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(i)

**COMPOSITION OF THE DEPARTMENTALLY RELATED
STANDING COMMITTEE ON DEVELOPMENT (B)
DEPARTMENTS, 2022-23**

CHAIRMAN::

1. Shri Ramendra Narayan Kalita, MLA & Chairman.

MEMBERS:

2. Shri Terash Gowalla, MLA & Member
3. Shri Utpal Borah, MLA & Member
4. Shri Sibu Misra, MLA & Member
5. Shri Rupak Sarmah, MLA & Member
6. Shri Kaushik Rai, MLA & Member
7. Shri Taranga Gogoi, MLA & Member
8. Shri Diganta Kalita, MLA & Member
9. Shri Darsing Ronghang, MLA & Member
10. Shri Rupsing Teron, MLA & Member
11. Shri Dharmeswar Konwar, MLA & Member
12. Shri Bharat Chandra Narah, MLA & Member
13. Shri Kamalakhya Dey Purkayastha, MLA & Member
14. Shri Jakir Hussain Sikdar, MLA & Member
15. Shri Nurul Huda, MLA & Member
16. Shri Rekibuddin Ahmed, MLA & Member
17. Shri Pradip Sarkar, MLA & Member
18. Shri Abdur Rahim Ahmed, MLA & Member
19. Smti. Renupoma Rajkhowa, MLA & Member
20. Hafiz Bashir Ahmed, MLA & Member
21. Shri Aminul Islam (Senior), MLA & Member
22. Shri Phanidhar Talukdar, MLA & Member
23. Shri Abdul Aziz, MLA & Member
24. Shri Charan Boro, MLA & Member
25. Shri Manoranjan Talukdar, MLA & Member

OFFICERS, ASSEMBLY SECRETARIAT:

1. Shri Hemen Das, IAS, Principal Secretary,
2. Shri Dulal Pegu, Secretary,
3. Smti. Prativa Teron, Joint Secretary,
4. Shri Samir Das, Under Secretary.
5. Shri Swapan Das, Protocol Officer,
6. Shri Madhab Chetri, Committee Officer,
7. Shri Mahen Chandra Doley, Superintendent,
8. Md. Fakhar Uddin Chowdhury, Committee Officer,
9. Shri Lakhi Nath Mardhi, Assistant Research Officer,
10. Dr. Rosy Saikia, Assistant Language Officer.

(ii)

INTRODUCTION

1. I, as Chairman of the Departmentally Related Standing Committee on Development (B) Departments, Assam Legislative Assembly having been authorized by the Committee to submit the Report on their behalf, present this **NINETEENTH REPORT** on Demands for **Grant No. 51** of the Soil Conservation for the financial year, **2022-23**.
2. Demands for Grant have been examined by the Committee under Rule 260 J (1) (a) of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Assam Legislative Assembly.
3. The Committee took evidence of the representatives of the **Soil Conservation Department** on **23rd March, 2022**.
4. The Draft Report was considered and adopted by the Committee at their sitting held on **26th March, 2022**.
5. The Committee expressed its thanks to the Officials of the **Soil Conservation Department** for placing before them the requisite materials and their considered views in connection with the subjects under consideration.
6. The Committee would also like to place on record it's deep sense of appreciation for the invaluable assistance rendered to the Committee by the Officials of Assam Legislative Assembly Secretariat attached thereto.

Dispur :
Dated 26th March, 2022.

Shri Ramendra Narayan Kalita,
Chairman,
Departmentally Related Standing
Committee on Development (B) Departments,
Assam Legislative Assembly.

