

Summary Records of the Discussions of 45th Meeting of the Ganga Flood Control Commission held on 21st March, 2014 at New Delhi

The 45th Meeting of Ganga Flood Control Commission (GFCC) was held on 21st March, 2014 at New Delhi under the chairmanship of Shri A.K. Jain, Chairman, GFCC. The list of participants is at **Annex-I**.

At the outset, the Member (Planning), GFCC welcomed all the participants present in the meeting. He mentioned that the meeting of GFCC had been organised in very short time after joining of regular Chairman, GFCC with sincere efforts of all concerned. He also welcomed Member (RM), CWC and representatives of all State Governments of Ganga Basin States and other members for making it convenient to participate in the meeting. He further mentioned that the meeting of GFCC is a platform for interaction between GFCC and the Member States for exchanging their views and experiences in formulating and implementing the flood management/anti-erosion schemes and on other important matters.

Shri A.K. Jain, Chairman, GFCC in his opening remarks extended a warm welcome to all the representatives of States and Members of GFCC. He stated that River Ganga was the master drain of Ganga Basin and it drains a total catchment area of about 10.68 lakh Sq. Km., out of which 8.61 lakh Sq. Km. lies in India. Out of 8.61 lakh Sq. Km catchment area in India, about 2.34 lakh Sq. Km i.e. about 25% has been assessed to be flood affected as per the Report of XII Plan Working Group. Maximum flood affected area in the country as a whole has been assessed to be about 5.0 lakh Sq. Km. Thus, about 50% of the total flood affected area in the country as a whole lies in Ganga Basin States and as such it is a important and critical issue from the view of Ganga Basin States.

He further stated that Ganga Flood Control Board (GFCB) was set up by the Government of India in 1972 headed by the Hon'ble Union Minister of Water Resources with the objective to effectively tackle the critical and chronic flood problems of Ganga Basin and to lay down the broad policies and decide priorities in the implementation of various schemes and issue necessary directions in respect of formulation of comprehensive plan for flood control in Ganga basin and approval of schemes.

Ganga Flood Control Commission (GFCC), a subordinate office of Ministry of Water Resources, was also created in the same year to act as Secretariat and Executive Limb of GFCB and to deal with the matter related to floods and its management in Ganga Basin States. GFCC is mainly entrusted with the responsibility of preparation and updation of comprehensive plans for flood management for various river systems in Ganga basin, techno-economic appraisal of schemes formulated by the States for Flood Management and Anti-erosion works and also to study the Adequacy of Waterways under the rail and road bridges and determine additional waterways required for reducing the drainage congestion to reasonable limits.

In his opening remarks, Chairman, GFCC also highlighted the following major issues to be urgently addressed by the Member States:

- (i) - Comprehensive Plans for flood management have already been prepared by GFCC for Ganga Basin and its 23 sub-basins. As flood is a dynamic phenomenon, the Comprehensive Plans need to be updated periodically, for which relevant data is required from States. However, it is observed that the data has not been forthcoming from the States in spite of discussion on this issue in various meetings of GFCB and GFCC. Chairman requested the Member States to furnish the data as prescribed in Annexure-I of Chapter-6 of 'Compendium of Guidelines' of GFCC

(available at its web site i.e. gfcc.bih.nic.in) required for updating of the Comprehensive Plans.

