

DRAFT PRESS BRIEF

Subject: - "Drainage Improvement Programme (DIP)".

The State is facing problem of waterlogging due to drainage congestion in the irrigated and un-irrigated command and urban centers. The problem of drainage congestion in the cultivated area is mostly due to the flat terrain of the command, inadequate carrying capacity of the drainage system, poor outfall condition of natural drains and rivers due to siltation and shoal formation. Heavy to very heavy rain fall during a short time also leads to inundation. Due to water logging and poor drainage facilities, the crop productivity of the most predominant crop paddy in the command has not improved much. Rather, it has remained stagnant for past few years. To raise the crop productivity and to retrieve the fertile irrigated and un-irrigated command, it is necessary to improve the drainage facilities. Further, issues of urban flooding, poor drainage condition in the areas around wet-lands and deteriorating condition of urban water bodies are required to be addressed appropriately to safeguard the life and property to the maximum possible extent.

This scheme namely "Drainage Improvement Programme (DIP)" is planned to be taken up from the current financial year, i.e. 2014-15 to retrieve the irrigable and un-irrigable command affected by water logging in the 17 doabs as in the Drainage Master Plan already prepared, to moderate the flooding and inundation period by way of increased carrying capacity of drains & rivers, river mouth clearance, improved natural drainage arrangement in select urban areas, area around wet-lands, renovation and de-silting of select urban water bodies and drainage through pumping.

The Scheme will be implemented with an outlay of Rs.1000.00 crore over the period of next five years commencing 2014-15 to 2018-19. It will be funded by the State Government out of its State Plan resources. Possibility of availing central assistance for the scheme will be explored.

The expected outcome of the scheme is as follows.

- i. Retrieval of about 1,79,000 ha. of cultivable area,
- ii. Increase in crop productivity by an average of 10% in the area of influence,
- iii. Improved farm-gate accessibility through 100 Km. of earthen embankment,
- iv. Arresting saline ingress in around 10000 ha. of Gross Cultivable Area (GCA).
- v. Reduction of inundation time through improvement of carrying capacity by way of removal of shoals and islands etc. from rivers and drainage channels and river mouth clearance.
- vi. Improved natural drainage facilities in select urban centers and areas facing acute drainage problem around wetlands through gravity or pumping arrangement.
- vii. Renovation and de-silting of select urban water bodies.