

**CHAPTER - IV
EFFICACY OF
STAKEHOLDERS
HANDHOLDING FOR
SUSTAINABILITY OF
THE PROJECT**

Chapter IV

Efficacy of stakeholders handholding for sustainability of the project

4.1 Laxity in compensatory afforestation

It was seen in audit (July 2019) that SIP/LIIP/RRBC/RLBC authorities had deposited an amount of ₹282.93 crore with the Forest Department for catchment treatment plant, canal bank plantation, wild life management, compensatory afforestation and Net Present Value for 3,504.43 ha of non-forest land. This was muted against the equivalent forest land utilized for construction of these projects as detailed below:

Table 4.1: Showing details of forest land utilized, compensatory afforestation proposed and amount deposited

Name of the project	Forest land required (in ha)	Forest land acquired (in ha)	Compensatory afforestation proposed (in ha)	Amount Deposited (₹in crore)
SIP	1,166.07	1,166.07	1,166.07	1.16
LIIP	1,042.97	1,042.97	1,042.97	97.21
RRBC/RLBC	1,295.39	812.02	1,295.39	184.56
Total	3,504.43	3,021.06	3,504.43	282.93

(Source: compiled by Audit)

Even after 10 years, UC for only ₹70.93 crore has been received. Since no expenditure was incurred, no UC for the balance amount could be submitted by Forest Department resulting in blockage of government fund for ₹212 crore.

Government stated (July 2021) that necessary action was being taken to receive UC for balance amount.

4.2 Non-clearance of forest land

In two test checked-projects non-clearance of forest land led to non-completion of works and consequent deprival of farmers of irrigation facility as described below:

(i) Planning Commission approved the Rengali Multipurpose Project in 1978. The construction of the project involved clearance of forest land of 2,107.40 ha. The Department deposited an amount of ₹171.89 crore towards forest clearance and also obtained the Stage-I and stage-II clearance for 812.02 ha. Clearance for the balance 1,295.38 ha was yet to be obtained. Due to want of clearance of Forest land in the changed canal alignment, the completion of three Branch Canals of the RRBC was delayed for more than 16 years (May 2003-August 2019).

Accepting the factual position Government stated (July 2021) that Stage I & II Forest Clearance were obtained for 812 ha & 874.59 ha respectively and for the remaining 429.91 ha, forest clearance efforts were in progress.

(ii) Construction of Sukinda Branch canal off-taking at RD 96.65 km of LBC under RLBC was taken up in October 2018. The length of the canal was 28.29 km with designed ayacut of 6,458 ha. Canal works costing ₹134.70 crore was taken up between October 2018 and July 2019 for completion

between April 2020 and January 2021. The execution of canal work was taken up in patches where no clearance for the forest land was required. Although, sufficient funds were available including the loan assistance from JICA since 2015-16, yet the canal work could not be completed for want of forest clearance due to change in canal alignment which delayed the irrigation facility with denying the intended benefits to the farmers.

Accepting the factual position Government stated (July 2021) that the land acquisition of private land and forest land was a long process which involved various Departments. However, the land acquisition process of this Canal had reached 95 *per cent* and trial irrigation was expected to be provided during 2021-22.

4.3 Involvement of Agriculture executives

Intensity of irrigation³² assessed and proposed in DPRs by DA & FE is given in the Table below:

Table 4.2: Showing details of intensity of irrigation proposed in DPRs of the projects

Name of the Project	Irrigation intensity (in <i>per cent</i>)	Cropping pattern
SIP	171	Kharif-paddy, oilseeds, pulses and vegetables Rabi-wheat, pulses, vegetables, potato <i>etc</i>
UIIP (Extension)	164	Kharif-paddy Rabi- paddy, vegetables and pulses and Annual cropping-vegetable and sugarcane
LIIP	130	Kharif-paddy, ragi, maize Rabi-wheat, pulses, groundnut, vegetables, potato, til and mustard
RRBC/ RLBC	170	Kharif- paddy, sugarcane, vegetables <i>etc</i> Rabi- wheat, pulses, vegetables, oil seeds <i>etc</i>
MLP	100	Kharif-paddy, oilseeds, vegetables <i>etc</i>
MIP	Assessment of irrigation intensity of the test-checked 10 projects were not on record.	

(Source: Compiled by Audit)

Audit test checked the records of CDAOs and consequent visit of ayacut jointly with the departmental officers (August 2019) revealed that only paddy was cultivated in the ayacut of the projects against various crops to be cultivated as envisaged in the DPR of the Projects.

4.4 Power generation by industries in test-checked project

CE & BM, Brahmani Left Basin, Samal entered (May 2006) into an agreement with Odisha Power Consortium Limited (OPCL), a private limited company for establishment, operation and maintenance of 20 MW Small Hydro Electric Power Project at the right side of RLBC of Samal Barrage, Angul. Audit observed that the IP utilised was only 34 *per cent* of IP created due to

³² Intensity of irrigation is defined as the percentage of CCA proposed to be irrigated during the year.

defective execution of canal work. There was nothing on record assuring sufficiency of water for both power generation and irrigation project in the DPR of RLBC. However, the flow of water was diverted and optimally utilised by the industry for power generation.

4.5 Water supply for industrial use in projects

Water supply for industrial use was not envisaged in the DPR of Rengali Multipurpose Project. Due to delay in construction of canals, the irrigation to the designed ayacut could not be provided. This irrigation water was diverted for industrial use and even the legitimate dues to Government were not paid by those industries leading to non/short recovery of ₹1,441.83 crore as detailed in **Appendix-I**.

Recommendation:

- **Government needs to take initiatives by interacting with farmers for adopting a multi-cropping pattern as envisaged in project proposals.**
- **Responsibility needs to be fixed on the authorities for non-levy/non-recovery of legitimate water charges from industries drawing water from irrigation projects.**