

**IAH National Seminar on Water Conservation and
Management in Drought, New Delhi
(December 9-10, 1988)**

Resolutions

1. In view of the serious problems of recurrent droughts occurring in different parts of the country, vigorous efforts are called for in the collection of hydrological (surface water, ground water and meteorological) data so as to enable availability of consistent and long term information on droughts. For this, the field procedures and practices pertaining to the data collection, storage and retrieval need to be standardised with the 'administrative block' as a microlevel planning unit. As a part of this exercise, a centralised data base facility accessible to all user agencies is essential.
2. For long term drought prediction, there is a need to identify carefully the 'Data-Matrix' which influences the behaviour of monsoons. Use of remote sensing technology to develop hydrological techniques for cloud tracking, surface temperature regime, regional soil moisture estimation, EVT studies and resource evaluation, be scientifically encouraged for short term drought predictions and for combating droughts.
3. Due emphasis should be given to snow and glacial hydrological studies for estimation of water yield of snowfed rivers in the country. For this, regular and scientific monitoring of snow cover, and snowmelt studies should be carried out.
4. Emphasis on hydrological education should be increased and research pursued for developing appropriate hydrologic models and techniques based on deterministic, statistical and stochastic approaches for drought areas.
5. Large scale geo-hydrological maps covering different hydrometeorological regions be prepared for the whole country upto the block level, so as to reflect the relative ground water potential of different geological formations.
6. Water conservation and harvesting practices be further encouraged to minimise, mitigate, and combat water shortages during droughts. Maximum use of popular mass media and administration machinery should be made to educate the general public on different aspects of water conservation.
7. Water be treated as a national resource and the conjunctive use of surface and groundwater be encouraged. There is need for further fresh debate on enacting suitable "Water Legislation" throughout the country. The interests of small farmers during prolonged droughts need legal protection through suitable laws relating to 'Equitable distribution' of water.
8. To enable availability of safe potable water, it is essential that the programme of surface and ground water quality monitoring be intensified in addition to quantitative measurements by the State and Central Agencies. Thus, all the organisations involved in hydrologic measurements should be fully equipped to carry out water quality monitoring programme.
9. The utility of medium and large storages in combating droughts needs to be recognised in view of their long term storage capacity. Their role needs to be further studied in detail taking into account their impacts on the environment, both positive and negative.