

CHAPTER-V

NARRATIVE EXPLANATIONS OF THE FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS GIVING THE SCOPE AND OBJECTIVE OF INDIVIDUAL PROJECTS PROGRAMME/SCHEMES, THEIR ESTIMATED COST ETC. PROGRAMME CONTENT

1.0. FOREST EDUCATION AND WILDLIFE

1.1. FOREST EDUCATION AND TRAINING

The Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE), an autonomous organisation of the Ministry, is the focal point for forestry research, education and extension development in the country.

To ensure proper forestry education in Universities, financial assistance is provided to State Agricultural Universities through the ICFRE. Purpose of the assistance is to support B.Sc. forestry courses.

The Indira Gandhi National Forest Academy (IGNFA) conducts training programme for Indian Forest Service Probationers, State Forest Service Colleges take care of training needs of State Forest Service Officers. Training of Range Officers is conducted in Rangers colleges. The Indian Institute of Forests Management (IIFM), Bhopal, an autonomous body of the Ministry, is involved in imparting education and training in forest management aimed at inculcation of professionalism in forestry management. Total outlay for Forestry Education and Training during 1998-99 is Rs.785.00 lakhs (Plan) and Rs.567.40 lakhs (Non-Plan).

1.2. FORESTRY RESEARCH

Intensification of Forestry Research towards fuller development of the Forestry Resources and their proper utilisation is one of the important objectives of this Ministry.

Forest Research Institute (FRI), Dehradun, under the ICFRE, is a Centre of Excellence in Forestry Research.

The World Bank aided project viz. Forestry Research Education and Extension Project had been taken up for a period of five years starting from 30th September, 1994. The total outlay of the project is US \$ 56.4 million.

IPIRTI, Bangalore is an autonomous organisation of this Ministry and Centre of expertise in Mechanical Wood Industry Technology Sector and is equipped with modern facilities for research and training in sawmilling and plywood. The Institute will continue research extension, demonstration and training activities.

The outlay proposed for forestry research during 98-99 is Rs.67. 10 crores (Plan) and Rs. 10. 55 crores (Non-Plan).

1.3. SURVEY & UTILISATION

- To conduct forest resources survey, the scheme "Forest Survey of India including Application of Remote Sensing techniques" is under implementation through Forest Survey of India a subordinate office of this Ministry. The scheme aims to achieve the following objective.

- To assess the extent of forest cover and monitor on a two year cycle the broad changes in forest vegetation cover of the country by using multi satellite data on 1:250,000 scale to prepare area thematic maps through use of remote sensing data with maximum essential ground truth verification on a ten year cycle (Most ground truth verification would be done by respective states).

- To collect, store and retrieve necessary forestry and forestry related data for National and State level Planning and to create a computer based National Basic Forest Inventory system (NBFIS).

- To design methodologies relating to forest surveys and subsequent updating. This would include methodologies for:

(a) Vegetation mapping including thematic maps through the use of satellite imageries/aerial photographs;

(b) Ground truth verification; and

(c) Growing stock and volume assessment.

- To impart training in application of remote sensing techniques etc. in Modern Forest Survey Techniques to foresters at various levels of responsibility in the States/UTs/ Govt. of India.

- To keep abreast of the achievements in remote sensing technology and also build up a strong research and development based in remote sensing in the field of forestry alongwith development of new algorithms and software for both image processing and general application.

- To support and oversee techniques/inventory work undertaken by States/UT Forest Department.

During 1998-99 budget provision of Rs.300.00 lakhs (Plan) and Rs.443.50 lakhs (Non-Plan) has been proposed.

1.4. FOREST POLICY

The project "Formulation of National Forestry Action Programme" was started with assistance from UNDP and FAO. Outlay for the year 1998-99 is Rs. 15.00 lakhs.

