River and flows into the Bay of Bengal. The new evidence indicates that several times in the Tsangpo's history, moisture from strengthening monsoons built Himalayan glaciers into huge ice dams, stopping the river before it could leave Tibet. A group of researchers led by Montgomery found evidence of the resulting lakes in ledges carved into the sides of the Tsangpo gorge. The smaller lake appears to have coincided with China's Tang Dynasty and appears to have been the border between China and Tibet, Montgomery said. When the lake suddenly drained, it opened a large amount of rich farmland on the valley floor, farmland that today serves as the Tibetan breadbasket. The Tsangpo River Gorge is considered some of the most

spectacular Terrain on Earth, as the river drops 7800 ft (about 1.3 miles) in elevation over the course of about 125 miles. Parts of the gorge still have not been mapped because they are so rugged, possible evidence of the repeated sudden barrages of vast amounts of water unleashed by broken ice dams. "You can carve a lot of beautiful deep valleys that way," Montgomery said. "To a geologist, that opens the question of, 'What is the role of these big floods? Are they responsible for carving that beautiful topography or are they merely second-bit players?'" (The Hindustan Times 161204)

IFC responds to NGO boycott After months of civil society protests, the International Finance Corp is to significantly revise its consultation process on new social and environmental standards. Various demands made by NGOs on the timeline and available information will be complied with. The IFC, the private sector arm of the World Bank Group, is reviewing all of its social and environmental policies as well as its technical pollution standards and information disclosure requirements. Groups from around the world decided not to participate in IFC's review in light of a lack of time, transparency and relevant background documents. IFC consultations in Brazil, Manila, London, Nairobi and Istanbul were boycotted. The absence of civil society at the consultations raised many concerns about the credibility of IFC's review. Even commercial banks and transnational corps questioned the adequacy of the process. Friends of the Earth International said that the IFC has now decided to release guidance notes and supporting materials to the public and extend the consultation process until the end of April. The policies under discussion include guidelines on pollution, indigenous peoples, resettlement, cultural heritage and health. IFC's current proposal maintains that new standards should be voluntary rather than mandatory and turns away from obligations under international law. (Friends of the Earth International PR 231204)

GOVERNANCE & RELEVANT ECONOMY ISSUES

World's hungry grew by 18 M According to "State of Food Insecurity in the World 2004" by Food and Agriculture Organisation, the number of undernourished people in the world rose by 18 M between 1995-97 and 2000-02, a sharp reversal from the decline of 27 M in the population of the hungry in the previous five years. The report estimates that number of undernourished people in the world in 2000-02 was 852 M, of which 815 M were in the developing world, 28 million in the transition economies and 9 million in the industrialised countries. India alone had 221 M hungry people, while China had 142 M. The 815 M hungry in the developing world represents a reduction of 9 M since the World Food Summit base period of 1990-92, but increase of about 18 M since 1995-97. In these five years, China was able to reduce its hungry population by 4 M, while the ranks of India's population of the hungry grew by 13 M. (THE TIMES OF INDIA 101204)

NEWS ABOUT BOOKS, REPORTS, MEETINGS ETC

Walkout from WB meet Experts on Dec 14 walked out of a meeting with World Bank representatives to protest against its new proposal for lending that involves accepting India's environmental and social safeguards while funding mega projects. The WB is presently engaged in consultations in different parts of the world in an attempt to test the acceptability of its new proposal to use 'country decision making system' as the basis of its operations. The experts said in a letter "We believe using 'country systems' in lending will seriously undermine human rights and environmental standards that the WB is compelled to adhere to. We find it unacceptable that a meeting on issue with such far-reaching consequences was being held without providing the information of such proposal and without providing the information in local languages to the affected communities. It said that the short time given for the meeting reinforced that the meeting was a mere formality." (THE HINDU 151204)