REPORT
Chapter – I
Grant No. 51
Soil Conservation

The Departmentally Related Standing Committee on Development (B) Departments received the preliminary status paper and Action Taken Report from Soil Conservation Department on Grant No. 51 where the Department elucidated many more information on Soil Conservation which are as follows-

Soil conservation is the prevention of loss of the top most layer of the soil from erosion or prevention of reduced fertility caused by over usage, acidification, salinization or other chemical soil contamination. Soil conservation Department is one of the most important departments which played a vital role in execution of different works undertaken or to be undertaken by the Government of Assam with a coordination of most important agriculture sectors and allied sectors of Assam. The Land and Water resources together with flora and fauna including all forms of life create a favorable environment for continuance of life forms and maintenance of ecological balance. Soil Conservation Department is engaged for all Soil and Water Conservation measures with a view to control all forms of erosion caused by various factors.

However rapid industrialization and population explosion has taken a heavy roll on the ecological balance. Both land & water resources have been subjected to immense pressure causing land degradation, Floods, Soil erosions, Loss of fertility of Agriculture land, Air & Water pollution etc. which is a matter of concern.

Over the years, the realization has come that for survival of mankind, land & water resources must be managed scientifically for utilization of land on a sustained basis for productive purposes. The Soil Conservation Department is active in this direction and various schemes implemented by the department aims at management of land & water resources on sustained basis for generating income of rural people.

Chapter – II

Grant No 51 (SOIL CONSERVATION)

The Departmentally Related Standing Committee on Development (B) Departments took Grant No.51 of the Budget presented to the House on 16th March, 2022 for the Financial year, 2022-23 for consideration.

The Departmentally Related Standing Committee on Development (B) Departments had made this Report incorporating all the facts and data given in the Budget and preliminary status paper including Action Taken Report furnished by the Soil Conservation Department which are briefly focused below-

- 1.1. While examining the papers and documents received from the concerned Department in respect of Grant No. 51 and budget provision made thereto, the Departmentally Related Standing Committee on Development (B) Departments held the said meeting on 23rd March, 2022 and took oral evidence from the Departmental representatives for discussing all the points raised by the Hon'ble Members of the Committee. At the same time, the Committee considered the Action Taken Report on the recommendation made in its **Eighteenth Report** for the year, 2021-22.

The Budget provision made under Grant No 51 relating to Soil Conservation Department for the financial year 2022-23 is as given under:

	Revenue	Capital	Total (Rupees in Lakhs)
Voted	9268.26	3836.62	13104.88
Charged	00.0	00.0	00.0

Under the following heads, an estimated Budget Allocation has been fixed as shown below :

HEAD OF ACCOUNTS		
2402	Soil & Water Conservation	8789.22
2415	Agricultural Research & Education	479.04
4402	Capital Account	3836.62
Total		13104.88

While discussion the Budget provision for the 2022-23, the Committee found the Budget so allocated comparatively less than the previous Financial Year and there is no clear indication as to why the Budget allocation has been reduced. However, the Committee feels that the Department should communicate with the Finance Department, Assam for necessary Budget provision in order to restrict the hindrances that may arise while performing the function of the Department.

The amount so allocated is presented before the House and is proposed to be spent in the Revenue Expenditure.

The Committee examined the Major & Minor Head of Grant No. 51 and took Oral evidence from the Soil Conservation Departmental representatives. The Soil Conservation Department under Grant No. 51 comprises/incorporates various schemes taken by the Departments for the financial year 2022-23.

1.2 It is well-known to all that Soil Conservation is one of the most important sectors among all the agriculture and allied sectors of Assam. The Land and Water resources together with flora and fauna including all forms of life create a favorable environment for continuance of life forms and maintenance of ecological balance. Soil Conservation Department is engaged for all Soil and Water Conservation measures with a view to control all forms of erosion caused by various factors.

However, rapid industrialization and population explosion has taken a heavy role on the ecological balance. Both land a water resources have been subjected to immense pressure causing land degradation, floods, soil erosions, loss of fertility of agriculture land, air & water pollution etc. which is a matter of concern.

Over the years, it has been realized that for survival of mankind, land & water resources must be managed scientifically for utilization of land on sustained basis for production purposes. The Soil Conservation Department is active in this direction and various schemes implemented by the Department aims for the management of land & water resources on sustainable basis for generating income of rural people.