1.5. FOREST PROTECTION AND REGENERATION

The scheme viz., Association of Scheduled Tribes and Rural Poor in Regeneration of Degraded Land aims at improving the forest cover of degraded forests with the association of tribals and rural poor, alongwith providing the wage employment and usufructs, but simultaneously, an economic resource base for sustained self employment. The outlay proposed for the scheme during 1998-99 is Rs.200.00 lakhs.

The Scheme "Introduction of Modern Forest Fire Control Methods" is under implementation since the 7th Plan period. The scheme aims at developing well knit organised program for each State to protect forests from fire. During 1998-99, an outlay of Rs.310.00 lakhs is proposed.

1.6. CENTRAL ZOO AUTHORITY

Funds are required for improving the existing infrastructure of zoos and improving their management. Training and research on the management aspects of zoos is a high priority items of the Central Zoo Authority.

Enforcement of the minimum prescribed standards and norms has to be strengthened. Sub standard zoos are to be closed and animals therein can be accommodated in rescue centres. The Authority proposes to create at least four centres in different parts of the country. An amount of Rs.500.00 lakhs has been proposed for CZA during 98-99.

1.7. NATIONAL ZOOLOGICAL PARK

The National Zoological Park is a continuing scheme since 1955-56.

Funds are required to meet the changes that would need to be made as a result of the modifications suggested by the Central Zoo Authority under "Recognition of Zoo Rules, 1992" and also for the ongoing activities. The outlay proposed for NZP during 98-99 is Rs.314.00 lakhs (both plan and non plan).

1.8. ANIMAL WELFARE BOARD OF INDIA (AWBI)

The Animal Welfare Board of India is engaged in prevention of of cruelty to animals. Various animal welfare organisations alongwith the Board take steps to generate public awareness. AWBI provides assistance to various organisations in the country for animal welfare activities. The budget proposed for grant in aid to AWBI during 98-99 is Rs.470.00 lakhs (Plan and Non-Plan).

1.9. WILDLIFE INSTITUTE OF INDIA

For ensuring better management of the protected areas, Wildlife Institute of India conducts training courses to train park managers and biologists. The Institute also conducts research in Wildlife and provides State Governments. A provision of Rs.3851.00 lakhs (Plan) and Rs. 124.00 lakhs (Non-Plan) has been proposed during 1998-99.

1.10. NATIONAL AFFORESTATION & ECO-DEVELOPMENT BOARD

An outlay of Rs.92.35 crores has been approved for the year 1998-99 for the schemes/programmes of National Afforestation & Eco-Development Board.

1. Scheme.

2. Schemes/Activities:

1.10.1. Integrated Afforestation and Eco-Development Projects Scheme

Under implementation since 1989-90, this scheme promotes afforestation and development of degraded forests and adjoining lands through an integrated approach for managing these areas on a watershed basis. The objectives of the schemes are to regenerate degraded forests and adjoining areas so as to augment the availability of biomass, fuelwood and fodder.

This is a 100% Centrally Sponsored Scheme with a Central Sector component. For 1998-99, an allocation of Rs.33 crores, has been made for this scheme. The physical targets for the year is to cover an area of 22,000 hectares.

1.10.2. Grants-in-Aid to Voluntary Agencies

To promote peoples' participation, appropriate voluntary agencies, non-governmental organisations are identified, encouraged and assisted to raise nurseries for tree planting on degraded forest lands and adjoining areas and related activities which are financed from the plan funds of the Board.

For 1998-99 an amount of Rs. 1.55 crores has been made for this scheme to sanction projects to the voluntary agencies for taking up afforestation & eco-development work.

Evaluation of ongoing and completed projects is carried out through independent agencies. So far, 160 projects have been got evaluated from 1992-93 to 1996-97. It is seen that performance in respect of about 75% of the projects ranges from good to excellent. More projects would be undertaken for evaluation.

