

**Minutes of the first meeting of
National Committee on Dam Safety held on 28.1.1988**

- 1.0 The first meeting of the National Committee on Dam Safety (NCDS) was held on 28th January 1988 in Sewa Bhavan, New Delhi under the Chairmanship of Shri M.A.Chitale, Chairman, Central Water Commission.
- 1.1 The list of officers who attended the meeting is given at Annex I.
- 1.2 The Chairman, Shri M.A.Chitale, welcomed the members of NCDS and other participants. The Chairman gave the background of formation of NCDS and its terms of reference. He also explained to the members, the work done by the earlier Standing Committee on Dam Safety, its recommendations titled "Report on Dam Safety Procedures" and the decisions of Ministry of Water Resources on the recommendations.
- 1.3 The Committee then took up discussions of the agenda items.
- 2.0 Item 1 – To inform members of the formation of NCDS.**
Item 2 – To take note of the terms of reference of NCDS.
Item 3 – To take note of the decisions of MoWR on the "Report on Dam Safety Procedures."
- 2.1 The Committee noted the terms of reference, the recommendations of "Report on Dam Safety Procedures" and the Ministry's decisions on the recommendations.
- 2.2 Members from Gujarat and Maharashtra desired that the "Report on Dam Safety Procedures" should be made available to all Executive Engineers connected with the projects, as a large number of copies would be required. It was decided that all States may give their requirements to CBIP, who will address them for this, and CBIP would arrange to print copies of the report which would be a priced publication.

(Action : CBIP)
- 2.3 Member from Maharashtra expressed his apprehension about the action point 18.8 which recommends that States shall arrange safety review of large dams by an independent panel of experts. He also expressed his apprehension on action point 10.10 which recommends the desirability of all major and medium projects being guided by a panel of experts even from the stage of design / investigation till the

projects are completed. It was decided that Maharashtra would send a detailed note on the subject which will be taken up on the agenda for the next meeting.

(Action : Member – Maharashtra)

- 2.4 Similarly it was decided that the member from Karnataka State would prepare a note on item 10.20 of the recommendations which states that “Investigation, Design and Construction shall be done by recognized organizations / departments manned by qualified engineers with expertise in dam technology.” This note would also be discussed during the next meeting.

(Action : Member – Karanataka)

- 2.5 It was decided that the action point would be discussed separately, i.e. during the next meeting.
- 2.6 The Chairman desired that all members / States should send description of problems in major dams in their States.

(Action : All members / States)

3.0 Members to inform the Committee about dam safety activities in their States (Agenda Item 4)

- 3.1 The Chairman requested the members to give a brief account of the dam safety activities in their States. Members from Bihar, BBMB, Gujarat, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa and Rajasthan briefly described the activities which were mostly organizational.
- 3.2 Member from Geological Survey of India (GSI) stated that the GSI works essentially on request. It is associated in investigation and construction of major projects. They are not associated during post-construction period and also their advice is not mandatory. They also give advice on specific problems when requested. If associated at all stages, the Engineering Geology Division of GSI can give valuable advice on dam safety. For this, the Engineering Geology Unit of GSI would need strengthening.
- 3.3 Members from India Meteorological Department (IMD) informed that IMD has stations in each State which issues heavy rainfall warning. Methodology to give the forecasts in quantitative terms is being developed. This is a requirement for dam safety.

3.4 Chief Engineer (Hydrology), CWC expressed the need of a National Policy for Dam Break Studies. He stated that hydrological reviews of existing dams are neglected and where decision is reached, its implementation is delayed.

3.5 Member (WR), CWC stated that it is essential for States to set up hydrological units, with identified people to work permanently on hydrology unit.

4.0 To identify inter-State dams, of which the safety aspects will be monitored by sub-Committee (Agenda Item 5)

and

Formation of sub-Committee to monitor the safety aspects of inter-State dams (Agenda Item 6).

4.1 It was decided that States should send list of inter-State dams and river compacts for safety management, alongwith background notes. States would also identify sick dams. Mahi case would be discussed during the next meeting, concerned States may send detailed note for the same.

5.0 To consider preparation of annual reports of the dam safety activities by the States and their review by National Committee (Agenda Item 7).

5.1 It was decided that all States should prepare annual reports of dam safety activities in their States. The objective was not only to report organizational activities but also the state of health of dams in the State. It should essentially be a Dam Health Status Report. The report should be sent to CWC by 30th April 1988 so that the First National Status Report on Dam Safety can be compiled before the next meeting proposed in May 1988.

(Action : All States)

6.0 Dam Safety Legislation (Agenda Item 8)

6.1 The draft Legislation on Dam Safety was discussed. Members would consult their States on the subject bearing in mind that the draft is made on the presumption of a Central Legislation. Members would send their comments on the same before 30th April 1988.

(Action : All members)

7.0 Designing of dams for taking care of PMF (Agenda Item 9)

- 7.1 It was decided that this item would be re-worded as "Designing of dams for hydrologic safety." Considering the importance of the subject and the need for a wider discussion on the same, it was decided that Central Board of Irrigation and Power (CBIP) would hold a seminar on this issue in coordination with Maharashtra State some time in October 1988.

(Action : CBIP)

8.0 Information to be shared with public on dam safety (Agenda Item 10)

- 8.1 The need for sharing dam safety information with public was accepted. As a first step, it was decided that the States would bring out people oriented information bulletins containing precautions or action being taken for the downstream areas, particularly for gated structures.

(Action : all States)

9.0 World Bank sponsored discussions on dam safety (Agenda Item 11)

- 9.1 It was agreed that the proposed Government of India / World Bank sponsored discussions on India's Dam Safety Assurance Programme – current situation, needs and strengthening measures, could be held in mid-March 1988. Gujarat and Maharashtra States and BBMB would present their dam safety programme during the discussions, which would include the implementation of recommendations of the "Report on Dam Safety Procedures." A detailed note on the same would be sent by them to CWC before the end of February 1988.

(Action : Members from Gujarat, Maharashtra & BBMB)

10.0 Any other matter with the approval of the Chair (Agenda Item 12)

- 10.1 Bhakra Beas Management Board (BBMB) would prepare a note on what should be done in the country for our underwater inspection requirements.

(Action : BBMB)

10.2 Members should give their views on the role of individual consultants / consulting organizations and sharing of work of safety inspections with them.

(Action : all members)

10.3 Members to give present position and States' proposal on setting up of a hydrological unit and geological unit in their States.

(Action : all members)

10.4 A statement showing the state-wise distribution of large dams in India was circulated to the members during the meeting. Members were requested to verify the details therein and send complete details so that the list is brought up-to-date.

(Action : all members)

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chairman.