1.3 Thrust Areas of the Department :

The Departmentally Related Standing Committee on Development (B) Departments has noticed that the following thrust areas for implementation of various schemes have been identified by the Soil Conservation Department:-

- Protection of top fertile Agricultural land from all sorts of Erosion and Land Degradation.
- Improve productivity from Agricultural land by adopting Water Harvesting and Water Distribution Techniques.
- Reclamation of Cultivable Wasteland like Fallow land, Wasteland, Waterlogged areas land affected by sand deposits due to flood etc. by suitable Soil Conservation measures.
- Taking up Soil and Water Conservation Works in degraded “Jhum’ land in order to control Shifting Cultivation in the two hill districts of Assam.
- Nature Conservation & Climate Change adaptation.

1.4 Nature of projects being implemented

Soil Conservation Department is engaged in the implementation of projects for conservation of soil and water, the two most precious natural resources. Various types of works taken up by the Soil Conservation Department are as follows:

- A. Gully Control Project.
- B. Land Development Works.
 - (a) Filed Budding & Contour Bunding;
 - (b) Bench Terracing;
 - (c) Land Development by Drainage;
- C. Protective Afforestation Works.
- D. Water Harvesting Technique.
- E. Stream Bank Erosion Control Project.
- F. Case Crop Development.
- G. Water Distribution Works.
- H. Nature Conservation Works.

IWMP: WDC-PMKSY(erstwhile IWMP) is a programme launched by GOI is being implemented in all districts of Assam since 2009-10.

The programme is designed in multi layer approach to address three core issues.

- 1) To protect, promote preserve ecology and environment
- 2) To enhance soil moisture, water retention and increase Agro-production avenues.
- 3) To sustain livelihood and socio economic upliftment of families/communities living within the watershed areas.

**PERFORMANCE BUDGET OF THE DEPARTMENT
ALLOCATION AND EXPENDITURE UNDER CAPITAL AND REVENUE**

**CAPITAL
(GENERAL AREAS INCLUDING SOPD-G, RIDF, TSP, SCSP AND IWMP CENTRAL
STATE SHARE)**

(Rs in Lakhs)

SL. No.	YEAR	BUDGET ALLOCATION	EXPENDITURE
1	2018-2019	13711.01	9137.975
2	2019-2020	16611.04	11523.5706
3	2020-2021	28019.73	22213.9306
4	2021-2022	18432.48	3754.22 (As on 28/02/2022)

REVENUE (GENERAL AREAS)

SL.NO.	YEAR	BUDGET ALLOCATION	EXPENDITURE
1	2018-2019	4713.04	4123.68
2	2019-2020	6119.95	4323.41783
3	2020-2021	5406.60	4079.82
4	2021-2022	6271.12	3864.8454 (As on 28/02/2022)

A BRIEF NOTE IN RESPECT OF GRANT NO.51

A brief note in respect of Grant No 51 of Soil Conservation Department for both Capital and Revenue comprises with various schemes, were taken up by the Department. Besides, various developmental schemes under SOPD, IWMP & RIDF were also undertaken by the Soil Conservation Department as illustrated below-

PROPOSED BUDGET FOR THE YEAR 2022-23**Rs. In lakhs**

Sl.No.	Head	Proposed Budget 2022-23	Sectoral Allocation 2022-23	Remerks
1	FDR	50.00	50.00	
2.	Soil Survey	0.01	0.01	
3.	Cash Crop Development	0.01	0.01	
4.	Nature Conservation	225.00	80.00	
5.	Building & Approach Road	639.00	250.00	
6.	Protection of Riverine Land	1267.40	170.00	
7.	Protection Afforestation	189.00	50.00	
8.	Wetland Development	385.00	100.00	
9.	Gully Control Project	1001.00	200.00	
10.	Land Development	372.00	49.98	
11.	Land Reclamation & Water Distribution	879.00	75.00	
SOPD-G Total		5007.42	1025.00	
12.	TSP	100.00	80.00	
13.	SCSP	247.00	200.00	
Sub Total		347.00	280.00	
14.	RIDF-SS	95.00	120.00	
15.	RIDF-LS	1805.00	2284.00	
Sub Total		1900.00	2404.00	
16.	IWMP (State Share)	813.90	581.00	
Sub Total		813.90	581.00	
Grand Total		8068.32	4290.00	

