

Government of Water Resources

Department of Water Resources

No. 5788 /WR
Irr-I-WB-4/06

Dt.26.02.07

RESOLUTION

Sub: River Basin Organisation

Scarcity of water is becoming a global issue and India is no exception to it. The situation in Orissa is a little more favourable than in many other Indian states. However, it is high time the state put its water resources management on a sustainable track. In the post independence era, till early nineties irrigation development concentrated on expanding the area covered by water delivery systems. But the National Water Policy 2002 as well as the State Water Policy give utmost importance to Water Resources Planning, Institutional mechanism to support it and Water allocation priorities along with other provisions. The National and State Water Policy has clearly indicated that Water Resources Planning should be under taken considering the river basin as a unit and institutional mechanism appropriate to river basin planning should be established taking into account all water uses including irrigation. Accordingly the State Water Plan has been formulated with an aim to conceptualize Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM), which is defined as "a process which promotes the coordinated development and management of water, and related resources in order to achieve economic and social welfare objectives using participating and equity criteria but without compromising the sustainability of natural ecosystems". The institutional integration and convergence of different uses of water has been felt necessary at different levels of governance and administration.

Basing on the above, Government of Orissa have approved the concept of a multidisciplinary organization i.e. River Basin Organisation (RBO) to plan and monitor (oversee) all water related activities in river basins.

The structure of RBO will be a two-tier one with a Board and a council. The board will be a professional body with responsibility to plan development of water resources in the basin and the Council will be a body of stake holders to deliberate on action plans put up by the Board and accord necessary approval. The Chief Engineer and Basin Manager of the Basin will be the Member Secretary of the Council an also the Board. The Member Secretary will have one RBO cell to provide technical and other inputs to the Board.

The detailed arrangement of RBO indicating the structure, functions and power is appended herewith.

ORDER: Ordered that this Resolution be published in the next issue of the Orissa Gazette and a copy of the same may be sent to all Departments / Heads of Departments / Secretary to Governor.

By Order of the Governor

Sd/-
(Aurobindo Behera)
Principal Secretary to Govt.

Department of Water Resources
RIVER BASIN ORGANISATION

1.0 The Organization:

River basins have been recognized as the basic unit in water planning. Increasing demand on water, resulting in scarcity has forced us to adopt Integrated Water Resources Management as the basic objective of water planning. All Water related activities in river basin are to be planned and over seen by one single multidisciplinary organization i.e. River Basin Organization (RBO).

2.0. Structure of RBO

There will be two-tier arrangement for RBO a Board and a Council. The Board will be a professional body, which will be responsible to plan development of water resources in the basin. It will consist of the professionals in water related activities within a particular River Basin/Sub-Basin.

The Council will be a body of stake holders in the water sector in the basin. The council will deliberate on the action plans and project put up by the Board and accord necessary approval. The Council may also require the Board to study different aspects and problems relating to water within the basin and come up with various solutions.

The Composition of RBO may be as under:

I. **Council:** The council shall comprise of stakeholders in water sector with a maximum of 25 members.

Chairman: Minister/Minister of State, Water Resources for large basins. For smaller basin Chairman may be nominated by Deptt. of Water Resources.

Members:

- Members of Parliament (Loka Sabha) of the Basin area.
- Member of Legislative Assembly of the Basin Area.
- Chair Persons of Zilla Parishads.
- R.D.C.
- District Collectors.
- 2 NGOs working within the basin on Water Sector to be nominated by Govt. in Department of Water Resources.
- 4 Presidents of Apex Societies/Distributory Committees formed under the Pani Panchayat Act to be selected by Govt. in Department of Water Resources for a period of two years in rotation.

Special Invitees:

- District Level Officers of the Line Departments will be special invitees.

Member Secretary:

Chief Engineer & Basin Manager of the Basin

II. **Board:** The Composition of the Board may be as under:-

Chairman: Principal Secretary/ Secretary of Water Resources for large Basins. For Small basins officer of suitable rank may be nominated by Department of Water Resources.

Members: (One Officer in the rank of S.E/Deputy Director from the following organizations working under the jurisdiction of the basin).

- (1) Public Health
- (2) R.W.S.S.
- (3) Minor Irrigation
- (4) G.W.S.I.
- (5) Agriculture
- (6) Water Shed Mission
- (7) O.S.P.C.B.
- (8) Hydrology
- (9) Lift Irrigation
- (10) Industries
- (11) Fisheries
- (12) Energy
- (13) Revenue & D.M.

Member Secretary: Chief Engineer & Basin Manager of the basin.

RBO Cell: The Member Secretary will have an RBO Cell which shall provide technical and other inputs to the Board for discharging its functions and powers and to ensure the implementation of the decisions.

The Cell will function in the office of the Chief Engineer & Basin Manager of the Basin. The staffing will be as follows:

- (1) Executive Engineer – 1
- (2) Assistant Engineer – 2
- (3) Junior Engineer – 1
- (4) Steno-cum- Junior Clerk – 1
- (5) Peon -2.

3.0 Functions & Power of River Basin Organizations:

3.1 Functions:

- (a) The objective of RBO is to ensure Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) in the basin, RBO is an organization of all stake holders department in the basin and will bring in co-ordination of their activities with a view to resolving conflicts and avoid duplication among them for achieving maximum results in respect of the measures undertaken by them.
- (b) In order to achieve the above objective, the RBO shall within one year of its formation prepare ten years perspective action plans for
 - (i) Conservation, management and optimum utilization of water resources of the rivers and ground water for drinking water supply, irrigation, drainage, hydroelectric power, industrial water supply, flood control, navigation, pisciculture etc.
 - (ii) Promotion of afforestation and control of soil erosion for the catchment of river to prevent sedimentation reservoirs and recharge ground water.
 - (iii) Prevention of pollution of the surface and ground water of the basin.
 - (iv) Mitigation and prevention of drought
 - (v) Development of crop plan for irrigation projects and for rain fed areas.
 - (vi) And such other matters as may prescribed.

The member of the Board shall consult and take into the account the policies, schemes and guidelines of the concerned Departments in Government. The perspective plans prepared by the RBOs shall be approved by WRB and shall be the blue print of development of water resources in the basin.

- a. The RBO will finalize allocation of water to various stake holders in the basin for approval by Water Resources Board.
- b. The disputes relating to water among the various stake holders within the basin will be resolved by the RBO.
- c. All New projects in the water related activities including afforestation and soil conservation to be taken up by any Department in the basin will have to be placed before the RBO and its comments taken into considerations before administrative approval is accorded to the Project.
- d. The State Water Resources Board is the highest organization in the State for policy and principles on water development. Orissa Water Planning Orgainsation (OWPO) functions as its secretariat and is responsible for preparation and updating of the basin plans of the State. The OWPO shall submit the draft Basin Plans, when prepared, to the RBO and modify the draft as per comments of RBO before putting up to WRB for approval.

- e. The RBO may perform such other matter which is supplemental, incidental or consequential to any of the above functions as may be decided by Government from time to time.

3.2 Power:

For the purpose of efficiently performing its functions every RBO may within its area of operation may

- (a) cause to be inspected any work undertaken in the basin by any Department.
- (b) collect such topographical, meteorological, hydrological, agronomical and sub-soil water data as it deems necessary
- (c) cause any Deptt. to furnish such information as the RBO may require in relation to its functions,
- (d) any other matter as may be necessary to perform the functions effectively.

4.0 Funding:

There will be no separate funding from the Govt. to carry out development works in the basin. The line departments will execute the projects/activities as provided in their budget. The expenses of the RBO will be met from the budget of Department of Water Resources.