1.10.3. Area Oriented Fuelwood and Fodder Project Scheme

This scheme is meant to augment the production and availability of fuelwood and fodder in identified fuelwood deficient districts of the country. A total number of 229 districts have been identified as fuelwood-deficient. The expenditure under this scheme is shared on a 50:50 basis between the Centre and the States.

For 1998-99 an amount of Rs.40 crores has been made for the scheme. It is proposed to cover 52,000 hectares area during 1998-99.

1.10.4. Scheme for Non-Timber Forest Produce (NTFP) including Medicinal Plants

The objective of this scheme is to survey, conserve as well as to increase production of non-timber forest produce, including medicinal plants, with a view to improve and replenish the stock of indigenous forest produce and perennial medicinal plants, which are fast depleting due to over exploitation. Concomitantly, the scheme also aims at augmenting the income of the tribal and rural poor living in and around forest areas.

During 1998-99 an amount of Rs. 11.00 crores has been made for the scheme to cover an area of 8,100 hectares.

1.10.5. Seed Development Scheme

The Governments are assisted to develop facilities for collection, testing, certification, storage and distribution of quality seeds by this scheme. The objective is to generate quality seeds which would lead to the growth of healthy and better quality trees.

During 1998-99 an amount of Rs.2.60 crores has been made for the scheme.

1.10.6. Other Activities/Programmes

1.10.7. Monitoring and Evaluation

There is a provision for concurrent evaluation of the projects implemented under Centrally Sponsored Schemes of Integrated Afforestation and Eco-Development Projects Schemes (IAEPS), Area-Oriented Fuelwood and Fodder Projects Schemes (AOFFP), Non-Timber Forest Produce Schemes (NTFP) and other schemes of NAEB. Reputed Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) and Institutions/Experts are engaged by NAEB for carrying out these evaluations.

Integrated Afforestation and Eco-Development Project Scheme, Area Oriented Fuelwood and Fodder project Scheme and Non-Timber Forest Produce (including Medicinal Plants) Scheme have been evaluated by National Centre for Human Settlements and Environment, Bhopal. The Evaluation Report has been examined in the Board and based upon the findings, the guidelines for implementation of NAEB schemes viz. IAEPS, AOFFP & NTFFPS have been revised for the 9th Plan Period.

In addition to the monitoring carried out by the State Government agencies, two kinds of monitoring is done at the Central level:

The State Governments are asked to provide Block and Village level afforestation data annually. This information is kept in the Library of the Parliament as well as in the Library of MoEF to enable elected representatives ready access to the data.

(b) Every year 10% (approximately 50) districts of the country are selected, with appropriate regional distribution, for evaluation of the afforestation activities taken up in the previous year by autonomous institutions/NGOs/VAs/Regional Centres of NAEB/Retired Forests officials. The evaluation reports are analysed in NAEB. A copy of the report is sent to the concerned State Governments and districts for information and for taking necessary remedial measure.

For 1998-99, an amount of Rs.75.00 lakhs has been made for Monitoring & Evaluation.

1.10.8. Regional Centres

The Board has seven Regional Centres located in Universities/National level Institutions. These Centres help NAEB in promoting extension of replicable technologies and for dissemination of research findings. They provide technical and extension support to the State Forest Departments in preparing projects for regeneration of degraded forests and adjoining lands with people's participation, and also act as a forum for the exchange of ideas and experiences amongst the States of the region as well across the regions. In addition, these centres carry out problem-specific studies as well as evaluation of NAEB's programmes in the field, and organise training programmes and workshops. These Centres, and the States they cover, are as follows:

S.No.	Regional Centres	States covered under each Regional Centre
1	University of Agriculture, Bangalore.	Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Pondicherry, Lakshadweep.
2	University of Horticulture & Forestry, Solan.	Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Punjab and Chandigarh.
3	Agriculture Finance Corpn. New Delhi.	Haryana, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Delhi.
4	Indian Institute of Forest Management, Bhopal.	Madhya Pradesh and Orissa.
5	Agricultural Finance Corporation, Bombay.	Gujarat, Maharashtra, Goa, Daman & Diu, D & N Haveli.
6	North-Eastern Hill University Shillong.	
7	Jadavpur University, Calcutta.	Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Mizoram, Manipur, Meghalaya, Nagaland and Tripura
		Bihar, Sikkim, West Bengal and A & N Island.

