

1/15/2001

## Minutes of the First Meeting of the Joint Committee on the Kosi and Gandak Projects

The first meeting of the Joint Committee on the Kosi and Gandak Projects (JCKGP) was held from 24<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> December, 2001 in Kathmandu, Nepal. The Nepalese delegation was led by Mr. S. P. Sharma, Director General, Department of Irrigation, His Majesty's Government of Nepal and the Indian delegation was led by Mr. M. A. Rahman, Engineer-in-Chief, Water Resources Department, Government of Bihar, India. The list of the delegates is given in Annex-1.

In the beginning of the meeting, Mr. S. P. Sharma welcomed the Indian delegates and introduced his team members. In his welcome address, the Nepalese Team Leader highlighted co-operation between the friendly neighbouring countries citing several examples of treaties and agreements of the past. He further noted several outstanding issues on the Kosi and Gandak Projects. Most of the issues could not be discussed and sorted out in the past, because meetings of the respective coordination committees could not be held regularly. The Nepalese Team Leader also explained the background of the formation of the JCKGP.

Replying to the welcome address of the Nepalese Team Leader, the Indian Team Leader Mr. M. A. Rahman expressed his thanks for the warm welcome and hospitality extended to him and his team members. He introduced the members of the Indian delegation. In his address, the Indian Team Leader expressed the hope that the committee would facilitate the solution of long standing issues on the Kosi and Gandak Projects.

The delegates of both sides discussed and finalised the agenda items for the meeting, which are listed in Annex-2. The itemwise discussion and decisions are listed below.

### 1. Finalisation of Terms of Reference

The Terms of Reference prepared by both the countries were presented in the meeting. After discussion, the Terms of Reference for the JCKGP was finalised, which is given in Annex-3.

### 2. Operation and Maintenance (O&M) of Infrastructures

#### 2.1 Kosi Project

##### 2.1.1 *Security and Protection of Kosi Project Area*

The Indian side brought to the notice of the joint committee regarding security related matters namely, unauthorised fishing in the vicinity of barrage area and theft of materials, damage to the canal facilities and assault on the project staff. The Nepalese side took into notice the issue and assured the Indian side that it would pursue the matter through the concerned authorities. Arrangements shall be made to issue pass with photographic identification to the permanent staff of the Kosi Project to enter into sensitive areas including reserve forest area for O&M. Arrangement for issuing the pass to seasonal staff would be made as and when required. The liaison office of the Kosi Project, Biratnagar and the Eastern Regional Irrigation Directorate would coordinate with the security authorities in Nepal for issuing the

SA

✓

1/15/2001

## 2.2 Gandak Project

### 2.2.1 *Unauthorised Occupation of Acquired and Chart Lands of the Project by Local Villagers*

The Indian side brought to the notice of the joint committee that the right guide bund of the Gandak barrage had been encroached by the local people, who had constructed small structures over it and use the space to run their shops and other activities. They also created problems in smooth and proper operation of barrage gates and often created problems during nights. The Indian side further noted that similar situation was found on the Gandak Main Western Canal Banks between R.D. 2.5 and R.D. 6.8. The Nepalese side took into notice the issue and assured the Indian side that it would pursue the matter through the concerned authorities.

### 2.2.2 *Drainage Problem on the Main Western Canal (MWC) of Gandak Project in Nepalese Territory and the Problem of Frequent Cutting of MWC Banks by the Local Villagers*

The Indian side brought to the notice of the joint committee that there had been increasing tendency of local Nepalese villagers to cut the MWC on one pretext or the other. They further noted that the local villagers had been offering resistance to the men engaged at the repair works. Such activities were frequent during Khariff season and there had been instances of cutting of MWC at RD 9.5, 11.8 and 56 by local people causing large scale dislocation in Khariff irrigation activities in Gandak command area in UP and Bihar. The Nepalese side stated that the root cause of the problem was blocking of the floodwater flow. The Nepalese side further stated that out of the four cross drainage works in MWC from RD 0.0 to RD 47, the siphon near RD 43 was damaged and plugged by the project authority. The remaining three siphons near RD 6, 16, and 24 were not cleared regularly as agreed in earlier meetings. The drainage channels downstream of these siphons were not cleared. As a result, floodwater inundates a large area in between MWC and Nepal Western Canal. The canal near RD 56 of MWC breached long ago. The breaches were due to floodwater overtopping the bank of MWC caused by choking closure of siphons.