- (ii) - States are required to formulate Action Plans for implementing the recommendations given in Comprehensive Plans for flood management prepared by GFCC. The copy of recommendations of the Comprehensive Plans has already been made available to all States. Six severely flood effected States namely Bihar, U.P., West Bengal, Jharkhand, H.P. and Uttarakhand, were also required to set up Implementation Committee to ensure implementation of the recommendations of the Comprehensive Plans. However, only two States i.e. Bihar & West Bengal have set up implementation committees so far. Chairman, GFCC requested other States to set up implementation committees at the earliest.
- (iii) - The project report of the schemes for Flood Control, Anti Erosion etc. being prepared by States and submitted to GFCC for techno- economic appraisal are generally not being formulated as per 'Compendium of Guidelines' of GFCC which results in delays in appraisal of schemes. Chairman, GFCC requested States to ensure that schemes are formulated strictly as per GFCC's Guidelines.
- (iv) - The quality of Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) being received from States for techno-economic appraisal is generally very poor. Chairman requested Member States to improve the quality of the reports. He also requested that the drawings being included in DPR should be prepared using any CAD software and States should also submit soft copy of DPR along with the hard copy. States have already been advised in this regard vide GFCC's letter of 21st February, 2014
- (v) - The importance and necessity of conducting Performance Evaluation Studies of completed Flood Management /Anti Erosion Schemes was stressed. These studies should be carried out by the State Governments through independent specialized/professional agencies as per the guidelines of Flood Management Programme (FMP). He further emphasized that these studies are required in order to ascertain whether the objectives of the schemes as envisaged in DPRs have been achieved; and whether various structures constructed for flood management and anti- erosion have performed satisfactorily during floods. These studies also reveal whether the assumptions made in the DPRs were realistic; the data used was adequate; design parameters considered were correct etc. If the performance of any scheme is not found to be satisfactory as envisaged in the DPR, the reasons for same have to be identified so that corrective measures could be taken while formulating schemes in future. Accordingly, there is an urgent need for States to take up performance evaluation studies of the completed flood control/anti-erosion schemes especially for medium and major schemes.
- (vi) - As per the guidelines of FMP, the concurrent evaluation of the schemes is required to be carried out by the States as per revised FMP guidelines for XII Plan. He informed that the cost of the concurrent evaluation of a scheme can be built into the cost of the project, while formulating the schemes as per the revised guidelines. Chairman, GFCC requested member States to follow guidelines in this regard.
- (vii) - The importance of quality control aspects during execution stage of flood control and anti-erosion schemes was stressed. The necessity of regular maintenance of these works for their proper and satisfactory functioning was also brought out. He requested the States to pay due attention and give importance to these aspects during execution stage.

Thereafter, the agenda items were taken up for deliberation. The items discussed and decisions taken are as under:

Item No. 45.1: Confirmation of Summary Record of discussions of the 44th Meeting of Ganga Flood Control Commission held on 12th March, 2013 at New Delhi.

The Summary Record of Discussions of the 44th Meeting of the GFCC held at New Delhi on 12th March, 2013 was circulated to all the Members vide GFCC's letter No. GFCC/C/2/2010/2121-32 dated 07.05.2013 but no comments were received from any Member. Accordingly, Members confirmed the Summary Record of Discussions of the 44th Meeting of GFCC unanimously.

Item No. 45.2: Guidelines for Formulation of Flood Management Schemes

Chairman, GFCC stated that the schemes being submitted by States to GFCC for appraisal were not being formulated as per the guidelines of GFCC causing delays in appraisal. The DPRs of schemes often lack various data like flood damage data duly certified by concerned Revenue Authorities, the inundation maps, the results of model studies etc. This issue was discussed in 44th Meeting of GFCC and it was decided that schemes shall be formulated by States strictly as per GFCC's guidelines and a certificate from the Engineer-in-Chief of the State in this regard shall be enclosed at the time of submission of scheme to GFCC but it is not being followed. He requested States to ensure the compliance of decisions taken in GFCC meetings. He also pointed out that in most of DPRs, the reports of Executive Engineer, Superintending Engineer and Chief Engineer are identical whereas these reports should include the aspects of schemes as prescribed in Chapter-II of 'Compendium of Guidelines' of GFCC available at its web site.

