



REPORT
ON
MINOR IRRIGATION WORKS
IN
RAJASTHAN STATE

COMMITTEE ON PLAN PROJECTS
(Irrigation Team)
NEW DELHI
July 1965

LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

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Leader,

Irrigation Team.

Link House,
3, Mathura Road,
New Delhi.

July 26, 1965.

My Dear Nanda Ji,

I have pleasure in forwarding herewith the report of the Irrigation Team on the study of minor irrigation works in Rajasthan State. Rajasthan is mostly an arid and water deficient region. Apart from the Rajasthan Canal Project, possibilities of large irrigation schemes in the State are limited. Small irrigation works, therefore, occupy a significant place in its agricultural economy.

The Team made field studies of several small irrigation schemes in different parts of the State, and their findings are discussed in detail in the report. Utilisation of irrigation potential was generally found to be below targets. Practical suggestions to improve the position as emerged out of the study have been made and the views of the Team have, in general, been accepted by the State authorities.

Some important recommendations of the Team are:—

- (i) to achieve optimum agricultural production per unit of water as well as land; commands, outletting system and regulation and rostering of channels and water rates on the existing minor irrigation schemes need to be reviewed so as to ensure equitable distribution of the scarce water supplies;
- (ii) to bring in areas located in erstwhile princely States under a uniform Irrigation Code and procedure with a view to ensure their efficient control and performance; and
- (iii) to develop, propagate and demonstrate new cropping patterns depending on irrigation facilities being made available.

Recently introduced dual control by Irrigation and Revenue authorities exercised on tanks and reservoirs irrigating from 51 to 2500 acres appears to be leading to a lag in their efficient performance. The matter, therefore, needs to be re-considered by the State Government.

Also care has to be exercised before launching on an expansionist programme of small irrigation works to guard against depletion of meagre water yield from natural surface and sub-surface sources to the existing irrigation works, more particularly in the western half of the State.

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(ii)

I take this opportunity of expressing our thanks to the officers of the State Irrigation and Agricultural Departments from whom we received full co-operation in our studies.

With best regards,

Yours sincerely,

M. THIRUMALA RAO

Shri G. L. Nanda,
Minister for Home Affairs
Government of India,
New Delhi.

P R E F A C E

Study of Minor Irrigation Works in Rajasthan State was taken up by the Irrigation Team, Committee on Plan Projects, Planning Commission in accordance with the Terms of Reference communicated *vide* Committee on Plan Projects Memorandum No. COPP/(4)/17/58, dated the 4th August, 1958 given in *Appendix I* of this report.

The Team comprised:—

- | | |
|---|-------------------|
| (i) Shri M. Thirumala Rao, M.P. | Leader |
| (ii) Shri Baleshwar Nath,
Chief Engineer. | Member |
| (iii) Dr. Arjan Singh,
Retd. Director of Agriculture,
Punjab. | Member |
| (iv) Shri Mahavir Prasad,
Irrigation Adviser,
Ministry of Food and Agriculture. | Member—Ex-Officio |

After preliminary discussion on September 23, 1963 at Jaipur and September 24, 1963 at Udaipur (Minutes appear in *Appendices II* and *III*) field studies were initiated by the Leader. The Team subsequently toured different parts of the State, and conducted at-site studies of representative Irrigation works of both pre-Plan and post-Plan periods.

The studies conducted primarily aimed at techno-economic appraisal of the works as also of their maintenance, irrigational performance and overall benefits accruing to the community.

The Team has had discussion with State authorities at appropriate levels on different aspects of small irrigation schemes in the State. Accompanied by the Leader of the Team, a visit was paid to Bourunda wells in Jodhpur area, and later the Team visited representative works in Bikaner; Udaipur, Ajmer, Alwar, Bharatpur and Kota regions.

Various issues as emerged out of the field studies were discussed concurrently with State authorities. Eventually a draft report was forwarded to the State Government for their comments *vide* letter No. COPP/IT/M/65/56 dated March 24, 1965. The State authorities have expressed their general concurrence with the views and recommendations of the Team (*Appendix VI*). This report thus reflects more or less agreed views of the Team and the State Government.

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