REVENUE

Sl.No.	Head	Proposed Budget 2022-23	Sectoral Allocation 2022-23	Remerks
1.	IWMP (Central Share)	7325.09	5225.00	
2.	Salary and Non-Salary	7352.11	6871.24	
Total		14677.20	12096.24	

INFORMATION RELATING TO NEW SCHEMES

It is worth mentioning here that the Soil Conservation Department has adopted some New Schemes for this financial year 2022-23 which are as follows-

During 2021-22, a new scheme has been approved namely “Mitigation of flash flood to reduce sediment and yield at Jotia Sub-watershed in Kahilipara Hills, Guwahati under SOPD-G 2021-22” amounting to Rs. 149.23 Lakh under SOPD-G

The project will protect hill slopes erosion and sedimentation at down stream side of the Kahilipara hills. Proposed RCC catch Water drain will regulate surplus surface runoff and will disposed it to downhill side with safe velocity. Pavers block roads, and brick steps will cover barren land to check erosion. The scientific arrangement of silt pit will arrest silt in desired places without damaging roads and drainage of the localities. Boulder revetment and pitching will conserve the soil erosion in barren slops at vulnerable points.

ACTION TAKEN REPORT

FURNISHED BY THE SOIL CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT ON THE OBSERVATION
AND RECOMMENDATION CONTAINED LAST EIGHTEENTH REPORT OF THE DRSC ON DEVELOPMENT (B)
DEPARTMENTS ON GRANT NO. 51 OF THE BUDGET, 2021-22

Observation & Recommendations	Action taken Report
<p>1. The Departmentally Related Standing Committee on Development (B) Departments observed that the Watershed Committees for Cachar, Karimganj, Hailakandi and even Nalbari Districts have been reconstituted except Nagaon for implementation of Batch-IV projects under PMKSY.</p> <p>The Committee, therefore, recommended that the Soil Conservation Department should have to take initiatives to reconstitute the Watershed Committee for Nagaon District also as early as possible.</p>	<p>The Project under WDC-PKSY Batch-IV had already been completed on 30-09-2021 and the Watershed Committees in this connection have also been dissolved.</p> <p>The DoLR, Govt. of India has sanctioned 29 Nos. of Watershed projects under WDC-PMKSY-2 and execution of these projects, new Watershed Committee will be constituted as per new Guidelines issued by Govt. of India in this regard.</p>
<p>2. The Committee observed that the performance of spending amount sanctioned as per the Supplementary Demands of the Department for taking up various check dams in the light of Jal Shakti Mission initiated by the Government of India was very poor. Therefore, the Committee felt its displeasure for not spending the sanctioned amount for implementing the said projects properly.</p> <p>The Committee, therefore, strongly recommended that the Department concerned should be much more active in spending any sanctioned amount for the purpose of implementing any schemes of Soil or Water Conservation.</p>	<p>In the light of Jal Shakti Mission, During 2021-22, the department has proposed 81 Nos. of projects (including Gully Control Projects, Land Reclamation and Water Distribution Projects, Wetland Dev. Projects & Protection of Riverine Land Projects) amounting to Rs. 1888.361 Lakh. Out of that, as on date the Government has accorded administrative approval 55 Nos. of projects amounting to Rs. 1241.97 Lakh. Tendering is under process for the sanction projects.</p> <p>However, during 2021-22, the Department has developed about 7485.38 hectare with a financial achievement of Rs.1347.37 Lakh till date.</p>
<p>3. The Committee after scrutinizing the papers and other documents furnished by the Department, observed that the Soil Conservation Department had issued A.A. for 13(Thirteen) Nos. of projects under Building & Approach Road but out of these 6(Six) Nos. of Division Office Building and 1(One) No. of Approach Road are going on. In case of the construction of Soil Conservation Training School at Gotanagar as per approved architectural designed, only 25% progress has been achieved and remaining 75% construction works are yet to be done.</p>	<p>As per recommendation of the Committee the Building & Approach Road Works are being expedited and out of 13 (thirteen) Nos. of projects, out of that, as on date 4(four) nos. have completed as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(i) Extension of Range Office Building.(ii) Installation of Lift at DSC Office.(iii) Renovation of Interior work of DSC, Conference Hall.(iv) Construction of APP Road at Gotanagar Leady proposed Training School.