During discussion, the Member States brought out following issues on the above matter:

- (i) - They face difficulty in obtaining the flood damage data from the State Revenue Departments, which are generally reluctant to provide the data, resulting in delays.
- (ii) - Forest Departments generally do not give certificate to the effect that no forest land is involved, which is required as per GFCC guidelines. This is so especially when the anti-erosion or flood control works are not directly situated on forest land. Member (RM), CWC clarified that when the anti- erosion/ flood control works are not located on forest land, the necessary certificate regarding non involvement of forest land can be issued by the concerned Chief Engineer of the State.
- (iii) - Time constraints and lack of funds for carrying out the model studies.
- (iv) - The imageries for bank lines are not often available.
- (v) - There is difficulty in obtaining clear satellite imageries from NRSA during monsoon due to cloud cover.

Representative of the U.P State Remote Sensing Application Centre, Lucknow informed that the Uttar Pradesh State had been using the remote sensing maps, the data of bank lines and flood inundation data. Further, he stated that with the help of Radarsat satellite, the imageries during monsoon can be made available by Disaster Management Cell of NRSA if indent of satellite imageries for expected field is sent 24 hours in advance. He suggested that other States can contact Disaster Management Cell of State Remote Sensing Department of their respective States to collect imageries and other relevant data which is required for formulating the flood management and anti-erosion schemes.

The representative from CW&PRS stated that time taken for model studies depends on the type of studies, problems and issues referred for modeling. Time required can be reduced if the issues to be addressed in model studies are clearly identified in the beginning. Chairman, GFCC advised that the model studies should invariably be carried out for all important and critical anti-erosion and flood management schemes.

Member (RM), CWC advised the Member States to make use of CWC's handbook for 'Flood Protection, Anti Erosion and River Training Works' which is available on CWC's web site.

After detailed discussions, the following decisions were taken:

- (i) - States shall ensure that the flood management/ Anti- erosion schemes are formulated strictly as 'Compendium of Guidelines' of GFCC which are available on its Website (**gfcc.bih.nic.in**). CWC's handbook for 'Flood Protection, Anti Erosion and River Training Works' may also be used while formulating Flood Management and Anti Erosion Schemes.
(Action: All Member States)
- (ii) - While submitting the schemes to GFCC for appraisal, it shall be ensured that a certificate from the Engineer-in-Chief of the State Government to the effect that the scheme has been formulated strictly as per the guidelines of GFCC is enclosed with DPR of Scheme.
(Action: All Member States)
- (iii) - It shall be ensured by States that the reports of Chief Engineer, Superintending Engineer and Executive Engineer to be enclosed with DPR of schemes are prepared covering the aspects of schemes as prescribed in Chapter-II of 'Compendium of Guidelines' of GFCC.
(Action: All Member States)
- (iv) - The Flood Damage Data, preferably of last 10 years, relevant to the scheme duly certified by competent Revenue Authorities shall be enclosed with DPR of Scheme.
(Action: All Member States)
- (v) - The inundation map indicating the bank lines for last three years in different colors prepared by any CAD software shall be enclosed. The inundation area, bank lines, flood and erosion control measures shall be supported with satellite imageries as far as possible.
(Action: All Member States)
- (vi) - All important and critical flood management and anti- erosion schemes shall invariably be formulated based on the results of physical/mathematical model studies.
(Action: All Member States)
- (vii) - The quality of drawings enclosed with the DPRs would be improved by preparing them in any CAD software.
(Action: All Member States)

Item No. 45.3: Review of ongoing Flood Management Schemes being implemented under Flood Management Programme of Govt. of India

The States were appraised that the Flood Management Programme (FMP) launched by the Government of India in the XI Plan period for providing Central Assistance to the States has been extended to XII Plan period and schemes included during XI Plan which could not be completed during XI Plan period, would continue to be covered in FMP during XII Plan.

Item No. 45.3.1: Schemes included during XI Plan

Chairman, GFCC stated that 97 nos. of Flood Management/Anti-Erosion Schemes of Ganga Basin States were included under FMP during XI Plan period. However, 43 nos. of these schemes could not be completed as per the completion schedule proposed by the States in the Statement FMP-I at the time of submitting the proposal to GFCC/MoWR for inclusion in FMP and these have now spilled over to XII Plan. The delay in completion of these schemes has been viewed seriously by IMC-FMP in its 1st Meeting held on 19th December, 2013 and it was decided that all the schemes included under FMP during XI Plan should be completed by March, 2015 and States are requested to submit the Action Plan and phasing of expenditure accordingly. The Member States stated that the main reasons for delay had been delay in release of funds by the Centre and the States as well as the delays in land acquisition etc.

