

RECORD OF DISCUSSIONS OF THE THIRTY EIGHTH (38TH) MEETING OF
THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON SHARING OF THE GANGA/GANGES WATERS AT
FARAKKA BETWEEN INDIA AND BANGLADESH HELD AT KOLKATA
ON 19 MAY, 2008 (INCORPORATING VISIT TO JOINT OBSERVATION SITES
AT FARAKKA ON 18 MAY, 2008)

1. The 38th meeting of the Joint Committee on sharing of the Ganga/Ganges waters was held at Kolkata on 19 May, 2008. The Indian delegation was led by Mr. S. P. Kakran, Commissioner (Ganga), Ministry of Water Resources, Government of India, Member, Indo-Bangladesh Joint River's Commission and Chairman, Joint Committee. The Bangladesh delegation was led by Mr. Mir Sajjad Hossain, Member, Indo-Bangladesh Joint Rivers Commission and Co-Chairman, Joint Committee. The list of participants is given at **Annex-I**. The list of Observation Teams presently stationed for joint observation at Farakka and Hardinge Bridge is given at **Annex-II**.
2. At the outset, the Team Leader of the Indian side welcomed the Bangladesh Team Leader and his delegation. The Bangladesh Team Leader thanked the Indian Team Leader for making excellent arrangements for their stay at Kolkata and Farakka.
3. The joint monitoring of flows of river Ganga/Ganges at Farakka started on 1st January, 2008 at section 1030m downstream of Farakka Barrage and in the Feeder Canal at section 535m downstream of the Head regulator.
4. The Indian side placed before the Committee cross sections, HVD, VVD, Mass curves for different sections at 1030m, 1230m, 1430m, 1730m, 1900m, 2000m and 2653m downstream of the Barrage for the Ganga/Ganges and for 535m, 635m and 1850m downstream of the Head regulator in the Feeder Canal.
5. The Joint Committee inspected the discharge observation sites downstream of the Farakka Barrage of the Ganga/Ganges and downstream of the Head Regulator for the Feeder Canal on 18 May, 2008. The Committee observed a number of probable discharge observation sites at 1030m, 1230m, 1430m, 1730m, 1900m, 2000m and 2653m downstream of the Barrage in the Ganga/Ganges and at 535m, 635m and 1850m downstream of the Head Regulator of the Feeder Canal.
6. The Joint Committee closely observed the flow measurements at RD 200m and 240m at the cross section at 1030m downstream of the Barrage during the field visit. After examination of details and relevant information and on the basis of site inspection, the Committee decided that the joint observations would be continued at the present site i.e. 1030m downstream of the Farakka Barrage for the Ganga/Ganges. During the visit to the Feeder Canal site the Committee closely observed flow measurements at RD 98m, 105m and 112m at the cross section at 535m downstream of the Head Regulator. After examination of details and relevant information and on the basis of site inspection, it was decided by the Joint Committee that discharge observation

7. On the day of Joint visit at Farakka the river discharge at the downstream of Farakka Barrage could not be completed by the Joint Observation Team due to very strong Southern wind and high waves. The discharge as per gate release was found to be 36656 cusec. The discharge at 535m downstream of the Head regulator of the Feeder canal was recorded as 36819 cusec by the Joint Observation Team.
8. The Committee after examination of details and relevant information and on the basis of sites inspection observed with satisfaction that the joint observation site at the section 1030m. downstream of Farakka Barrage in the Ganges and 535m. downstream of the Head Regulator in the Feeder Canal were in conformity with the guidelines for the joint observation at Farakka set out earlier by the Joint Committee. The Committee also examined the data related to daily observation and found that data were collected as per procedure of the Joint Observation at Farakka.
9. The Committee also inspected the Navigation Lock and Control Room of the Farakka Barrage Project. The Committee discussed various aspects of discharge observations at Farakka below the Barrage and the Head regulator. The Committee reviewed the flow availabilities at Farakka during different 10-day periods of the current dry season and sharing procedure followed by the Joint Observation Team at Farakka.
10. During discussions in the meeting, the Bangladesh side referred to the flow availability at Farakka during the current dry season from 1st January, 2008 to 10th May, 2008 and observed that the total flow availability at Farakka during the ten day periods of January, February, March, April and May were less than the 40 years (1949-1988) average availabilities as shown in Column-2 of Annexure-II of the Ganges Water Treaty, 1996. As a consequence, Bangladesh has received less quanta of waters of the Ganges at Farakka than its share as given in the indicative schedule (based on 40 years average flow) in 10 occasions. Bangladesh side also stated that out of total 178 (one hundred seventy eight) 10-day periods from 01 January, 1997 to 10 May, 2008, Bangladesh has received less quanta of waters of the Ganges at Farakka than its share as per 40 years averages flows in 69 (sixty nine) occasions. This has adversely affected the agro-socio-economic condition of the Ganges dependent areas in Bangladesh. The Bangladesh side in this regard referred Article-II(ii) which states that "The indicative schedule at Annexure-II, as referred to in sub para (i) above, is based on 40 years (1949-1988) 10-day period average availability of water at Farakka. Every effort would be made by the upper riparian to protect flows of water at Farakka as in the 40 years average availability as mentioned above". It is evident from the above Article that every effort would be made by the upper riparian (India) to protect the flows at Farakka in each 10-day period as per 40 years (1949-88) average, so that, Bangladesh receives its share at Farakka as per the figures (may be more based on actual availability in that 10-day period at Farakka) given at Annexure-II of the Treaty in each 10-day period. The Bangladesh side enclosed a comparative statement along with graphical representation of flows received by Bangladesh in thirteen 10-day periods (01 January to 10 May, 2008) at Farakka vis a vis its share as per 40 years average flows at Annex-III for reference.