Regarding the opening at RD 9.5 and 11.8, the Nepalese side requested to construct inlet structures near RD 9 and 12 of MWC for the solution to the inundation problem of the area. The Nepalese side also requested to reopen the siphon near RD 43 of MWC. The Indian side stated that regular cleaning of siphons was being undertaken, but the siphons tended to get resilted due to high silt load during monsoon. The joint committee decided that the Indian side would continue to clear the siphons, excavate drainage channels downstream of the siphons to the required shape and size up to the outfall. The closure of the canal cuts at RD 9.5 (right), 11.8 (right) and 56 (left) should be carried out simultaneously while the Nepalese side would coordinate to resolve the problem with the local people.

### 2.2.3 *Water Supply to the Nepal Eastern Canal*

The Nepalese side brought to the notice of the joint committee that the Nepal Eastern Canal was not getting its rightful share of 850 cusecs discharge from the Don Branch Canal. The Indian side produced the recent discharge records of the Nepal Eastern Canal Head Regulator from the Don Branch Canal. The joint committee decided to assign the Contact Officers for periodic joint observations of the discharge measurements. The Contact Officers for the

#### 4.1.2 *Due Payment of Land Tax*

The Nepalese side brought to the notice of the joint committee that an amount of IRs. 1,132,410.36 to cover the land tax in the Kosi Project and IRs. 1,594,226.94 of the Gandak Project were due from the Government of India from 1987. The Indian side requested for the further details.

#### 4.2 Gandak Project

##### 4.2.1 *Flood Control and Compensation for the Damaged Crops*

The Nepalese side brought to the notice of the joint committee that due to the construction of MWC and blocking of drains there had been inundation problems every year on the right side of the canal. The compensation for the damaged crops amounting to NRs. 839,038.45 due to inundation in 1993 has not yet been paid. Crop compensation of submergence of 88 bighas of land near RD 25 in 2001 evaluated by a joint team is required to be fixed. The Indian side assured the joint committee that would look into the matter and take necessary action at the earliest.

#### 5. Purchase/Lease of Land for the Kosi and Gandak Project Liaison Office

The Indian side requested the Nepalese side for purchasing or leasing of necessary land for the Kosi and Gandak Project Liaison Office in Kathmandu. The Nepalese side stated that the matter would be taken up in line with the legal provision of the Kingdom of Nepal through the proper channel of His Majesty's Government of Nepal.

#### 6. Exemption of Custom Duty on Personal Effects of the Officers of the Kosi and Gandak Project Liaison Office

The Indian side requested to provide custom facilities to the Indian staff working in the Kosi and Gandak Project Liaison Office in Kathmandu on the lines of facility extended to the staff of Embassy of India. The Nepalese side stated that the matter could be considered if the request were made through the Embassy of India through diplomatic channel.

Signed on December 26, 2001 in Kathmandu



(Mr. S. P. Sharma)  
Director General  
Department of Irrigation  
His Majesty's Government of Nepal



(Mr. M. A. Rahman)  
Engineer-in-Chief  
Water Resources Department  
Government of Bihar, India

