

RECORD OF DISCUSSIONS OF THE THIRTIETH MEETING OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON SHARING OF THE GANGA/GANGES WATERS AT FARAKKA BETWEEN INDIA AND BANGLADESH HELD AT FARAKKA AND KOLKATA FROM 23RD TO 27TH FEBRUARY, 2005

1. The Thirtieth Meeting of the Joint Committee on sharing of the Ganga/Ganges waters was held at Farakka and Kolkata from 23rd to 27th February, along with a visit to the joint discharge observation sites near Farakka Barrage.
2. The Indian side was led by Shri M. L. Goyal, Commissioner (ER), Government of India and Member, Indo-Bangladesh Joint Rivers Commission and Chairman, Joint Committee, Indian side and was supported by Shri Ravi Shanker, Deputy Commissioner (ER), Ministry of Water Resources and Member, Joint Committee.
3. The Bangladesh side was led by Mr. Tauhidul Anwar Khan, Member, Indo-Bangladesh Joint Rivers Commission and Chairman of the Joint Committee, Bangladesh side and was supported by Mr. Mir Sajjad Hossain, Director, Joint Rivers Commission and Member, Joint Committee and Mr. Md. Fazlur Rahman, Executive Engineer, Joint Rivers Commission and Member, Joint Committee.
4. Shri M. U. Gahni, General Manager, Farakka Barrage Project, Ministry of Water Resources, Government of India, Shri P. M. Scott, Superintending Engineer, Hydrological Observation Circle, Maithon, Jharkhand, Shri Gaddam Dharmendra, Counsellor (Political), High Commission of India, Dhaka, Bangladesh and Shri A. G. Majumdar, Executive Engineer, Lower Ganga Division, Central Water Commission, Bherhampore also attended the meeting and site visits as special invitees from the Indian side. Mr. Md. Nazrul Islam, Counsellor (Political), Deputy High Commission of Bangladesh in Kolkata attended the meeting and the site visits to Farakka as special invitee from Bangladesh side.
5. The Indian side placed before the Committee cross sections, HVD, VVD, Mass curves for the different sections at RD 1030 m, 1230 m, 1430 m, 1730 m, 1900 m, 2000 m and 2653 m downstream of the Barrage for the Ganga/Ganges and for 535 m, 635 m, 685m and 1850 m downstream of the Head Regulator in the Feeder Canal.
6. The Joint monitoring of flow of the river Ganga/Ganges at Farakka started on 1st January, 2005 at section 1030 m downstream of Farakka Barrage and in the Feeder Canal at section 535 m downstream of Head Regulator.
7. The Joint Committee inspected the discharge observation sites downstream of the Farakka Barrage of the Ganga/Ganges and downstream to the Head Regulator of the Feeder Canal on 24th February, 2005. The Committee during its visit to Farakka observed a number of probable discharge observation sites at 1030 m, 1230 m, 1430 m, 1730 m, 1900 m, 2000 m and 2653 m downstream

of the Barrage of the Ganga/Ganges and at 535 m, 635 m, 685 m and 1850 m downstream of the Head Regulator of the Feeder Canal. The Committee also inspected the Navigation Lock of the Farakka Barrage Project.

8. The Joint Committee closely observed the flow measurements at RD 180 m and 210 m at the cross-section at 1030 m downstream of the Barrage during the field visit. After examination of details and relevant information and on the basis of site inspection on 24th February, 2005, the Committee decided that the joint observations would be continued at the present site i.e. 1030 m downstream of the Farakka Barrage for the Ganga/Ganges. During the visit to the Feeder Canal site the Committee also closely observed flow measurements at RD 112 m and 119 m at the cross-section at 535 m downstream of the Head Regulator of the Feeder Canal. After examination of details related to discharge observation and on the basis of site inspection it was decided by the Joint Committee that discharge observation in the Feeder Canal would be continued at 535 m downstream of its Head Regulator.
9. During discussions in the meeting, the Bangladesh side referred to the flow availability at Farakka during the current dry season till to date and observed that the total availability during the three ten-day periods of January and 1st ten-day period of February were less than the 40 years historical average as shown in Column-2 of Annexure-II of the Ganges Water Treaty, 1996. As a consequence, the Bangladesh share during these ten-day periods were less than the quantum shown in Column-4 of Annexure-II of the Treaty. The Bangladesh side referred to the provisions of article II (ii) of the 1996 Treaty on sharing of the Ganga/Ganges waters and requested the Indian side to do the needful to avoid such occurrences in the future.

The Indian side stated that the provisions of the Treaty are being honoured by India and pointed out that the releases being made to Bangladesh are in accordance with the provisions of the Treaty. In this regard, it should be noted that the schedule enclosed as Annexure-II of the Treaty is only indicative. Since the schedule at Annexure-II is based on the average of total flows over a period of 1949-88, the same cannot be compared with flows during any particular year, as the flows during a particular year depend upon hydrometeorological conditions in that year.

10. The Joint Committee took note that the Second batch of the Indian side comprising Shri S. P. Abraham, Deputy Director, Project Appraisal (North), CWC, New Delhi and Shri S. N. Barman, Assistant Engineer, Office of the Chief Engineer, TBO, CWC, Siliguri has reached Bheramara on 19th February, 2005 and has been participating in the joint discharge observation of the Ganga/Ganges at Hardinge Bridge along with their Bangladesh counterparts from 20th February, 2005. It was also noted by the Joint Committee that the First batch of the four Member Bangladesh Observation Team comprising Messrs Md. Jahid Hossain Jahangir, A. K. M. Wahed Uddin Chowdhury, Abu Musfazur Rahaman and Md. Mahmudur Rahman has been participating in joint daily discharge observation of the Ganga/Ganges downstream of Farakka Barrage

and the Feeder Canal from 1st January, 2005. Shri A. G. Majumdar, Executive Engineer, CWC, Berhampore has been designated as Team leader, Indian side of the Joint Observation Team stationed at Farakka, while Mr. Md. Jahid Hossain Jahangir has been designated as the Team leader from Bangladesh side.

11. The Committee decided to hold its next meeting at New Delhi on mutually convenient dates for finalisation of Annual Report.

Kolkata
26th February, 2005

Sd/-
M. L. GOYAL



Sd/-
TAUHIDUAL ANWAR KHAN