Observation & Recommendations	Action taken Report
<p>The Committee, therefore, opined that speedy progress should be made for the undone works of Buildings & Approach Road. On the other hand the remaining 75% works of construction of Soil Conservation Training School at Gotanagar should be done within a short period as the matter has already been delayed..</p>	<p>The remaining following projects are also under progress:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Construction of Divisional Office, Cachar Division =70% ii) Construction of Divisional Office Building at Eastern Assam Soil Conservation Office complex=65% iii) Construction of Divisional Office Building Lakhimpur Division Complex=15% iv) Construction of Divisional Office, Nalbari Division =15 % v) Renovation of Coffee processing factory APCDC LTD = 70% vi) Renovation Work of And. Building existing building at APCDC LTD = 30% vii) Construction of Divisional Office, Sonitpur Division = 35% viii) Inst. Of Deep Tube well at DSC Office = 0% ix) Const. of Staff Quarter at APCDC Ltd = 0%. <p>For speedy completion of the construction works of Soil Conservation Training School, the Approach Road has been completed 100%/ Now, the works of the Building is going on which is expected to be completed during 2022-23.</p>
<p>4. The Committee discussing with the representatives observed that the Soil Conservation Department had processed for creation of 5(five) New Division at Goalpara, Dhubri, Karimganj, Tinsukia and Sivasagar and the work is still going on</p> <p>The Committee is of the opinion that in addition of the aforesaid 5(Five) nos. of creation of New Division, 8(eight) nos. more Soil Conservation Division are to be created along with required posts in the District of Bajali, Biswanath, Bongaigaon, Charideo, Hailakandi, Hojai, Morigaon, South Salmara and Nagaon wherever necessary.</p>	<p>The Department has taken steps for creation of 13 (thirteen) nos. of new Soil Conservation Divisions as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Goalpara Soil Conservation Division. 2. Dhubri Soil Conservation Division. 3. Karimganj Soil Conservation Division. 4. Tinsukia Soil Conservation Division. 5. Sivasagar Soil Conservation Division. 6. Bajali Soil Conservation Division. 7. Bongaigaon Soil Conservation Division. 8. South Salmara Mancachar Soil Conservation Division. 9. Biswanath Chariali Soil Conservation Division. 10. Charaideo Soil Conservation Division. 11. Hailakandi Soil Conservation Division. 12. Hojai Soil Conservation Division. 13. Morigaon Soil Conservation Division. <p>The Department has already received required NOC from AR & Trg. Department and Personal Department respectively. Now, the file has been endorsed to Finance Department for their views which is now awaiting.</p>