Member (RM), CWC advised the States that:

- (i) - State Governments should critically examine each of the scheme which has been included in XI Plan but could not be completed so far;
- (ii) - The changes made in the scheme, if any, should be brought out clearly;
- (iii) - State Governments should come forward and intimate whether they want to complete these schemes or drop some of these schemes.

Director (MP-II), GFCC pointed out that non-submission of required documents, as given in the FMP guidelines, by the State Governments has been one of the main reason for delays in release of central assistance to States.

After discussion, the following decisions were taken:

- (i) - State shall ensure that schemes included under FMP during XI Plan are completed by March, 2015.
- (ii) - States shall submit the Action Plan and phasing of expenditure for such schemes to GFCC by 30th April, 2014.
- (iii) - The States shall also furnish the Utilisation Certificate for the last instalment released to the States, so as to ascertain whether there have been any savings.
- (iv) - State shall ensure that all documents as per revised FMP Guidelines for XII Plan are submitted with the request of release of fund.

(Action by All States)

Item No. 45.3.2: Schemes included during XII Plan

17 nos. of Flood management schemes have been, so far, included under FMP during XII Plan. Chairman, GFCC advised that the Member States shall take all necessary steps to complete these schemes as per the completion schedule proposed by them in FMP-I statement at the time of submitting the scheme to GFCC/MoWR for inclusion under FMP. He also informed that as per revised FMP Guidelines, the States have to furnish a certificate to the effect that land required for implementation of the schemes has been acquired and is in its possession with State Government at the time of submission of proposals to GFCC for inclusion in FMP.

After discussion, it was decided that the concerned States would take necessary steps for completion of ongoing FMP schemes of XII Plan as per schedule given in FMP-I Statement and shall submit quarterly physical & financial progress of schemes in FMP-2 & FMP-3 Statements to GFCC after end of each quarter.

(Action: All Member States)

Item No. 45.4: Fixation of Inter-se priority of New Schemes for inclusion under FMP during XII Plan.

Chairman, GFCC stressed the need for fixing inter-se priority of new schemes for inclusion under FMP during XII Plan as per decision of 1st Meeting of IMC-FMP held on 19th December, 2013 so as to facilitate the selection of schemes under FMP by IMC-FMP. The Statement indicating inter-se-priority may be submitted by States to GFCC at least one week ahead of IMC-FMP meeting. It was also decided that the schemes would also be classified under various categories namely, flood management, anti-erosion, catchment area treatment etc. to the extent possible.

(Action: All Member States)

Item No. 45.5: Schemes to be executed before next monsoon

The matter of late submission of Flood Management & Anti-erosion schemes which are to be implemented before the next monsoon by the States was discussed. Chairman, GFCC stressed the need for timely submission of such schemes by States to GFCC and advised States that such schemes may be submitted to GFCC by November. The matter was discussed and Member States stated that flood season in some of the States extend up to the end of October and sometimes even beyond and it may be difficult to formulate and submit the schemes to GFCC by November.

After discussion, States agreed to submit such schemes to GFCC for appraisal, complete in all respects, by 15th December so that GFCC could appraise such schemes on priority and the State Govt. would get sufficient time to execute the works before the commencement of next monsoon.

(Action: All Member States)

Item No. 45.6: Submission of Quarterly Physical and Financial Progress of Schemes included in FMP

The matter of non-submission of quarterly Physical & Financial Progress of schemes included in FMP by States was discussed. Chairman, GFCC pointed out that as per FMP guidelines, the States were required to submit the physical and financial progress of schemes in FMP-2 and FMP-3 statements on quarterly basis. However, these progress reports are either not being received by GFCC or received only at the time of request for release of funds, which makes it difficult for GFCC to assess the progress viz-a-viz completion schedule given in FMP-I.

