

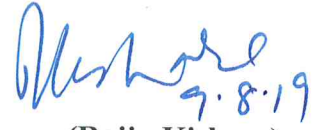
No. Admin-01/2016-17/595/NMCG
Government of India
Ministry of Jal Shakti
National Mission for Clean Ganga

1st Floor,
Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium,
India Gate, New Delhi-110002

Dated: 09.08.2019

Sub: - Minutes of 4th meeting of the Empowered Task Force (ETF) on River Ganga.

Please find enclosed the minutes of 4th Meeting of Empowered Task Force (ETF) on River Ganga held on 22nd July, 2019 at 2:30 pm in NMCG office, New Delhi for information and necessary action.


9.8.19

(Rajiv Kishore)
Executive Director (Administration)
Contact No.: 011-23049440

To,

1. PS to Union Minister for Jal Shakti;
2. PS to Union Minister of State for Jal Shakti;
3. Secretary, Department of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation;
4. Secretary, Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance-Member, ex-officio;
5. Chief Executive Officer, Niti Ayog-Member, ex-officio;
6. Chief Secretary, Govt. of Uttrakhand-Member, ex-officio;
7. Chief Secretary, Govt. of Uttar Pradesh-Member, ex-officio;
8. Chief Secretary, Govt. of Bihar-Member, ex-officio;
9. Chief Secretary, Govt. of Jharkhand-Member, ex-officio;
10. Chief Secretary, Govt. of West Bengal-Member, ex-officio;
11. Chief Secretary, Govt. of Madhya Pradesh.
12. Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare;
13. Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forests & Climate Change;
14. Secretary, Department of Drinking Water & Sanitation;
15. Secretary, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs;
16. Secretary, Ministry of Tourism,
17. Secretary, Ministry of Culture.

Copy to: -

PS to DG, NMCG & all Executive Directors, NMCG.

No. Admin-01/2016-17/595/NMCG

Minutes of the meeting of 4th Empowered Task Force (ETF) held on 22.07.2019 under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat.

The 4th meeting of ETF started with the welcome of Hon'ble Minister, Shri Gajender Singh Shekhawat and Hon'ble Minister of State, Shri Ratan Lal Kataria by DG, NMCG in the Conference Hall of NMCG.

Welcoming the members present for the meeting DG, NMCG started with the presentation. At the outset, he explained the background of ETF, its constitution, role and function, etc. Hon'ble Minister sought to know that amongst those present, how many of them were Members? He expressed his deep anguish that a number of the Members were not present in person and had sent their representatives. He stated, such dilution at the top leads to dilution of the whole system and ultimately the responsibility gets dumped on shoulders of the Collectors, who are not available to deliver, because of being overburdened.

The agenda items were taken up with permission of the Chairman,

Agenda item no. 1:

The minutes of the last meeting were confirmed as no comments have been received.

Agenda item no. 2:

The status of convergence activities with agencies were discussed:

Ministry of Agriculture:

DG, NMCG explained that sustainable agriculture is an important component of Ganga Basin Management Plan and much required for Ganga rejuvenation. Agriculture sector can contribute towards both Nirmal Dhara through prevention of run-off of chemical fertilizers and pesticides from agricultural fields to river and other water bodies and Aviral Dhara through improving water use efficiently in agriculture and other demand-side managements. Agriculture Dept. has initiated some clusters of organic farming, but as pointed out by the Chairperson, these are very small in size and in order to have impact, a decision should be taken to make organic farming mandatory in belt of say 10 to 20 kms. along Ganga, for which, the states have to be motivated and take lead.

Presence of the Chief Secretaries in the meeting would have led to fruitful discussions on this issue. Chairperson asked meeting to be held with Secretary, Agriculture, Government of India and all the states for considering to develop a scheme with 25% funding under RKVY compulsory in the Ganga basin with States making matching contribution of 25%. The representative from Agriculture Dept. stated that Rs. 55 cr. had been sanctioned under RAFTAR scheme for Namami Gange. Chairperson stated that fixed timeline should be drawn with Chief Secretaries and Agriculture Secretary in this regard. He wanted, the farmers to be incentivized to take up organic farming for which, the states should take lead. Much needs to be done in the sector for improving water-use efficiency and saving water in agriculture sector. Jal Shakti Abhiyan is giving momentum in this endeavor. Special attention for both aspects needs to be given to Ganga Grams.

Ministry of Ayush:

DG, NMCG informed regarding the progress of medicinal plantation in collaboration with Ministry of Ayush. Chairperson emphatically stated that convergence means contribution of resources by the line Ministries, he said that there should be cluster based approach, which should be linked with Ganga and agro forestry along Ganga should be promoted strongly.

Ministry of Rural Development:

DG, NMCG explained that NMCG has been working for over a year with Ministry of Rural Development for development & rejuvenation of water bodies in Ganga districts and data has been called for from DMs as per prescribed format. It was proposed to have convergence of these interventions with State Plans. Chairperson directed that all such schemes should be appraised by independent 3rd party also.

Indian Oil Corporation Ltd:

The agreement regarding buy back of treated water by IOCL was explained.

Chairperson wanted to know what was the possibility of replicating such partnership in other projects. Secretary, WR,RD&GR stated that presently the scheme is mostly directed towards the thermal power plants in Govt. sector. Chairperson observed that industry in general should start using treated water on their own or it would have to be done under judicial directions. We should develop framework for reuse of treated water by industry.