Observation & Recommendations	Action taken Report
<p>5. The Committee observed that the Soil Conservation Department had already taken up protective Afforestation and Nature Conservation Projects during 2020-21 which are going on.</p> <p>The Committee recommended that the Soil Conservation Department should take necessary measure to enlarge the protective afforestation as and where required and accordingly plantation should be done on the basis of requirement.</p>	<p>Protective Afforestation and Nature Conservation Projects will be taken up as per the public demand and effective measures will be taken for success of plantation projects.</p>
<p>6. The Committee observed that the Soil Conservation Department generally implements projects without consulting the local MLA's which may lose the sanctity of the public interests and demands involved therein.</p> <p>The Committee, therefore, recommended that whenever the functions are to be projected or implemented the concerned Divisional officers are asked to consult with the local MLA's at the time of selection of such projects or its implementation as well.</p>	<p>As per recommendation, the Director of Soil Conservation, Assam has instructed to all DSCO's vide letter No. SCM-1/2021-22/1996 dated 11-10-2021 to consult the local MLA's while selection / inauguration & implementation of the Departmental scheme.</p> <p>Accordingly, during 2021-22, most of the projects are prioritized as per recommendation of the Hon'ble Local MLA's/ Ministers.</p>
<p>7. The Committee observed that the Soil Conservation Department has not taken up any action for the implementation of the projects as recommended in serial No. 9, page No. 6 by the Committee in his earlier 17th Report of the Committee.</p> <p>The Committee, therefore, strongly recommended that the Department should re-submit the proposal of Rs. 2000.86 Lakh under RKVY during 2021-22 to Agriculture Department so that the Department could able to obtain the amount as asked for, so that the schemes would be taken up wherever necessary</p>	<p>As per recommendation, the Department has already moved the RKVY proposal amounting to Rs. 2000/00 Lakh to the Agriculture Department consecutively for the last two years but, no fruitful action has been received from their end.</p> <p>The Department has also processed the said proposal amounting to Rs. 2000.00 Lakh to more Agriculture Department for inclusion under RKVY Scheme during 2022-23.</p>

Observation & Recommendations	Action taken Report
<p>8. The Committee observed that the Soil Conservation Department had already taken 2(two) Nos. of project under RIDF-XXV near Kaziranga National Park (i) Mandubey Water Harvesting and Distribution Project amounting to Rs. 132.84 Lakh (ii) Kahora Water Harvesting and Distribution Project amounting to Rs. 119.57 Lakh which are yet to be implemented.</p> <p>The Committee, therefore, opined that the Department should expedite implementation of these projects as early as possible as the progress of such implementations has already been delayed</p>	<p>As per recommendation, the projects under RIDF-XXV near Kaziranga National Park (i) Mandubey Water Harvesting and Distribution project has achieved 75% physical progress till date . It will be completed by September, 2022.</p> <p>The other project namely Kohora Water Harvesting and Distribution Project is going on progress which may be completed by January, 2023.</p>
<p>9. The Committee observed that the Soil Conservation Department has made delay in the preparation of DPR with assistant from IIT (G) the project with "Mitigation of Flash Flood at Gitanagar Hills at Guwahati" project was cancelled during 2019-20.</p> <p>Considering the matter delayed by the Department the Committee recommended that the execution of such type of projects should be done with a speedy manner at (i) Kahilipara Hills (ii) Jyotinagar Hills under Guwahati City which was already surveyed by the Department.</p>	<p>As per recommendation, one project namely "Mitigation flash flood to reduce sediment and Water yield at Jotia Sub-Watershed in Kahilipara Hills, Guwahati under SOPD-G 2021-22" has been proposed to the Government under SOPD-G during 2021-22 with a financial involvement of Rs. 149.25 Lakh and the project has been approved by the Government.</p>

OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS
GRANT NO.51.

After consideration of the papers/documents submitted by the Soil Conservation Department and clarification made by the Departmental representatives during the course of oral evidence the Departmentally Related Standing Committee (DRSC) on Development (B) Departments made the following Observations and Recommendations.

1. The Departmentally Related Standing Committee on Development (B) Departments observed that the Watershed Committees are made throughout the State but their performance are not accountable or up to the mark either. District Officers are not found active in performing their duties. Side visit are not undertaken in time to monitor the ongoing work of the schemes done by the contractors. The Committee also observed that the amount sanctioned as per the Supplementary Demands for implementation of different works allotted to the Soil Conservation Department could not be spent fully or percentage of spending sanctioned amount is comparatively much more lesser.

