



REPORT  
ON  
MINOR IRRIGATION WORKS  
(GUJARAT STATE)



COMMITTEE ON PLAN PROJECTS  
(Minor Irrigation Team)  
**NEW DELHI**  
*June, 1963*

## LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

M. THIRUMALA RAO, M.P.,  
*Leader, Minor Irrigation Team.*

Committee on Plan Projects,  
NEW DELHI,  
5th June, 1963.

My dear Shastri Ji,

The Minor Irrigation Team in the Committee on Plan Projects has finalised its report on the study of minor irrigation works in the State of Gujarat. I am forwarding a copy thereof for your perusal.

Gujarat is mostly a water deficient State. Irrigation, therefore, plays a very important part in its agrarian economy. Yet, utilisation of the potential created by way of minor irrigation works in the State is much below the desired level. A check up of the average utilisation against potential gives a percentage figure of 36·3 only. The State authorities are undoubtedly alive to this shortfall. The Team has made a number of suggestions in this respect, and it is hoped that efforts will be made towards fuller utilisation of the existing irrigation potential in the State.

Another significant minor irrigation programme in the State is the installation of deep tubewells for irrigation purposes. The Team has, however, expressed concern in this report on the limited subsoil water resources of the State, and have recommended that systematic subsoil water studies need to be carried out, more particularly in the areas where State tubewells are located. Besides, a number of procedural measures have also been suggested with a view to improve operational efficiency of the existing tubewells.

The views of the Team have been accepted by the State Government, and implementation of recommendations contained in this report will undoubtedly go a long way in improving the performance of irrigation works.

I also take this opportunity of expressing our thanks to the various officers of the State Government, who gave us fullest cooperation in our studies.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

M. THIRUMALA RAO

Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri,  
Home Minister,  
Government of India,  
NEW DELHI.

## PREFACE

Study of Minor Irrigation Works in Gujarat State was taken up in accordance with the Terms of Reference laid down in Committee on Plan Projects No. COPP(4)/17/58, dated the 4th August, 1958 contained in *Appendix I* of this Report.

The Team comprised:—

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|--|--------------------------|
| (i) Shri M. Thirumala, Rao, M.P. . . . .   | Leader                   |
| (ii) Shri Baleshwar Nath, Chief Engineer (Addl.) . . . . .                             | Member                   |
| (iii) Dr. Arjan Singh, Retired Director, Agri. Punjab . . . . .                        | Member                   |
| (iv) Shri Mahavir Prasad, Irrigation Adviser, Ministry of Food & Agriculture . . . . . | <i>Ex-Officio</i> Member |

The study was initiated by the Leader on April 10, 1961 at Ahmedabad. A large number of projects in different parts of the State were subsequently visited by the Team and field studies were made on a few representative projects with a view to get general appraisal of performance and maintenance standards of Minor Irrigation Works of various types.

The Team has had discussions with the State authorities at appropriate levels on different aspects of irrigated agriculture dealt with in the Report. The observations of the Team and their recommendations thus reflect agreed views of the State authorities and the Team. Formal concurrence of State Government to the report is also implied in their communication No. MIR 1162/6600-H, dated 23rd May, 1963.

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