During 1988-99 an amount of Rs. 1.25 crores has been proposed for the scheme.

1.10.9. Communication

New technologies and methodologies of participatory management, Eco-development and regeneration of degraded forests are being progressively developed. In order to share such experiences and technologies widely, NAEB documents such developments and information brings out publications, makes films and shares these with State Governments, NGOs and all those concerned with these issues. The Board has Commissioned/produced 12 films and has brought out a number of publications for the purposes of dissemination. During 1998-99 an amount of Rs.38.00 lakhs has been made for the scheme.

1.10.10. Professional and Special Services

The National Afforestation & Eco-Development Board takes up special studies of important issues relating to policy formulation, programme implementation, etc. The Board also engages special consultants for taking up a variety of assignments.

During 1998-99 an amount of Rs. 10.00 lakh has been made for the scheme to undertake studies on the areas like Eco-Development, Joint Forest Management, employment generation, reorientation of existing programmes etc.

1.10.11. Indira Priyadarshini Vriksha Mitra Awards (IPVM)

IPVM awards are presented annually to the following categories:

1. Individuals
2. Panchayats
3. Educational Institutions
4. Voluntary Agencies
5. Government Agencies
6. Corporate Sector
7. Government Servants (Individuals)
8. Municipalities/Municipal Corporations/Cantonment Boards have been added.

Note: Last two categories have been included since 1996 Awards.

The awards are given on the basis of innovative efforts and outstanding work in afforestation, with special reference to wastelands development and involvement of the people. The following activities are kept in view while deciding the awards:

1. establishing decentralised nurseries
2. tree planting on wastelands/farm lands
3. awareness-raising, motivation and extension work
4. involving the rural poor/tribals/cooperatives in afforestation and tree planting
5. setting up grass-roots level institutions like the Tree Growers Cooperatives and
6. social fencing of community woodlots and pasture lands.

The awards for the year 1994 and 1995 have been announced.

1.10.12. Mahavriksha Award

Mahavriksha award, instituted in 1994 is given every year to people/organisations for trees having largest girth and height and having good health & vigour. The Awards for 1994 & 1995 have been announced.

1.10.13. Eco-Task Force

Ecological Task Forces (ETPs) of ex-servicemen are employed in remote and difficult areas to undertake restoration of degraded ecosystems through afforestation, soil conservation and water resource management techniques. The scheme also serves as a mechanism to rehabilitate the ex-servicemen on productive work and to create employment for retired army personnel mainly in the rural areas.

The provision of the scheme for the year 1998-99 is Rs.4.00 crores.

1.11. ZOOLOGICAL SURVEY OF INDIA

The Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) concentrates on the exploration and survey of faunal resources of the country and research on taxonomy, distribution, bioecology, Wildlife, animal population and animal behaviour.

During 1998-99 the Zoological Survey of India proposes to continue exploration and surveys (a total of 67 surveys) in priority areas such as Tropical Rain Forest Ecosystem, Himalayan ecosystem, Estuarine, Freshwater and Marine Ecosystems including coral reefs. In addition, survey in 6 states namely Bihar, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Uttar Pradesh and two states surveys of endangered species will be undertaken. Further, survey to 6 conservation areas will be conducted to inventory the fauna of those areas.

The regular publication, viz., Records of Zoological Survey of India, Annual reports of ZSI, Bibliography of Indian Zoology will be brought out.

The provision earmarked for ZSI for the year 1998-99 is Rs.595.00 lakhs.