Ministry of Youth Affairs:

Secretary, WR,RD&GR observed that funds had been released to NYKS more than two years ago, but it has made little progress.

DG, NYKS present in the meeting stated that the recruitment process had been put in motion and the coordinators would be in place by 15th August, 2019. Chairperson questioned the projects of NMCG funding to the line Ministries for the activities. He again reiterated the need for genuine convergence, where line ministries invest their resources. He said that there should be a matching contribution by NMCG and collaborating partners.

Chairperson suggested that NSS and NCC should also be involved. DG, NYKS agreed stating he heads NSS too.

Ministry of Human Resources & Development:

Explaining the concept of the scheme, DG, NMCG stated that the potential of the scheme was much bigger than what had been implemented. Secretary, WR,RD&GR wanted to know the progress of developing education material. Executive Director (Administration) informed that West Bengal had developed their education material and completed the assigned task. Hon'ble Minister desired bigger push to such schemes, which can help change the mindset and he wanted effective collaboration to be done with M/o HRD and schools for not only Ganga, but management of natural resources in the whole country. DG, NMCG informed that we had recently organized a Ganga Quiz and Ganga Bal Mela which had generated lot of interest amongst children.

Department of Drinking Water & Sanitation:

Secretary, DWS explained the concept of ODF and ODF plus being implemented by his Department. He stated that the work had taken off in Uttarakhand, but was lagging in other states. Chairperson desired that SLWM work in the 4465 Ganga villages should be made as a role model for development of ideal villages all over the country and accordingly top priority should be given to this task.

Secretary, WR,RD&GR informed that the idea was also to develop these villages holistically and towards this end NMCG had provided funds for ODF and SLWM works for all Ganga villages.

Secretary, DWS inform that they would be providing funds now for development of the Ganga Grams.

On being told that no one from Bihar, SPMG was present in the meeting, because of State Ganga Committee being held on some day, Hon'ble Minister questioned that why could not the SGC meeting be held on a different day? He said he would write to Chief Minister, Bihar and asked Secretary, WR,RD&GR to write to Chief Secretary, Bihar stating the system would be unworkable in future, if this state of affairs continues. He observed that there was no commitment from Government of Bihar and West Bengal. Chairperson desired these issues to be brought up in the National Ganga Council to be held soon under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Prime Minister.

Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEF & CC):

Secretary, WR,RD&GR asked for priority to be given to plantation along Ganga under the CAMPA fund by the state under Ministry of MoEF&CC. Representative from the MoEF&CC also confirmed that their Ministry has accepted this and has called for AOP from State Forest Department. It was informed that MoEF&CC has asked Indian Council of Forest Research and Education to undertake preparation of DPRs for other major rivers in the country for river rejuvenation through forestry interventions on the lines under 'Namami Gange' for Ganga.

Agenda item no. 3:

Action taken note:

The issue of house service connection, which was discussed in great detail in the last ETF meeting was reviewed with PD, SMCG, UP. Secretary, DWS, Uttarakhand informed regarding the sewerage project taken up under the agreement with KFW for Haridwar and Rishikesh. Chairperson wanted that all schemes should be completed in time for next Kumbh to be celebrated at Haridwar. I & D work and STPs would be completed this year and sewerage network is a long-term agenda. DG, NMCG pointed out regarding the poor condition of municipal solid waste in Haridwar.

Chairperson stated that the Prayagraj Kumbh had set a very high bench mark and anything less would call for extreme criticism, so Uttarakhand has to plan very well for Kumbh.

Chairperson asked PD, SPMG, UP to look into the issue of environmental clearance for CETP.

DG, NMCG informed regarding the Dashboard being put in place at NMCG. Secretary, WR, RD&GR sought to know the position in the states. Hon'ble Minister said that all states should have their own dashboards.

DG, NMCG gave an over view of the projects under 'Namami Gange'. A total of 299 projects at a cost of Rs.28,534 crores have been taken up under 'Namami Gange'. It was explained that right from the beginning allocation of Rs.20,000 crores was made for the mission period i.e. 2015-December, 2020. The expenditure (as on 30th June, 2019) has been Rs.7222.98 crores. Against this allocation, the expenditure is likely to reach Rs.11,000 crores by December, 2020. It is also to be noted that as a policy decision while 'Namami Gange' was approved with long-term operation and maintenance (15 years), it was included in the project cost which implies that liability on operation and maintenance would go beyond the mission period. Further, in 2016 Cabinet also approved a policy decision of using Hybrid Annuity Mode for sewerage infrastructure for ensuring performance-based contracts and improving sustainability. This implies that part of the construction cost would also be paid in 15-year annuity. JS&FA informed that he has asked for future liability from NMCG, which would part of projection of expenditure. It was decided that in due course, these projections should be worked out along with estimating the future requirements for different sectors of interventions for meeting the overall objective of rejuvenation of Ganga and its tributaries and then action should be initiated for getting the required sanctions of competent authority. This, however, should not adversely affect the pace of works/projects under 'Namami Gange'.

Chairperson concluded by saying that Ganga's cleanness is a continues process and as new habitations and colonies come up along the river, there will be new pollution source and need for addressing them. Ganga will continue even after us. He asked for required proposal to be prepared for Cabinet.