After discussion, it was decided that physical and financial progress of schemes in Statements FMP-2 and FMP-3 would be submitted by all Member States to GFCC on quarterly basis within a month after the end of each quarter.

(Action: All Member States)

Item No. 45.7: Nomination of Nodal Officers by States

Chairman, GFCC stated that Member States were requested in 44th Meeting of GFCC to nominate a Nodal Officer who would be responsible for coordination and furnishing the information related to Flood Control/Anti Erosion schemes submitted by States to GFCC either for Techno-economic appraisal or inclusion in FMP. However, the nomination of Nodal Officer has been received only from States of Bihar and U.P. The need & importance of having a Nodal Officer was stressed from the point of view of facilitating the coordination with States and ensuring appraisal of schemes by GFCC in a time bound manner.

After discussion, it was decided that the Member States that have not nominated the Nodal Officer so far, shall do so immediately and inform the name and designation, his

complete postal address with Pin Code, Phone/Fax Nos., E-mail ID etc. to GFCC by 15th April, 2014.

(Action: All Member States except UP and Bihar)

Item No. 45.8: Submission of State wise/Basin wise Data/Information for updation of Comprehensive Plan for Flood Management etc.

Chairman, GFCC stated that comprehensive plan for Flood Management for Ganga Basin and 23 of its Sub-basins were prepared by GFCC during 1972-1990 and these have already been updated once and their second updating has now been taken up. He stressed the need for a periodic updating of Comprehensive Plans keeping in view the fact that the flood is a dynamic phenomenon. However, for having a meaningful updating of Comprehensive plans, latest up-to-date data on floods and related issues is required by GFCC from the States. However, the said data is not being received from States in spite of the fact that the issue is being discussed in all the meetings of Ganga Flood Control Board as well as Ganga Flood Control Commission.

It was also brought to the notice of States that a Standing Committee with the following compositions was constituted by Ganga Flood Control Board in its 16th Meeting held at New Delhi on 16.1.2013 for coordination/collection of data/information required for various purposes like updating of Comprehensive Plans, inventory of flood management schemes etc:

- | | | | |
|------|--|---|------------------|
| 1. - | Member, GFCC, Patna | - | Chairperson |
| 2. - | Engineer-in-Chief / Chief Engineer (In-charge of Flood Management) of the Irrigation/WR Department of the State. | - | Member |
| 3. - | Chief Engineer/Superintending Engineer responsible for the coordination of Flood Management at the State Head Quarter. | - | Member |
| 4. - | Representative of Disaster Management Department of the State Govt. | - | Member |
| 5. - | Representative of the Remote Sensing Department of the State Govt. | - | Member |
| 6. - | Director, GFCC, Patna | - | Member-Secretary |

However, no headway has been achieved in this matter. After detailed discussion on the issue, it was decided that:

- (i) - The Member States shall furnish the full details of nominated members for the aforementioned Standing Committee with their names, complete Postal Address with Pin Code, Telephone/ Fax nos., E-mail I.D etc. to GFCC latest by 31st May, 2014 so that these Committees could be activated.

(Action: All Member States)

- (ii) - The States are required to supply information in respect of schemes approved by them within their competency to GFCC as well as to Planning Commission in Statement 'A' as given in Planning Commission Guidelines. A copy of said guidelines is enclosed at **Annex-II** for reference. It has been observed that the said practice is not being followed at present. It was decided that to start with, Member States shall

furnish this information for XII Plan schemes, Year wise i.e. 2012-13 & 2013-14 by 30th June 2014 to GFCC. It shall be continued and it shall be ensured by States that aforesaid information is furnished to GFCC regularly in future as and when any Scheme is approved by State within their competency.

(Action: All Member States)

- (iii) - The information related to scheme implemented by the States within a Financial Year shall also be provided in the Proforma to be provided by GFCC by 7th May 2014. To start with, the Member States shall furnish this information to GFCC for XII Plan schemes, Year wise i.e. 2012-13 & 2013-14 by 30th June 2014. The information in subsequent years shall be sent within one month after the end of financial year i.e. by 30th April.

