

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER**

**REPORT
OF
THE COMMITTEE OF MINISTERS
ON
UNDERUTILISATION OF CREATED
IRRIGATION POTENTIAL**



**JUNE 1973
NEW DELHI**

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has been taken, as far as possible, to avoid elaborate discussions of the problems or repetition of facts already well-known and to keep the reviews brief and concise and the recommendations action-oriented. The Committee feels confident that an early action on the various steps outlined in the Report would lead to the prompt utilisation of the created irrigation potential.

5. It is my great pleasure to place on record my grateful thanks to many distinguished colleagues on the Committee for their whole-hearted and unstinted cooperation. I must also convey my sincere thanks to the valuable cooperation extended to the work of the Committee by the officers and staff of the Union Ministries of Irrigation and Power, Agriculture and Planning Commission as also the different departments of the State Governments. A large number of local officials, cultivators and other public men gave valuable suggestions during our visits and discussions for which I am grateful to all of them.

6. I am most grateful to you for the readiness with which you have offered, help and advice whenever needed and for placing at the Committee's disposal the services of your officers and staff which greatly facilitated the Committee's work,

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

Sd/-

(VASANTRAO PATIL)

Dr. K L, Rao,
Union Minister for
Irrigation & Power,
NEW DELHI.

P R E F A C E

The Government of India in the Ministry of Irrigation & Power *vide* Resolution No. DW. II-31(17)/72, dated the 4th August, 1972, set up a Committee of Ministers to look into the reasons for the underutilisation of created irrigation potential and suggest remedial measures.

The Committee inspected selected major projects with large lags in utilisation and held useful discussions with the Project officials, cultivators and public men. Detailed proformae were also circulated to all the States and they were requested to furnish information in respect of major and medium plan projects wherein the utilisation of created potential is less than the National average.

The Collection, Compilation, analysis and presentation of the information received from the States and supplementing this with the information available in the Ministry of Irrigation and Power has been done in a manner which greatly facilitated the Committee's work.

The Report of the Ministers Committee has been prepared in two parts. Part I deals with All India problems and issues pertaining to under-utilisation of created irrigation potential. The Recommendations of the Committee on the measures to ensure prompt and full utilisation of created irrigation potential are given in chapter V of the Report. Part II of the report makes a review of the irrigation potential and utilisation under major and medium plan projects as also the reasons for the lag in different states.

The position of utilisation of created irrigation potential under major and medium projects is by and large satisfactory. However, there are certain regions and/or projects where the utilisation is much below the National average. It is hoped that the recommendations of the Committee would enable a careful appraisal of all such regions and projects so that utilisation can be accelerated there. As the Nation has made sizeable investment in irrigation projects, it is most necessary to adopt all such measures which would lead to utilisation of created potential in the shortest possible time. The Committee confidently feels that the implementation of its recommendations would go a long way towards achieving this objective.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Committee is sincerely indebted to the various Ministers in the Government of India and State Governments, Planning Commission, Legislators, leading public men, farmers and other individuals who favoured us with their views on accelerated utilisation of created irrigation potential. The various State Governments assisted the Committee by furnishing basic data on plan projects. All this largely contributed to the formulation of this report.

The State Governments of Maharashtra, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Mysore, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh, made elaborate arrangements for Committee's inspection of command areas of Kakrapar, Tungabhadra, Nagarjunasagar, Chambal, Kosi and Gandak projects. The Committee gratefully acknowledges the personal interest of Sarvashri Vasantrya Patil, Jashwant Mehta, Ram Chandra Chaudhury, H.N. Nanje Gowda, Narasa Reddy, Amolak Chand Chhajed, Budhdeo Singh, Harminder Singh Chatha and Shrimati Sharda Rani, Irrigation Ministers in making these visits informative and fruitful. In this great task, the Irrigation Ministers were helped by Sarvashri B.A. Kulkarni, M.G. Shab, B.C. Gangopadhya, P.R. Dubhashi, S. Sahai, M. Taneja, K.C.S. Acharya, Sber Singh, B.L. Chak and P.P. Caprihan Secretaries to the Governments and S.S. Apte, C.C. Patel, P.A. Raj, S.P. Caprihan, I.M. Magdum, S. Gopatan, B.P. Sharma, Ram Singh, U.K. Verma, R. Ghosh, D.S. Sinha, K.S. Pathak, B.K. Uppal, and S.P. Bhatt, Chief Engineers. Their help is gratefully acknowledged.

The Committee is extremely grateful to Dr. K.L. Rao, Union Minister for Irrigation and Power for his expert advice whenever needed and also for placing at the Committee's disposal the services of his officers and staff for this work.

The Committee would like to place on record their deep appreciation of the excellent work put in by Sarvashri S.N. Gupta, Joint Secretary and R. Rangachari, Joint Commissioner in the preparation of this report. Mention will also be made of Dr. S.D.L. Luthra, Deputy Director and Shri E. Sivasankaran, Assistant Director, Ministry of Irrigation and Power, who largely assisted in the compilation of Part II of the report.

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No. M&P/347/73

OFFICE OF THE MINISTER FOR IRRIGATION
AND POWER (HYDRO ELECTRIC),

Sachivalaya, Bombay-32-BR

Dated 13th June, 1973.

Dear Dr. Rao,

The Government of India in the Ministry of Irrigation and Power vide Resolution No. DW. II-31(17)/72, dated the 4th August, 1972 set up a Committee of Ministers to look into the reasons for the under utilisation of created irrigation potential and suggest remedial measures. On behalf of the Committee, I have great pleasure in forwarding herewith the "Report of the Ministers Committee on under utilisation of created irrigation potential".

2. The report is in two parts. Part I deals with the National scene, policies and problems of all-India nature along with the recommendation of the Committee for the accelerated utilisation of created irrigation potential. Part II is a review of the potential and utilisation under major and medium Plan projects in different States. The details of the principal conclusions and recommendations of the Committee are in Chapter 5 of the Part I of the Report.

3. The Nation launched the planned development of irrigation potential in 1951 and by 1972, the country has doubled the pre-Plan irrigation potential under major and medium irrigation projects. While the position of utilisation of created potential has been satisfactory on the whole, the Committee has noted that in certain areas the pace of utilisation can be accelerated and has suggested suitable measures for this purpose. The Committee inspected certain major projects presently under execution in the country and analysed in detail the causes for the lag in utilisation as also the essential ingredients that contribute towards comprehensive ayacut development. It also obtained details of the Plan projects from various States.

4. Successful ayacut development is a multidiscipline task which calls for the closest coordination and constant vigilance. The Nation has made a sizeable investment in the irrigation projects under the Plans and it becomes incumbent on us to explore all ways and means of achieving the quickest possible use of such investment. The Committee's recommendations are designed to give an impetus to the ayacut development programme which must go side by side with the irrigation projects. Care

PART I

**NATIONAL SCENE, POLICIES,
PROBLEMS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF
THE COMMITTEE FOR THE ACCELERATED
UTILISATION OF CREATED IRRIGATION POTENTIAL**