WB: Punjab heading towards poverty As per the World Bank report on 'Resuming Punjab's Prosperity' Punjab was once a rich state but is fast moving towards poverty. The state grew rapidly (6-7 %) when much of India recorded a low growth at 3%. But it slowed down after the mid-eighties when the rest of India took off on the higher growth path. According to the authors of the report – Vikram K Chand & Deepak Mishra – Punjab was one of the slowest growing states during the 1990s and though agriculture brought prosperity, it was now responsible for some of the miseries. Punjab's industry has done well despite the adverse geographical and historical problems. However, productivity of Punjab's manufacturing firms fall short of more industrialised states, and investment climate is perceived to be of moderate quality. Punjab's actual tax collection is at least 25% lower than its estimated capacity. The report noted that in sectors like power, agriculture, disinvestment and fiscal policy, there already exist blueprint for reforms. The WB put hidden liability at Rs 154.67 B over the Rs 370.6 B as in the state budget. (THE TRIBUNE 231204)

NHPC's Parbati III HEP in HP**Public Hearing without full EIA in Hindi opposed**

The people to be affected by the proposed 520 MW Parbati III Hydropower Project in Himachal Pradesh came out in large numbers on January 22, 2005. The project is to be implemented by the National Hydroelectric Power Corporation in Kulu district on Sainj river, one of the tributaries of the Beas River. People made it clear at the public hearing that the affected people must get the full EIA and EMP documents in Hindi, without which the affected people have no way of knowing about the project impacts.

The affected people also opposed the illegal nature of the land acquisition process that was started long before the public hearing is completed and before the clearances are obtained. The District collector present at the public hearing accept that this was inappropriate. The affected people have demanded that if the process was illegal than it should be revoked and the whole process should be restarted only after the clearances have been obtained.

The people affected by the Parbati II project from in the same basin, being implemented by the same company, namely NHPC, pointed out that the NHPC had made many promises to the affected people, but has not fulfilled them. The NHPC manager present at the public hearing claimed ignorance of this situation, saying he is only dealing with the stage III project. That is unacceptable situation and only shows that the NHPC is not an organisations whose promises can be relied upon.

The people including SANDRP present at the public hearing also showed how the EIA was incomplete. Firstly the EIA did not provide for the flow downstream of the diversion point including for the social and environmental needs for current and future requirements. The EIA also did not include the full measures necessary to ensure that the muck disposal mechanism is secure so that the muck does not come back to the river. Concrete walls as required in the Karcham Wangtoo project is not provided for. Thirdly, the EIA does not include the cumulative impacts of the large number of HEPs in the Beas basin. Similarly, the EIA has not done the year round baseline survey for all the environmental impacts. The EIA has been done by NEERI that has not become notorious for doing incomplete, biased and client tailored EIAs.

The District collector present at the public hearing agreed that cumulative impacts of the various HEPs in the Beas basin must be done. He also agreed that a vidiography of the water sources and structures in the area should be done. However, unless all the necessary impact assessments and mitigation measures are included in the EIA and EMP that is the basis for public hearing, the whole exercise becomes meaningless. There is also a need for a strong, open, participatory and credible monitoring mechanism to ensure that the measures in the EMP are actually implemented. SANDRP along with Kisan Sabha participated in the process, and in fact wrote letters to the concerned authorities including the HP PCB, MoEF and the HP council for S&T about the problems in the process before and after the public hearing. Response from the authorities is awaited.

PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE WITH SANDRP

1. *Bade Bandh, Bharat ka Anubhav*: Hindi Translation of WCD India Country study, By R Rangachari, Nirmal Sengupta, Ramaswamy Iyer, Pranab Banerji & Shekhar Singh, SANDRP, 2001, pp 268, Rs. 100/-.
2. *Power Finance: Financial Institutions in India's Hydropower Sector*, P Bosshard, SANDRP (in India), 2002, p 132, Rs 100/-
3. *Vishwa Bandh Ayog per Nagarik Margadarshika (HINDI)*, SANDRP, 2002, pp 63, Rs 30/-.
4. *Citizens' Guide to the World Commission on Dams*, By A Imhof, S Wong & P Bosshard, Published by IRN, pp 59, Rs 30/-.
5. *The Drought, the State and the People: An Experience in Gujarat* SANDRP Dossier, 2000, Ed: S Sangvai, p 90, Rs 75/-
6. *Report of the Daud Committee on Sardar Sarovar Displaced*, Govt. of Maharashtra, SANDRP a co-publisher, pp 54, Rs. 30/-.
7. *Water: Private, Limited* by Shripad Dharmadhikary, Manthan, pp 54, Rs 20/-
8. *Tehri Environment and Rehabilitation: Towards Failure and Devastation*, Published by MATU, pp44, Rs 25/-, Rs 20/-
9. *Bharat mein Bade Bandh ka Lekha jokha* (Hindi) summary of WCD India Country Study, Manthan, pp18, Rs 5/-.
10. *THE GREATER COMMON GOOD* by Arundhati Roy, Published by India Book Distributors, 1999, pp 76, Rs 80/-.
11. *ECOLOGIST ASIA SPECIAL ISSUE ON DAMS IN NORTH EAST INDIA*, Jan-Mar 2003, pp. 96, Rs 50/-.
12. *Seminar Special Issue on Floods*, June 1999, pp 90 Rs 15/-.
13. *Large Dams in India* by Shekhar Singh and Pranab Bannerji, IIPA, 2002, pp 338, Rs 500/-
14. *Conserving Raindrops a Much Better Option than Linking Rivers* by Bharat Dogra, pp 8, Rs 4/-.
15. *Nadi Nahin Jodnaa, Bund Bund sanjonaa* by Bharat Dogra, pp. 16, Rs 8/-
16. *Rahiman Paani Bik Raha Saudagar Ke Haath* (Hindi) By Sripad Dharmadhikari, Published by Manthan, pp 55, Rs 10/-.
17. *River Linking: A Millennium Folly?* Edited by Medha Patkar, Published by NAPM & Initiative, pp 131, Rs 100/-.
18. *Ken-Betwa Link; Why it won't click*: SANDRP, Dec 2003, P 16, Rs 10/-.
19. *Nadi Jod Yozana Ke Mayne, Vastvikta Ke Aaine Mein* (HINDI), SANDRP, 2004, pp 58, Rs 20/-.
20. *Ken-Betwa Nadi Jod : Pyasi Ken Ka Paani Betwa Mein Kyon?* (HINDI), SANDRP, 2004, pp 46, Rs 20/-.
21. *THE TROUBLED WATERS: A Report on the 1998 Floods in E UP*, Poorvanchal Gramin Vikas Sansthan, p 79, Rs 50/-
22. *Log Banam Faisla: A Reflection on Narmada Judgement* (HINDI), NBA, 2000, pp 72, Rs 10/-
23. *Know Your Power: A Citizen's Primer on the Electricity Sector*, Prayas, Pune, 2004, p 138, Rs 150/-
24. *Dam Vs Drinking Water: Exploring the Narmada Judgement*, LC Jain, Parisar (Pune), 2001, p 134, Rs 75/-
25. *The River and Life: People's Struggle in the Narmada Valley*, Sanjay Sangvai, Earthcare books, June 2002, Rs 180/-
26. *Bina Jaankari Kaisy Jan Sunvai?*, MATU (Delhi), 2004, p 32, Rs 15/-
27. *Kasbe Ka Paani* By Rehmat/ Mukesh Jat, Published by Manthan, pp 40, Rs 20/-

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QUOTES

The World Bank, Wolfensohn and S Mallaby The first and most basic of Sebastian Mallaby's many deceptions in his book *The World's Banker: A Story of Failed States, Financial Crises and the Wealth and Poverty of Nations* is his acceptance of the World Bank's stated mission at face value: "Fighting poverty with passion and professionalism." Once he slips this one past, early on in his tale of the Bank and its president James Wolfensohn, everything else logically follows. But the poverty-fighting bit is the public relations campaign of the World Bank under Wolfensohn and not its real purpose. It is important to know the difference.

Gabriela Bocagrande, The Texas Observer 070105

Dams, Rivers & People

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