(Action: GFCC)

Item No. 45.9: Implementation of Sub-Basin wise Comprehensive Plans for Flood Management prepared by the GFCC

Chairman, GFCC stated that Action Plan for implementation of recommendations as given in Comprehensive Plans of following river sub-basins was to be prepared by the concerned States and was required to be submitted to GFCC at the earliest as decided in the 44th Meeting of GFCC.

<u>Sl. No.</u>	<u>River System</u>	<u>States Associated</u>
1.	Ghaghra River System	Uttar Pradesh & Bihar
2.	Mahananda -	Bihar & West Bengal
3.	Mayurakshi & Ajoy -	West Bengal & Jharkhand
4.	Sone -	Jharkhand, U.P & Bihar

However, no information has been received from any State. After deliberations, the Member States agreed to submit the Action Plans as per the following time Schedule:

- **Bihar** by 15th April 2014
- **Uttar Pradesh** by 15th July 2014
- **Jharkhand** by 15th September, 2014
- **West Bengal** by 15th September, 2014

(Action: Bihar, U.P., Jharkhand and W.B.)

Item No. 45.10: Performance Evaluation of Completed Schemes under FMP

Chairman, GFCC stated that as per the FMP guidelines, the performance evaluation of completed schemes is required to be carried out by States through independent specialized/professional agencies having expertise in related field. He stressed the importance of these studies from the point of view assessing as to what extent the objectives of any scheme have been achieved and whether the measures taken have been effective and the structures constructed have been performing as envisaged at the time of formulation of scheme and if there are some short falls, the reasons and corrective measures have to be identified. As such these studies give us an opportunity to learn and take corrective action while formulating schemes in future. However, no headway has been achieved in this matter so far.

To facilitate these studies, it was decided that GFCC would prepare a model Terms of Reference (ToR) for these studies and send to all Member States by 15th April, 2014. Member states agreed to send their observations on ToR by 30th April, 2014 along with

name of schemes for which performance evaluation study would be taken up by them during 2014-15.

(Action: GFCC and all Member States)

Item No. 45.11: Preparation of Inventory of Flood Management Schemes

The Chairman, GFCC pointed out that the need of having inventory of Flood Management and Anti-erosion Schemes is being discussed in various GFCC meetings. GFCC also circulated a Proforma to all Member States in 2012 vide its letter of 5th July, 2012 for having uniformity in preparation of the information on inventory of Flood Management Schemes. However, no information has been received from any State so far in spite of States agreeing to furnish the same within 3 months in 44th Meeting of GFCC. The importance of said information in updating the Comprehensive Plan of Flood Management was stressed. After detailed discussion, the States agreed to furnish the information to GFCC by 30th June, 2014.

(Action: All Member States)

Item No. 45.12: Enactment of legislation for Flood Plain Zoning

Chairman, GFCC stated that the need of revision of Model Bill for Flood Zoning was discussed during 16th Meeting of GFCC held at Delhi on 16.1.2013 and States were requested to furnish their suggestions but no suggestion has been received from any State so far. Some of the States stated that they have not received the copy of model bill and requested GFCC to make available a copy of the same so that they could examine and send their suggestions. After discussion, it was decided that GFCC would send a copy of model bill along with the Summary Record of Discussions of the 45th Meeting and Member States agreed to send their suggestions by 30th June 2014.

(Action: GFCC and All Member States)

Item No. 45.13: Submission of Annual Plans and XII Five Year Plan for Flood Management

Chairman, GFCC stated that the Annual and Five Year Plan for Flood Management of States are not being received in GFCC which makes it difficult for GFCC to ascertain the road map of States in addressing the Flood Problems. He further pointed that this issue was discussed in 44th Meeting of GFCC and it was decided that member States would submit their Annual Plan Document for 2012-13 & 2013-14 as well as XII Five Year Plan document to GFCC by 31st March, 2013. However, no State has submitted these document to GFCC so far.

