

June 2, 2017

Mr. Basudeb Banerjee
Chief Secretary
Government of West Bengal (GoWB)
“NABANNA” HRBC Building
325, Sarat Chatterjee Road
Howrah – 711 102

Dear Mr. Banerjee:

***INDIA: West Bengal Accelerated Development of Minor Irrigation Project
Implementation Support Mission (April 24-28, 2017)***

A World Bank team conducted an Implementation Support Mission for the West Bengal Accelerated Development of Minor Irrigation Project (WBADMIP) from April 24-28, 2017. I would like to thank you for the courtesies and cooperation extended to the mission. The mission's findings and agreed next steps are provided in the attached Aide Memoire, which were discussed at a wrap-up meeting with the Project Director and the Finance Secretary.

As you know, the project is now in its fifth year of implementation, and after a slow start it is now making steady implementation progress. In particular, the project has been able to successfully demonstrate a community-based model for development, operation and maintenance of irrigation schemes in drought prone and tribal dominating areas. However, despite the recent improvement in implementation, the achievement of the Project Development Objectives (PDO) remains unlikely by the closing date of December 2017 as the project has not been able to recover for the time lost during the initial years. Therefore, the project continues to remain in problem status with the PDO rated moderately unsatisfactory. One reason for this is that progress on the project is still measured against the original target indicators as the result framework was not updated at the time of the partial cancellation of the IDA credit in February 2016. It is critical that the project be restructured at the earliest to update the result framework, for which we will require a formal request from the Department of Economic Affairs, Government of India.

Looking ahead, there are some long pending actions that have to be completed at the earliest to ensure that the improvement in project implementation is maintained. In particular, I note with concern that the contract for the State Project Management Unit firm is soon to close and it remains unclear how required human resources will be available for timely and quality project implementation. It is also important to immediately establish a Quality Assurance/Quality Control cell in the department especially since the volume of civil works has increased significantly. In this regard, I would like to underline the request of the mission for the GoWB to urgently inform the Bank on how it will make adequate arrangements for engaging a complete and multi-disciplinary staff in the State and District Project Management Units to facilitate timely and quality project implementation.

Our team stands ready to provide all necessary assistance to help ensure successful completion of this project. The next mission is scheduled for September 2017. In the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact Ms. Anju Gaur (email: agaur@worldbank.org) and Mr. Raj Ganguly (email: rganguly@worldbank.org), the Task Team Leaders of this project, for any further information or clarification.

With regards,

Yours sincerely,



Junaid Kamal Ahmad
Country Director, India

Encl.: Aide Memoire

cc: Mr. Subhash Chandra Garg, Executive Director (India), World Bank
Mr. Neeraj Mittal, Senior Advisor to Executive Director (India), World Bank

Mr. Rishikesh Singh, Director, Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance,
Government of India

Dr. Amarjit Singh, Secretary, Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga
Rejuvenation, Government of India

Mr. Naveen Prakash, Principal Secretary, Irrigation and Waterways, Government of
West Bengal

Mr. Sunil Kumar Gupta, Principal Secretary, Department of Water Resources Investigation
and Development, Government of West Bengal

Mr. Sanjeev Chopra, Additional Chief Secretary, Department of Agriculture, Government of
West Bengal

Mr. H. K. Dwivedi, Principal Secretary, Department of Finance, Government of West Bengal

Mr. Sunil Kumar Gupta, Secretary, Department of Fisheries, Government of West Bengal

Mr. S. Suresh Kumar, Secretary, Department of Disaster Management, Government of West
Bengal

Mr. Arnab Roy, Secretary, Department of Environment, Government of West Bengal

Ms. Nandini Chakrabarty, Principal Secretary, Food Processing Industries & Horticulture
Department, Government of West Bengal

Mr. Prabhat Mishra, Project Director, West Bengal Accelerated Development of Minor
Irrigation Project, Department of Water Resources Investigation & Development,
Government of West Bengal

Mr. Ajoy Choudhury, Engineer-in-Chief, West Bengal Accelerated Development of Minor
Irrigation Project, Department of Water Resources Investigation & Development,
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Mr. Hari Shankar Pramanik, Director, State Water Investigation Directorate, Government of
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