11. The Indian side refuted aforesaid contention of the Bangladesh side and clarified that the flows in a particular year should not be compared with the long term average (flows) of 40 years as the actual flows during a year depends upon hydro- meteorological conditions in that particular year. Provisions of the Treaty-1996 are being honoured by India in letter and spirit; and the releases made so far to the Bangladesh at Farakka in the last 12 years are in accordance with the formula given in the Annexure-I of the Treaty. It was also clarified that the Schedule given at Annexure - II of the Treaty is only indicative as it reads "*If actual availability corresponds to average flows of the period 1949 to 1988, the implication of the formula in Annexure-I for the share of each side is:*". Thus, it would match only in a year when the actual availability of water at Farakka corresponds to the long term average flows of 40 years. Further, a close look of jointly observed flows of last 12 years shows that Bangladesh side has got, in fact, more water than its share as per the Treaty. Based upon 40 years' average flows shown in the Indicative Schedule as per Annexure - II, the **Bangladesh share works out 15.03 Billion Cubic Meter (BCM) only out of total availability of 28.60 BCM** during a year, whereas the Bangladesh has **actually received 16.71 BCM** of water in the last 12 years' period, on an average basis. A comparative statement showing the 12 years' average flows release to Bangladesh at Farakka (during 1997-2008) vis-à-vis 40 years' average flows (1949-88) is enclosed at **Annex-IV** for ready reference.
12. The meeting was held in a cordial and friendly atmosphere. The Joint Committee agreed to undertake its next visit to the Joint Observation site at Hardinge Bridge and hold its 39th meeting at Dhaka during 20-23 May, 2008.

Signed on May 19, 2008 at Kolkata.