After deliberations, Member States agreed that they would submit the Annual Plan document for 2012-13, 2013-14 & 2014-15 and XII Five Year Plan document to GFCC by 31st May, 2014

(Action: All Member States)

Item No. 45.14: Issues related to Railways

Chairman, GFCC stated that no issue had been received from Railways for consideration in GFCC Meeting and requested the Representative of Railways to confirm. Representative from Railway Designs and Standards Organisation (RDSO), Lucknow confirmed that there is no issue from Railways for discussion and consideration in the GFCC Meeting.

Item No. 45.15: Discussion on Design, Planning, Formulation and Implementation of Flood Management Schemes

Chairman GFCC stated that a few aspects related to design and planning of Flood Management & Anti-erosion schemes were discussed in 44th Meeting of GFCC and States had agreed to send detailed report on said issues to GFCC within a month. However, no information has been received from any State. Some of these issues were again deliberated in the meeting as given below:

Item No. 45.15.1: Design and Planning

The issues regarding return period of Flood to be considered for design of flood embankments in rural areas, the Level upto which Revetment/ Pitching on embankments/river bank should be done i.e. up to Dominant Flood Level or HFL and top width of embankment to be provided were discussed. It was decided that GFCC would prepare a draft note based on information available in GFCC, the existing guidelines, BIS codes etc. on aforesaid issues and sent it to all Member States by 30th April, 2014 for furnishing their observations. Member States would furnish their suggestions/views thereon to GFCC by 31st May, 2014.

(Action: GFCC and all the Member States)

Item No. 45.15.2: New Material/Technology

Chairman GFCC stated that new materials like Geo-bags, Geo-tube etc are being used in flood protection works by a few States but BIS Codes/ Guidelines for their use are not available resulting in defective/deficient formulation of schemes, technically unsound proposals and delays in appraisal. These new materials are already being used in flood management works by the States of West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. The matter of standardization of specifications of these new materials was also discussed in 44th Meeting of GFCC and States were requested to send detailed report on these materials based on their experience within a month. However, no report has been received from any State. The importance of this matter was again stressed and the States were again requested to send information on these materials like specifications, details of suppliers etc as well as their experience in using these materials. The States agreed to send the detailed Note in this regard by 30th April, 2014.

(Action: West Bengal, U.P. and Bihar)

Item No. 45.15.3: Implementation of Schemes

Chairman, GFCC stated that the issues involved in implementation of flood management schemes like invitation of tenders, latest site survey, construction, Planning & execution of work with proper quality control and the problems faced by the Irrigation/Water Resources Departments of the States were discussed during 44th Meeting of GFCC and Member States had agreed to send a detailed note based on their experience to GFCC within a month. However, no information has been received from any State so far.

After deliberations, it was decided that the Member States shall furnish a detail note on the above issues and also furnish their views/suggestions as to how inclusion of quality control procedures and setting up of testing facilities at site during execution in tender documents, identification of borrow areas, testing of soil samples before the implementing of any scheme etc. could be addressed for ensuring the quality of works during execution.

(Action: All Member States)

Item No. 45.16: Date and Venue of the next Meeting

Chairman, GFCC observed that it was desirable to hold the Meeting of GFCC in one of co-basin State for having a feeling of togetherness among the Ganga Basin States and also to make possible to visit any ongoing or completed scheme for better understanding of practices being followed by different States. The representative of State of Jharkhand offered to hold next meeting of GFCC in his State. After brief discussion, it was decided that the next (i.e. 46th) Meeting of GFCC will be held in the State of Jharkhand either at Ranchi or Deoghar. The exact date and venue would be communicated in due course.

(Action: GFCC and Jharkhand)

Item No. 45.17: Additional Agenda Points

The following additional agenda points as per the Report of Parliament Standing Committee on Water Resources were discussed with the permission of the Chair.