1.12. BOTANICAL SURVEY OF INDIA

The Botanical Survey of India conducts explorations and survey of India conducts explorations and surveys to collect, identify and record the entire plant resources of the country. Botanical Survey of India will conduct 62 surveys, collect specimens of Ca 14000 and preserve specimens of Ca 12000. The BSI has regional offices spread over all regions in the country. The provision earmarked for BSI during 98-99 is Rs.400.00 lakhs.

1.13. NATIONAL MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

The National Museum of Natural History (NMNH) was set up in New Delhi on 5th June 1978. It is devoted to environmental education. The NMNH has set up regional museums at Mysore, Bhopal and Bhubaneswar. The Regional museums at Mysore has become functional during the Eighth Plan while the regional Museums at Bhopal and Bhubaneswar will be operationalised during the Ninth Plan Period. The budget provision proposed for the NMNH and the Regional Museums for 98-99 is Rs.250.00 lakhs.

1.14. G.B. PANT INSTITUTE OF HIMALAYAN ENVIRONMENTAL & DEVELOPMENT

The G.B. Pant Institute of Himalayan Environment & Development was established in August 1988 to carry out research activities connected with environmental problems of the Himalayan region. The Institute has established two Centres at Gangtok (Sikkim) and Kullu in (HP). The construction work at these centres is in progress. During 1998-99, budget provision of Rs. 478.00 lakhs as grants-in-aid to the Institute has been proposed besides grant of Rs.40.00 lakhs for Integrated Action Oriented R&D and extension projects in Himalayan Region.

1.15. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

As a part of Sustainable Development Strategies, studies have been initiated on Regional Carrying Capacities, Natural Resources Accounting, Life Cycle Assessment and Demonstration projects of Cleaner Technologies.

(a) Carrying Capacity Studies

All development projects utilise natural resources in one from or the other and also generate wastes. It is necessary to develop alternate strategies for sustainable development in the context of developing country like India. Carrying Capacity based regional planning takes into account not merely availability of natural resources but also the environmental quality of the eco-system so that welfare of the human beings is not impaired. To demonstrate the viability of the carrying capacity based planning process, studies have been taken in selected areas considered to be representative of similar problematic areas in the country. The regions selected for the studies are:

1. Doon Valley
2. National Capital Region
3. Damodar River Basin
4. Tapi Estuary
5. Greater Kochi

(b) Life Cycle Assessment in Steel Sector

For optimal utilisation of resources Life Cycle Assessment study in the Steel sector has been initiated with joint funding of this Ministry and three identified steel plants. Life Cycle Assessment is a new management tool which will examine from the cradle to gate various environmental issues associated with production, use, disposal and recycling of products including extraction of raw materials.

(c) Natural Resources Accounting

A study covering the Upper Yamuna basin has been taken up to prepare natural resource accounting corresponding to the economic returns that can be co-related and appropriate measures devised for technological and management interventions to ensure a more consistent and better stream of benefits from the same resource base. The study is multi-disciplinary and multi-institutional and expected to be completed during the current year.

(d) Other studies

The on-going study of EIA & EMP of Sirmur Lime Stone Deposits in Himachal Pradesh will be completed during the current year.

(e) Demonstration projects

The Ministry provided financial assistance to one demonstration project which involves treatment of distillery wastes. The project has been completed and a report submitted. A sum of Rs.7. 10 crores has been allocated for 98-99.

1.16. ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION SYSTEMS

The ENVIS network are present consist of 24 centres which have been set up on different subject areas of environment. The networking all the centres have been undertaken and E-mail services with Local Area Network and Wide Area Network would be installed in the network not only to link with the network partners but also to liaise with various other international databases in the fields of environment and its associated areas for easy and quick accession of desired information by ENVIS to its users. Besides, some more new ENVIS centres on the subject areas, not covered so far, are also proposed to be set up in phase to make the network comprehensive.

Keeping this activities into consideration, a sum of Rs. 150 lakhs would be required for the scheme during 1998-99.