Sd/-
(MIR SAJJAD HOSSAIN)
Co-Chairman

Sd/-
(S. P. KAKRAN)
Chairman

ANNEX -I

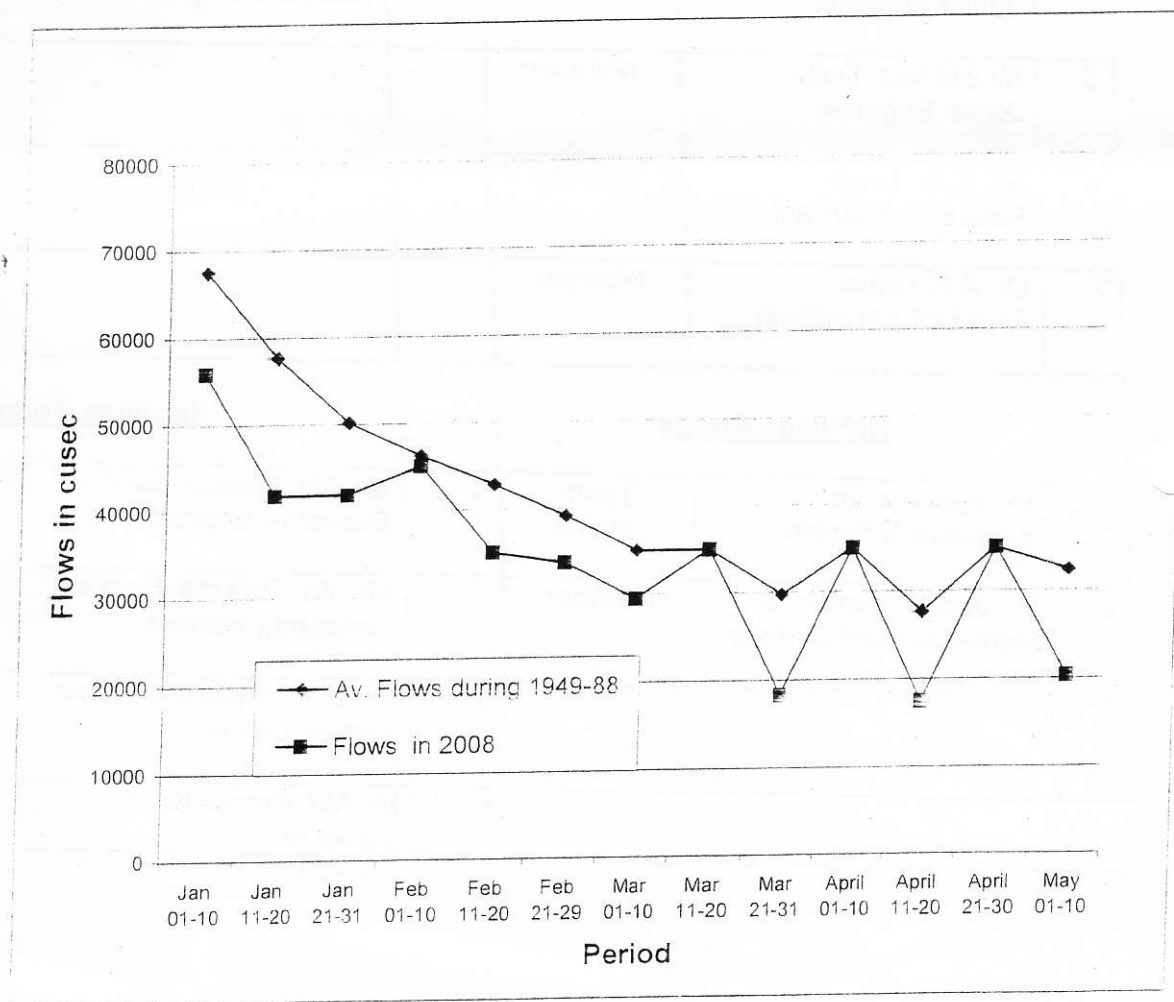
Sl. No.	Indian Delegation		Bangladesh Delegation	
1.	Mr. S. P. Kakran Commissioner (Ganga) and Member, Indo-Bangladesh Joint Rivers Commission	Leader of the Delegation	Mr. Mir Sajjad Hossain Member, Indo-Bangladesh Joint Rivers Commission	Leader of the Delegation
2.	Mr. Ravi Shanker Senior Joint Commissioner (Ganga) Ministry of Water Resources	Member	Mr. Muhammad Imran Deputy High Commissioner Bangladesh Deputy High Commission, Kolkata, India	Special Invitee
3.	Mr. Aseem Mahajan Deputy secretary Ministry of External Affairs	Special Invitee	Mr. Md. Salim Bhuiyan Director, Joint Rivers Commission, Bangladesh	Meml
4.	Mr. Praveen Kumar Deputy Commissioner(Ganga) Ministry of Water Resources	Member	Mr. Md. Mofazzal Hossain Executive Engineer Joint Rivers Commission Bangladesh	Member
5.	Mr. M. K. Saha Executive Engineer Central Water Commission Ministry of Water Resources	Special Invitee		

ANNEX -II

Sl. No.	Indian Observers		Sl. No.	Bangladesh Observers	
	<u>Farakka</u>			<u>Farakka</u>	
1.	Mr. M. K. Saha Executive Engineer	Team Leader	1.	Mr. Md. Jahid Hossain Jahangir Executive Engineer	Team Leader
2.	Mr. A K Hazra Assistant Engineer	Member	2.	Mr. Md. Daulatazzaman Sub-Divisional Engineer	Member
3.	Mr. S C Roy Junior Engineer	Member	3.	Mr. Md. Salim Gazi Sub-Divisional Engineer	Member
4.	Mr. K K Dev Junior Engineer	Member	4.	Mr. Arifuzzaman Khan Assistant Engineer	Member
5.	Mr Bhaskar Datta Junior Engineer	Member			
6.	Mr. P. K. Dhali Research Assistant	Member			
7.	Mr. A K [†] Yadav Assistant Silt Analyst	Member			
	<u>Hardinge Bridge</u>			<u>Hardinge Bridge</u>	
1.	Mr. Ajay Kumar Executive Engineer	Team Leader	1.	Mr. Md. Kabibur Rahman Executive Engineer	Team Leader
2.	Mr. Jacob Cherian. C Extra-Assistant Director	Member	2.	Mr. Md. Tofazzal Hossain Assistant Engineer	Field Team Leader
			3.	Mr. Md. Mofazzal Hossain Section Officer	Member
			4.	Mr. Md. Rezaul Karim Surveyor	Member