**Annex 1-A****List of Delegates from Nepal**

- |    |                                                                                       |                  |
|----|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|
| 1. | Mr. S. P. Sharma, Director General, Department of Irrigation                          | Team Leader      |
| 2. | Dr. U. N. Parajuli, DDG, Planning Div., Department of Irrigation                      | Member-Secretary |
| 3. | Mr. K. P. Timilsena, Director, Eastern Regional Irrigation Directorate,<br>Biratnagar | Member           |
| 4. | Mr. S. B. Regmee, Director, Western Regional Directorate,<br>Pokhara                  | Member           |
| 5. | Mr. A. K. Jha, Chief, District Irrigation Office, Sunsari,                            | Member           |
| 6. | Mr. H. N. Jha, Chief, District Irrigation Office, Saptari                             | Member           |
| 7. | Mr. J. L. Karna, Chief, District Irrigation Office, Nawalparasi                       | Member           |
| 8. | Mr. S. S. Shrestha, Ministry of Water Resources                                       | Member           |
| 9. | Mr. M. S. Paudel, DDG, River Training Division,<br>Department of Irrigation           | Special Invitee  |

SR

✓

## **Agenda of the First Meeting of the Joint Committee on the Kosi and Gandak Projects**

- 1. Finalisation of Terms of Reference**
- 2. Operation and Maintenance (O&M) of Infrastructures**
  - 2.1 Kosi Project
    - 2.1.1 *Security and Protection of Kosi Project Area*
    - 2.1.2 *Operation and Maintenance of Kosi Project Area*
    - 2.1.3 *Royalty Custom Duty, etc. for Supply of Boulders*
    - 2.1.4 *Erosion of Flood Embankments on Upstream as well as Downstream Sides of the Kosi Barrage*
    - 2.1.5 *Operation of Gates in Western Main Canal (WMC) for Supplying Water to Kosi Western Main Canal of Nepal and Maintaining Full Supply Level in the Canal*
  - 2.2 Gandak Project
    - 2.2.1 *Unauthorised Occupation of Acquired and Chart Lands of the Project by Local Villagers*
    - 2.2.2 *Drainage Problem on the Main Western Canal (MWC) of Gandak Project in Nepalese Territory and the Problem of Frequent Cutting of MWC Banks by the Local Villagers*
    - 2.2.3 *Water Supply to the Nepal Eastern Canal*
    - 2.2.4 *Maintenance of Service Road and Sections of MWC*
    - 2.2.5 *Maintenance of Design Pond Level at the Head Regulator of Nepal Western Canal (NWC)*
- 3. Administrative Issues**
  - 3.1 Number of Staff in the Liaison and Land Acquisition Offices
  - 3.2 Salary, Allowances and Facilities for the Employees
  - 3.3 Staff Quarters, Vehicles and Administrative Expenditures
  - 3.4 Hindi Language Certificate
  - 3.5 Reimbursement of Administrative Expenditures in Kosi Project
- 4. Land Compensation**
  - 4.1 Kosi Project
    - 4.1.1 *Outstanding Compensation of Land*
    - 4.1.2 *Due Payment of Land Tax*
  - 4.2 Gandak Project
    - 4.2.1 *Flood Control and Compensation for the Damaged Crops*
- 5. Purchase/Lease of Land for the Kosi and Gandak Project Liaison Office**
- 6. Exemption of Custom Duty on Personal Effects of the Officers of the Kosi and Gandak Project Liaison Office**



## Annex -4

### Members of Sub-Committee on Kosi Project

#### Members from Nepal:

- |                                                                  |             |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| 1. Director, Eastern Regional Irrigation Directorate, Biratnagar | Team Leader |
| 2. Chief, District Irrigation Office, Saptari                    | Member      |
| 3. Chief, District Irrigation Office, Sunsari                    | Member      |
| 4. Representative, Department of Irrigation                      | Member      |

#### Members from India:

- |                                                                                     |             |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| 1. Chief Engineer, WRD, Government of Bihar, Birpur                                 | Team Leader |
| 2. Superintending Engineer, Barrage Circle, Birpur                                  | Member      |
| 3. Executive Engineer, Headworks Division, Birpur                                   | Member      |
| 4. Superintending Engineer, Flood Control and Monitoring Circle,<br>WRD, GOB, Patna | Member      |

5/2