1.17. CENTRES OF EXCELLENCE

Both the Centres of Excellence namely, CEE, Ahmedaband and CPREEC, Chennai would be continuing in their efforts in environmental awareness creation and production of resource material required to the various targeted groups of the country. Besides, the Centres will also focus major attention in organising several environmental education and training programmes for various groups like, students, teachers, NGOs rural people, etc. Publication of newsletter on environmental educaton, databank, etc. would also be carried out by both the Centres in the field of environment education and awareness.

The Centre for Ecological Sciences, Bangalore and Centre for Mining Environment, Dhanbad would continue to ftinction to undertake the research and development projects as well as training/short term courses in their concerned fields so that they could function as the 'Nodal Centres of Excellence' in the country in their assigned subject areas. The Centres would also be advised to orgainse various short term courses in their respective fields not only to promote the R&D capabilities in the country in the concerned subject areas but also to strengthen the human resource-base throughout the country.

Keeping these activities into consideration a sum of the Rs.435.00 lakhs would required to undertake the programme for the Centres of Excellence during 1998-99.

1.18. NATIONAL NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (NNRMS)

Out of 56 priority areas identified for undertaking the research projects under the scheme, about 17 areas have been covered and it is expected that remaining areas as identified by the Bio-resource Committee would be covered in a phased manner so that information generate through various projects under the scheme are used by Central Governments, State Government Departments/Agencies and various other research organisations in a more comprehensive way.

A sum of Rs. 100 lakhs would, therefore, be required to achieve this objective.

1.19. CIVIL CONSTRUCTION UNIT

Narative explanation of the financial requirements

During the year 1997-98, the Civil Construction Unit has set a target of total 83 major works for which a provision of Rs. 15.70 crores is being made in the Budget Estimates for 1998-99. Some of the above works are on-going works whereas the remaining are new major works.

1.20. NATIONAL RIVER CONSERVATION DIRECTORATE

The costs of all the action plans of the Directorate taken in terms at their broad classification are in excess of Rs. 100 crore as the table in Chapter I indicates. The exception to this rule is in the case of:

- Gomati Action Plan currently costed at Rs.64.01 crore (likely to be revise in the light of changes in scope of works, price escalation and non-availability of ODA aid from UK).
- Damodar Action Plan costing Rs.24.54 crores; and
- CETP, Calcutta estimated at Rs . 5 crores with Government of India's shrae being 50%.

A Plan-by-plan appraisal is attempted below:

1. The Ganga Action Plan Phase-I (cost = Rs. 462.04 crore) was launched in 1985, with the expectation that it would be completed within the five years of the VII Plan. However, the Plan is still continuing. Major reasons for its running into the 12th year are:

- a. The fact that such a scheme was taken up for the first time in the country and adequate technical expertise was initially lacking.
- b. Difficulties in acquiring land for the project and number of litigation cases.
- c. Diversion of funds released for the projects.
- d. Contractual disputes in several cases.

Additionally, the cost of the scheme was revised upwards due to cost increases and scope changes to Rs.462.04 crore compared to the original Rs.256.26 crores. Expenditure measured as fund releases by the Government of India has been of the order of Rs.447.54 crores as on date.

The plan is expected to finish by March, 1998. Hence, the projection for the next year is Rs. 12.70 crores, to take care of balance payment.

2. Regarding Ganga Action Plan, Phase-II, there are 6 sub-components associated with this plan.

(i) The Yamuna Action Plan approved in 1993 with an original cost of Rs.356.78 crores was scheduled to be completed by 1998-99. It is being funded with loan assistance from the overseas Economic Cooperation Fund of Japan at a cost of 17.77 billion yen.

From 1996-97, the Supreme Court has entered the scene. Orders issued by the Court were that works under the Plan in Haryana and Delhi were to be completed by 31st March, 1997. This schedule, however, has not been met but the Plan in these two States are expected to be completed by 31st March, 1998.

