

REPORT  
ON  
MINOR IRRIGATION WORKS  
IN  
HIMACHAL PRADESH



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COMMITTEE ON PLAN PROJECTS  
IRRIGATION TEAM  
NEW DELHI

*December, 1965*

M. Thirumala Rao, M.P.  
Leader,  
Irrigation Team.

of India  
Commission  
on Projects.  
June, 1966.

My dear NANDA JI,

I have pleasure in forwarding herewith Irrigation Team's report on the study of irrigation works in Himachal Pradesh.

Himachal Pradesh is almost wholly mountainous and usually has heavy annual rainfall. Necessity of irrigation is however felt because of uneven distribution of precipitation. There are practically no possibilities of any large irrigation scheme, but small irrigation works seem feasible in many areas and can prove highly useful to sustain non-monsoon period agricultural operations.

The team made field studies of several small irrigation schemes—old as well as new—in different regions of the territory. Adequate utilisation of potential created on these schemes has not yet been achieved, in spite of there being no assessment of water rates for irrigation done.

Main suggestions as emerge out of the study are:—

- (i) Small irrigation schemes could be handed over to panchayats for operation, maintenance and repairs and local irrigation cess for the purpose could be levied by the panchayats who should have statutory backing for the same.
- (ii) Priority attention needs to be given by the extension staff to areas receiving irrigation.
- (iii) Micro hydel schemes need to be encouraged and power from the schemes could be used for lifting water, for irrigation purposes during off peak hours.
- (iv) A master plan for agro-irrigational development in the State with priorities for various schemes needs to be framed to accelerate development in the region.

The magnitude of irrigation works being relatively small, they do not receive due attention at the hands of P.W.D. officers in whose charge they lie along with roads and building works.

Only one Irrigation Executive Engineer as at present attached to the Chief Engineer cannot exercise the required check and control on the investigation and execution of irrigation works all over the Pradesh resulting in avoidable delays and under utilisations. It would be advantageous if this post is upgraded to that of Superintending Engineer for irrigation works in the State.

I take this opportunity of expressing our thanks to the State P.W.D. for their cooperation in our studies.

Shri G. L. Nanda,  
Minister for Home Affairs,  
Government of India,  
NEW DELHI.

Yours sincerely,

M. THIRUMALA RAO

## PREFACE

Study of Minor Irrigation Works in Himachal Pradesh 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 as Appendix I of this report.

The Team comprised Shri M. Thirumala Rao, M.P., Leader, Shri Baleshwar Nath (Chief Engineer) and Dr. Arjan Singh (Retd. Director of Agriculture, Punjab) Members and Shri Mahavir Prasad (Irrigation Advisor, Ministry of Food and Agriculture) Member (*Exofficio*).

After preliminary discussions on July 4, 1964 at Simla, proceedings of which appear in Appendix II, field study tours were made by the Team in different parts of the State with a view to get general appraisal of planning, organisation, maintenance and performance of minor irrigation works in the Pradesh.

Discussions were held concurrently with the State authorities at appropriate levels as also with irrigators themselves. Recommendations as emerge out of the study have been summarised in a separate chapter and bring to light the main policy matters that need attention apart from special items pertaining to individual works referred to in the report.

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