

Preface

India is highly vulnerable to floods. Out of the total geographical area of 329 million hectares, about 45.64 million hectares is flood prone. Floods are a recurrent phenomenon, which cause huge loss of lives and damage to livelihood systems, property, infrastructure and public utilities. As per the report of the Working Group on Flood Control Management Programme (December 2006) for the XI Five Year Plan (2007-2012), on an average, every year, 7.55 million hectares of land is affected, 1,560 lives are lost and the damage caused to crops, houses and public utilities due to floods is estimated at ₹ 1,805 crore.

The Performance Audit on “Schemes for Flood Control and Flood Forecasting” examined whether schemes for flood control and flood forecasting were efficient and effective; and whether the review and oversight mechanisms were effective.

The Performance Audit showed that there were long delays in approval of Detailed Project Reports leading to technical designs becoming irrelevant at the time of actual funding. Flood management works were not taken up in an integrated manner covering entire river/tributary or a major segment of rivers/tributaries. There were delays in completion of the projects under Flood Management Programme. A large number of the telemetry stations installed during the XI plan remained non-functional, as such real time data for most of the period was not available. There were also huge delays in completion of all the projects under River Management Activities and Works related to Border Areas. Emergency Action Plans had been prepared for only a few large dams. Key recommendations of Rashtriya Barh Ayog such as scientific assessment of flood prone areas and enactment of Flood Plain Zoning Act have not materialised. Performance and concurrent evaluation was not done as per scheme guidelines.

We hope that the report prepared for submission to the President of India under Article 151 of the Constitution of India, for being laid before the Parliament, will help in planning and proper implementation of projects under Flood Management Programme, Flood Forecasting, projects under River Management Activities and Works related to Border Areas and taking action for preparation of Emergency Action Plan for Dams.