The delays in this programme have been on account of:

- undue time taken to finalise the treatment technology for sewage treatment plant
- failure of the State Government to release their matching share for the plan; and
- further delay in appointment of Consultant by the external funding agency with a view to monitoring the progress of the plan.

Expenditure on the scheme so far has been Rs. 157 crores. It is likely to step-up in the coming months. Expenditure projected for next year would be still higher in view of the need for completion of the plan by March, 1999.

(ii) The Gomati Action Plan, the Damodar Action Plan and the Calcutta CETP are all less than Rs. 100 crores individually.

(iii) The Ganga Action Plan has launched into its second phase with effect from July, 1995 when additional 19 towns along the Ganga over and above the 25 covered in the first phase were taken up for pollution abatement work. In the first instance, the approval of the Action Plan was received only for the UP and Bihar components. In October, 1996 the Cabinet approval was received for the West Bengal component of the Plan covering 9 towns. The total cost of the programme is currently of the order of 416.36 crore of which capital cost are Rs.398 crore.

The plan is expected to be completed within 4 years from the date of approval of schemes in a particular town. Expenditure in terms of fund release by the Government of India for the programme has been Rs. 3.55 crore only. Progress is rather slack, basically because of slow preparation of DPRs by the State Government.

- their reluctance to release matching share to implementing agencies

- withholding Government of India's funds from executing agencies.

(iv) The component of the Ganga Action Plan Phase-11 pertains to the towns that have been covered under the directions of the Supreme Court mainly class 11 and class III towns. About 30 towns have been taken up under this phase at a total cost of Rs.231.69 crore of which capital cost constitutes Rs.220.64 crores., The plan received approval in October, 1996 and is expected to be completed with the IX plan period.

Expenditure incurred under the programme has been of the order Rs.2.69 crores so far. Slow preparation of DPRs by the State Governments and the same problem of funds indicated earlier do the scheme. In a number of cases, the DPRs prepared are not in line with guidelines issued by the Directorate and, therefore, have been returned for repeated revisions.

3. The NRCP was approved in July, 1995 at a cost of Rs.772.09 crores. It covers 46 towns located along the banks of 18 major rivers spanning 10 states. A10 year implementation span has been approved for the programme. Progress has been rather slow largely on account of reasons bedevilling the other Action Plans. Expenditure under the plan was about Rs.30 crores by June, 1997.

Later Developments

As a result of the problems faced by the States in providing matching 50% share under the Action Plans, the National River Conservation Authority took a decision in July, 1997 to convert the 50:50 Centre/State funded action plans into 100% Centrally funded plans, with effect from April, 1997. However, the CCEA approval for the conversion is currently awaited. This conversion and with release of funds directly to implementing agencies without routing them through State Government, may serve to reduce the time taken in the implementation of the Action Plan.

The National Lakes Conservation Programme is a new scheme which received approval from the Planning Commission in April, 1997. Although in its original form, the proposal was to take up 21 urban lakes for pollution abatement activity, the Planning Commission has only approved clean-up operations in 10 lakes. One more lake namely the Bhoj in Madhya Pradesh has been already taken up with foreign assistance from the OECF. A tentative cost estimate of Rs.637 crores have been proposed for Cabinet approval.

1.21. ASSISTANCE FOR ABATEMENT OF POLLUTION

Financial assistance is being provided to various SPCBs/CPCBs, national institutions, etc., for specific projects, studies, purchase of equipment, salary components in respect of Pollution Committees of UTs, etc. This is being provided on the basis of the requirements made by consultation with the Central Pollution Control Board.

1.22. REIMBURSEMENT OF WATER CESS

As per the existing water cess reimburseme3nt formula, 50% of the total collection is reimbursed to them straightway and 25 % at the time of achieving the target of the financial year. The present reimbursement formula is under revision and it is proposed to reimburse upto 80% of the cess collected amount to the SPCB/PCCs and upto 20% to the CPC13 for the projects of national importance. However, the formula is expected to be finalised by the end of the current financial year. An amount of Rs.50 crores has been kept for RE 1997-98 and Rs.55.00 crores in the BE 1998-99.