The Committee, therefore, felt its resentment and strongly recommended that the Department concerned should be more active in spending any sanctioned amount for the purpose of implementation of any schemes of Soil or Water Conservation.

2. The Committee observed that some schemes are taken up by the Department in coordination with Watershed Committees without consultation of local MLA which may have some anomalies in performance and even lose the sanctity of the public interests and demands involved therein.

The Committee, therefore, directed the Department that when selection of any schemes taken up it should be made with due consultation with local MLA.

3. The Committee after discussing with the representatives observed that the Soil Conservation Department has already undertaken some schemes including Rajapani Khanda under Kamrup(M) District, Borno under Nazira District, Lumding in Hojai District and some schemes in Barpeta District which are still remained undone or half done.

The Committee is of the opinion that the Department should have to take initiative to complete all the schemes which have already taken up including the aforesaid schemes as early as possible.

4. The Committee observed that the construction work of Assam Soil Conservation Training School at Gotanagar, Guwahati has not yet been completed as assured by the Departmental representatives and recommended by the Committee in its last 18th Report of the Committee at Sl. No.3, Page No.8.

The Committee felt its dissatisfaction over the matter and strongly recommended that the Soil Conservation Department should take necessary measure to complete the whole construction work of Assam Soil Conservation Training School at Gotanagar, Guwahati at the earliest.

5. The Committee observed that the Soil Conservation Department has failed to take up any action for the implementation of the projects as recommended in serial No. 7, page No. 9 by the Committee in its earlier 18th Report of the Committee.

The Committee, therefore, strongly recommended once again that the Department should re-submit the proposal of Rs. 2000.00 Lakh under RKVY during 2022-23 to the Agriculture Department for obtaining the approval for the sanction of amount as asked for, so that the schemes would be taken up at the earliest.

6. The Committee observed that during the implementation of earlier IWMP projects under WDC-PMKSY 1.0, MLAs were not consulted while constituting the Watershed Committees.

The Committee, therefore, opined that all PIAs for the newly sanctioned projects under WDC-PMKSY 2.1 should consult with the concerned MLA to constitute the Watershed Committees as per the relevant Guideline.

7. The Committee observed that taking up the schemes in Guwahati Hills in the line of “Mitigation of Flash Flood to reduce sediment and water yield Watershed in different Hills, Guwahati under SOPD-G, 2021-22” is required.

The Committee recommended that the Soil Conservation Department should conduct necessary survey in the Durgasarubar area of Santipur hills, Guwahati for the feasibility of taking up of new projects.

8. The Committee observed that some schemes of Soil Conservation Department are urgently required in some areas throughout the state.

Considering the grievances of the matter the Committee recommended that the Soil Conservation Department should conduct necessary survey throughout the State including the areas under Sarukhetri & Lumding LAC for the feasibility of taking up new projects for execution of such schemes with a speedy manner.

9. The Committee observed that in some areas of the State are needed to improve the productivity from Agricultural Land by adopting water Harvesting and water distribution techniques.

The Committee recommended that the Soil Conservation Department should take initiatives to adopt water harvesting and water distribution techniques to improve the productivity from agricultural land including specially the Derapather area and its adjoining all panchayats under Lumding LAC which have been reeling under tremendous crises of water.

10. The Committee also observed that the Soil Conservation Department has not taken up any positive step for rubber growing in some places wherever possible in the State.

Therefore, the Committee recommended that the Soil Conservation Department should take possible measure for rubber growing in possible places including Lumding which have plenty of scope, merely fund inflow is necessary to gear up the works in a systematic manner.

With these observations and recommendations as mentioned aforesaid, the Committee recommends that the Budget provision amounting to Rs. 13104.88 Lakh during the financial year 2022-23 under the grant No. 51 be accepted.

The Action taken on the report may be submitted to the Committee within 90 (ninety) days from the date of presentation of the Report to the House.