Item No.45.17.1; Flood Affected Areas and Magnitude of Damage

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Water Resources desired following information in respect of the Ganga Basin States within three months (i.e. by 14th May, 2014):

- (i) Average annual rainfall, total cropped area, flood protected area in Ganga basin in 1972 and as on 18.10.2013.
- (ii) Proportion of total flood prone area falling under cropped area.
- (iii) Details of relief and rehabilitation package given to the flood affected areas during last 5 years, year-wise.

The representatives of States stated that the data may have to be obtained from various State Government Departments like, Revenue, Agriculture, Irrigation/ Water Resources etc. and it would be desirable if request is addressed to the Chief Secretaries of the States. However, Member States agreed to send the available information to GFCC by 15th April, 2014.

(Action: GFCC and All Member States)

Item No. 45.17.2: Study on Assessment of Adequacy of Waterways

Member States were informed that studies on Assessment of Adequacy of Waterways under road and railway bridges/culverts have been completed by GFCC for entire Ganga Basin except the Tidal River System and the Ganga Main Stem. The reports of the studies were circulated to all Ganga Basin States as well as to concerned Departments of the Union and State Governments and Ministry of Railways for follow up action. Parliamentary Standing Committee has desired to keep a tab on follow up action taken by Ganga Basin States on the recommendations in the Report. Chairman, GFCC requested States to furnish action taken report.

Member States stated that the earlier reference on this matter along with recommendations of reports may be made available to them so that necessary action could be taken by them. It was agreed that GFCC would provide the said information to states by 25th April, 2014. The States will furnish action taken report within one month of receipt of said information.

(Action: GFCC and All Member States)

Item No. 45.17.3: Frequency of Meetings of GFCC

The Parliamentary Standing Committee in its Report has noted that Ministry/GFCC need to strengthen coordination with the concerned State Governments by increasing frequency of meetings with them, i.e. by holding regular meetings at least twice a year, one before the onset of monsoon season to chalk out detailed coordinated strategies, measures and plan of action; and other at the end of monsoon season to evaluate the effectiveness of the strategies and measures taken during the monsoon and also to prepare new or modified strategies/ measures as warranted by the flood trends.

Member States agreed that GFCC meeting could be held twice in a year as per the observation of Parliamentary Standing Committee in its Report.

(Action: GFCC and All Member States)

Item No. 45.17.4: Comprehensive Plans for Flood Management

Member states were informed about following observations of Parliamentary Standing Committee made by it in its Report:

- The Parliamentary Standing Committee observed that information regarding status of implementation of Comprehensive plans is not forthcoming from States despite several efforts by GFCC.
- MoWR also requested six severely flood-affected Ganga basin States, viz. Bihar, U.P., West Bengal, Jharkhand, H.P. and Uttarakhand to constitute Implementation Committees to ensure time-bound implementation of recommendations of Comprehensive Plans.
- Only Bihar and West Bengal have set up Implementation Committees so far.

After deliberations, it was decided that the other four Member States namely shall form Implementation Committee and inform GFCC by 15th April 2014.

(Action: Jharkhand, H.P., Uttarakhand and U.P.)

Item No. 45.18: Central funding for Maintenance of Embankments

Some Member States suggested that the funding for maintenance of embankments and also for afforestation may be provided by the Centre as the States are not providing sufficient funds for the same. The States were informed that the provision of above works is not included in Flood Management Programme.

Item No.45.19: Presentations by States of Bihar, U.P., W.B. and Uttarakhand

After discussion on the above Agenda Items, representatives of Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and Uttarakhand made brief power point presentations on flood management issues related to their States. In the presentations, they have highlighted the various flood management works carried out in their respective States under the Flood Management Programme and difficulties involved in implementation of the Schemes.

In his concluding remarks, Chairman, GFCC sought the corporation of States and requested them to take follow up action on various issues as decided in the Meeting and ensure the compliance to time schedule agreed for various activities.

Member (coordination), GFCC presented the vote of thanks.

Meeting ended with thanks to the Chair