1.23. TAJ PROTECTION MISSION

In the Taj Protection Mission there are a number of schemes such as:

1. Uninterrupted Power Supply Project
2. Taj Afforestation Programme
3. Agra Barrage Project
4. Gokul Barrage Project
5. Solid Waste Management Project
6. Improvement of sewage and drainage system
7. Construction of By-pass for the National Highways.

All these projects will be implemented by the Government of UP with total cost estimate of Rs.600 crores. 50% of the total cost estimate will be provided by the Central Government through the Budget of the Ministry of Environment & Forests. Actual demand for the year 1997-98 is yet to be obtained from the Government of UP. However, in the recent meeting held on 8.12.97 chaired by the Chief Secretary, Government of UP, all the implementing departments of the Government of UP have been directed to put up their demand immediately to the Ministry of Environment & Forests through the Mission Management Board. Rs.50 crores has been allocated for 98-99.

1.24. RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

Over 200 ongoing research projects will continue to be supported. Further it is proposed to start 30 new projects during 1998-99. It is envisaged that at least two Coordinated Research Projects which includes proposal to start a Coordinated Project on Micro-Propagation of Endangered / Threatened Medicinal Plants. The monitoring and review of the progress of the ongoing projects will be continued with a special emphasis on utilisation of research work for solving the practical problems on resource management. A sum of Rs.4.00 crores has been allocated for 98-99.

In case of B.P. Pal National Fellowship for Biodiversity, facilities will continue to be provided to the previous awardees. Pitamber Pant Fellowship will continue.

1.25. HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES MANAGEMENT

HSMD will continue various programmes outlined below and monitor the implementation of this programme. In addition, intensive interactions with State Departments of Environment, State Pollution Control Boards are envisaged for effective implementation of rules on Management of Hazardous Substances and Chemical

Crisis Management. It is also proposed to implement the World Bank Projects namely, Industrial Safety, Disaster Prevention and Hazardous Wastes Management and Hazardous Waste Management in 4 States.

Proposed activities:

Strengthening of Hazardous Substances Management Structure in States. Strengthening of crisis management structure in the country including setting up of Emergency Response Centres. Augmentation of training facilities and conduct of training courses for training in accident prevention and emergency preparedness and hazardous waste management. Prepare reports of status on compliance to international Conventions and stand on upcoming Conventions. Formulation and implementation of Acts/Rules including amendments. Developmental projects/studies and pilot plants. EIA studies for hazardous waste disposal sites. Evolve policies and programmes for sound management of hazardous waste. Evolve policies and programmes for sound management of solid waste. Establishment of Databases and activities related to Agenda 21, UN Expert Committee on Transportation of Dangerous Goods. World Bank Project. Implementation of the World Bank Project on Industrial Safety, Disaster Prevention and Hazardous Waste Management. Hazardous Waste Management in 4 States. For implementation of these activities in 1998-99, the allocated budget outlay is Rs.9.16 crores.

1.26. INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

1. Follow-up on Indo-US Common Agenda on Environment.
2. Follow-up on Indo-Brazil Cooperation on Environment.
3. Bilateral cooperation programmes and follow-up of MoUs signed with Russia, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan, Vietnam, China, Iran.
4. Nomination of officials for training abroad in the field of environment and forestry.
5. Implementation of World Bank assisted India: Environment Management Capacity Building Technical Assistance Project.
6. Implementation of the World Bank assisted under Environment Management Project for Delhi and Surat.
7. Follow-up and implementation of various UNDP/GEF projects.
8. Preparations for 6th CSD Meeting to be held in 1998.

9. Preparations for GEF Assembly Meeting to be hosted by India in April, 1998.

A sum of Rs. 1.25 crores has been allocated for 98-99.