

India, World Bank sign \$175mn loan agreement for hydrology project

The Government of India and the World Bank, for the National Hydrology Project, has signed the US\$ 175 million loan pact .The project will fortify the capacity of institutions to evaluate the water situation in their regions and reduce their exposure to frequent flood and droughts, saving hundreds of lives and livelihoods.

India continues to be water-stressed and is facing with the challenge of managing its water needs amidst frequent floods and droughts, with rainfall in the country being highly seasonal and 50 % of precipitation falling in just 15 days and over 90 % of river flows in just four months.

Giving reservoir managers a precise picture of the water situation in their region, the National Hydrology Project will fabricate on the success of the Hydrology Project-I and Hydrology Project-II. The loan for the project, from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), has a 6-year grace period, and a maturity of 23 years.This project will scale up the successes achieved under HP-I and HP-II, including the states in the Ganga, and Brahmaputra-Barak basins, to cover the entire country. It will help new states to better manage water flows from the reservoirs, apart from helping states that have already benefited from the earlier two projects to further improve and complete their monitoring networks.

To incorporate and set up the National Water Informatics Center, Memorandum of Agreements (MOAs) have already been signed between the central government and the states. National Flood Forecasting Systems with an advance warning system and reservoir operation systems as well as water resources accounting in river basins will be integrated under the project.

The project will also help the states watch all the important aspects of the hydro-meteorological cycle and take up the procedures laid out in the earlier projects such as how much rain or snow has fallen right in the catchments of rivers, how speedily the snow will melt, the speed with which the water is flowing, how much silt has built up, how much water will reach the reservoir, and how soon it will do so. This information will right away be conveyed to data centers by the sensors in the field through satellite or mobile phone technology, enabling managers to form a clear picture of the water situation unfolding in their region.

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Warm regards,

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