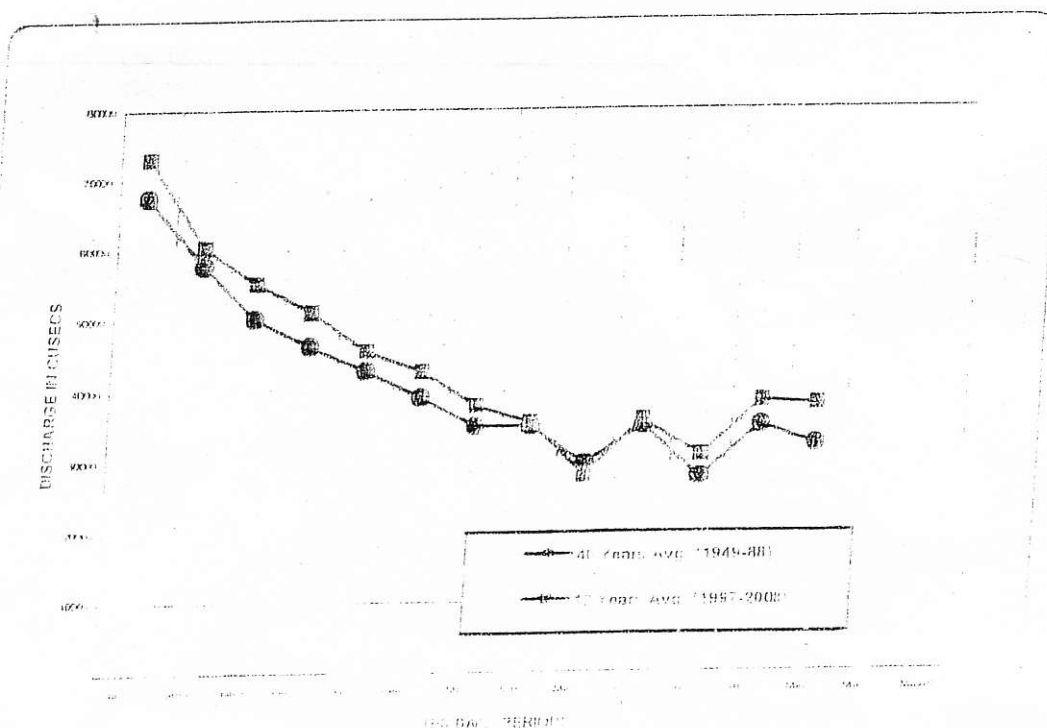
Comparative statement of flows received by Bangladesh at Farakka during 2008 vis-à-vis share of Bangladesh based on average flows of 1949-88

Period		Share of Bangladesh at Farakka based on Average flows during 1949-88 (cusec)	Flows received by Bangladesh at Farakka in 2008 (cusec)
January	Jan 01-10	67516	55883
	Jan 11-20	57673	41785
	Jan 21-31	50154	41813
February	Feb 01-10	46323	45113
	Feb 11-20	42859	35000
	Feb 21-29	39106	33723
March	Mar 01-10	35000	29436
	Mar 11-20	35000	35000
	Mar 21-31	29688	18310
April	April 01-10	35000	35000
	April 11-20	27633	17519
	April 21-30	35000	35000
May	May 01-10	32351	20353



Comparative Statement showing the average flows released to Bangladesh
at Farakka during 1997-2008 vis-a-vis 1949-88

Period	Share of Bangladesh at Farakka based on 40 Years (1949-88) Average Flows at Farakka (in cusecs)	12 Years (1997-2008) Average Flows released to Bangladesh at Farakka (in cusecs)
Jan-I	67516	73098
Jan-II	57673	60305
Jan-III	50154	55184
Feb-I	46323	51162
Feb-II	42859	45625
Feb-III	39106	42705
Mar-I	35000	37919
Mar-II	35000	35558
Mar-III	29688	27989
Apr-I	35000	35806
Apr-II	27633	30793
Apr-III	35000	38382
May-I	32351	37970



VISIT TO JOINT OBSERVATION SITES AT FARAKKA
AND THIRTY EIGHTH (38TH) MEETING OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE



Visit to Joint Observation Site at Farakka Barrage



Exchanging the Records of discussions of 38th Meeting of Joint Committee by Members, JRC