

provide timely and precise inputs regarding the pace and the quality of the implementation of the project, on permanent and dedicated basis. The Institutions are expected to provide the services of personnel trained for performing the expected tasks such as identification of the lead activity in each of the watershed projects, visit the project areas at pre-determined events in the life cycle of the project to obtain readings in the form of pre-set deliverable quantified outputs and assist in ensuring the implementation of the Exit Protocol in the “Watershed plus” phase to ensure adequate attention being paid to considerations of sustainability and equity.

Projects on Probation

57. Under the Watershed Development Programme a watershed project is taken up for a period of five years, which includes an initial phase of 9-12 months for establishing the necessary institutional mechanism for execution of the project. While this process by and large, has been working satisfactorily, there seems to be instances where the PIA is not in a position to ground the required village level institutions due to conflicting interest groups in the project area. It is, therefore, desirable to put a project on probation for a period of one year. During one year, if it is considered that the project cannot be implemented successfully for certain unavoidable circumstances and reasons, the ZP/DRDA shall recommend for its foreclosure to the State Government which will consider such request on merits and send its recommendations to Department of Land Resources. Before considering any such request, the State Government shall ensure that the amount already spent in the project area has been duly accounted for. The projects will be formally closed only after approval by the Department of Land Resources. In such cases, the unspent amount should be refunded to the Department of Land Resources. This review may take into account the sustainability of the project, equity and other related issues. However, such requests shall not cover the cases of financial embezzlement, defalcation and other deliberate irregularities, for which responsibility is to be fixed.