

No. G-20/1/2017-GA  
Government of India  
Ministry Jal Shakti  
Department of Water Resources, RD and GR  
(General Administration)  
\*\*\*\*\*

Shram Shakti Bhawan, Rafi Marg,  
New Delhi, dated 25.02.2021

**Subject: Forwarding of records/information to visiting audit party of Director General of Audit, Scientific Departments for FY 2019-20.**

Please find enclosed **Audit Memo No.32** dated 23.02.2021 received from the Audit Party from O/o the Director General of Audit, Scientific Departments, New Delhi, which has come to conduct the Audit of Ministry for the year FY 2019-20.

2. The relevant information as desired by Audit Party may kindly be sent directly to them immediately to Room No. 223-24, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Block-3, CGO Complex. In case of electronic file, they may send to e-office Name-Annual Audit-O/o Controller of Account.

Encl: As above.

(A.K.Kaushik)

Under Secretary to the Govt. of India  
Ph: 011-23710303

To

1. Under Secretary (PP), DoWR, RD & GR.

Copy to:

Controller of Accounts, DoWR, RD & GR, Shastri Bhawan.



जल शक्ति - जल संवर्धन

**O/o Principal Director of Audit  
(Agriculture, Food & Water Resources)  
NEW DELHI-110002**

**Audit Memo No. 32**

**Camp: M/O JAL SHAKTI,  
CGO COMPLEX, New Delhi**

**Date: 23/2/2021**

The National Water Policy (NWP), 2012 serves as a policy guideline for development and management of water resources in the country. The objective of the Policy is to take cognizance of the existing situation, to propose a framework for creation of a system of laws and institutions and a plan of action with a unified national perspective.

The National Water Policy, 2012, inter alia, recommended that there was a need to evolve a National Framework Law as an umbrella statement of general principles governing legislative and/or executive (or devolved) powers by the Centre, the States and the local bodies. This should lead the way for essential legislation on water governance in every State and devolution of necessary authority to the lower tiers of government to deal with the local water situation. In pursuance thereof, the Ministry constituted an Expert Committee under the Chairmanship of Dr. Y.K. Alagh to draft a National Water Bill. The Committee submitted its report in May, 2013. Later, a Committee was constituted under the Chairmanship of Dr. Mihir Shah on 28.12.2015 to examine the provisions of the draft National Water Framework Law and suggested changes/modifications therein taking into account inter-alia the emerging challenges in the water sector, reuse of waste water after treatment, the likely impact of climate change on water resources, importance of river restoration / rejuvenation, water contamination issue etc. The Mihir Shah Committee submitted a Draft Report in May, 2016 that included a draft of National Water Framework Bill. The draft was circulated to States/UTs and the concerned Central Ministries for obtaining their comments. The draft was also placed on the website of the Ministry for inviting comments from general public. After receiving the comments from various quarters, the Committee submitted its final Report on 18th July, 2016. The final report submitted by Dr. Mihir Shah Committee was circulated to all States/ UTs and concerned Central Ministries for inviting their comments on the proposed National Water Framework Bill for taking further necessary action in the matter.

The draft National Water Framework Bill, 2016 was circulated in September, 2016 to States/UTs and the concerned Central Ministries for obtaining their comments. Water scarcity is the national havoc which needs to be addressed at the earliest but unfortunately the Ministry took 9 years ( four years to finalise the final report and afterwards 5 years to finalize the national water frame work bill 2016 till date. It is evident from the details furnished above that the Ministry unable to develop a frame work to embark on the national problem of drinking water.

In this regard you are requested to verify the facts and figures mentioned above and also furnished the following information/record to audit to finalize the audit comment

1. Chronology of events since 2012 to till date in respect of finalization of National Water Frame Work Bill.
2. Copies of documents/files/letter to verify the above mentioned events
3. Details of the action taken by the Ministry along with supporting documents for finalization of the said bill after circulation of the said bill to States/UTs
4. File/record related to develop policy frame work, Preparation of draft, finalization of draft and issued to States/UT along with approval of the competent authority
5. Copies of the Dr. Y.K. Alagh to draft a National Water Bill and Dr. Mihir Shah final report
6. Reasons for delay in accomplishment of National water policy's Instructions in respect of need to evolve a National Framework Law as an umbrella statement of general principles governing legislative and/or executive (or devolved) powers by the Centre, the States and the local bodies

  
**Inspecting Officer**

**To**  
**Deputy Secretary (G.Admn)/Under Secretary (GA)**  
**M/O JAL SHAKTI, CGO COMPLEX,**  
**New Delhi**