CLIMATE RESILIENT DEVELOPMENT
A Case Study of MashiSub Basin in Rajasthan

Supported by
India Water Partnership & Global Water Partnership

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Acknowledgement

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We are grateful to all the stakeholders who cooperated with us by participating in our various consultations/meetings/workshop and other activities organised from time to time during the entire period of the project. We place on record specially the cooperation of PRI representatives and Member of Legislative Assembly from different constituencies falling under Mashi River basin for participating in various meeting and positively contributing to our efforts in formulation of River Basin Parliament.

We are also thankful to our partner NGOs, Members of the River Basin Parliament for supporting us in this project by providing various inputs in organising meetings and mobilizing and motivating people for the community management of water resources.

I am personally thankful to my staff members Sh. Narendra Pratap Singh and Sh. Ladulal Sharma for successfully completion of the project and hope maintain same spirit in continuing the initiative in future by providing handholding support to the Parliament and its members.

Dr. M. S. Rathore
Director, CEDSJ
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1.0 Introduction

India has numerous problems of water resources in its diverse basins, such as, of availability, distribution, equity in access, quality, competition in usage, water pollution, encroachment on water bodies and catchment areas, ownership and right issues, etc. The recently enacted Rajasthan River Basin and Water Resources Planning Act 2015 of the Government of Rajasthan is envisioned to address the above challenges by promoting principles of IWRM in the state.

The objective of the project supported by Global Water Partnership through India Water Partnership was to strengthen water governance in the Mashi Basin as a demonstration model for replication for climate resilient development. Specifically, the project aimed to promote a participatory River Basin Model for water resource development and management by forming and operationalising Mashi River Basin Water Parliament. In doing so, in this project attempt was made to harvest the outputs and results from prior water management research by CEDSJ in the Mashibasin, and build-on the recently concluded EU-SPP Water Sector Programme of Government of Rajasthan.

The Mashi basin’s surface water resources are fairly limited. Groundwater is over-exploited with 135% development. Large-scale farming of water intensive crops in the Watershed 1 &2 of the Mashi Basin has deprived/marginalized groups not having adequate access to groundwater irrigation. Further, the groundwater quality is unfit for human consumption in most of the basin due to concentration of Chloride, Fluoride, Nitrate and EC value. Specifically, Fluoride concentrations are above the upper permissible limit for drinking water in most of the basin’s area. As known form the geophysical survey in the basin that major parts of the basin lack scope for groundwater recharge activity because of hard rock very near to the surface.

In furtherance to our effort to establish Mashi River Basin Parliament CEDSJ in the year 2018 continue to work in the Mashi Basin area with different stakeholders at local level to make them aware of the concept of River parliament, status of the river and groundwater, their role and responsibility in the management of water resources in the basin, etc. The following activities were undertaken in the year 2018:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Capacity building of Gram Panchayat /Watershed Committees</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capacity building of River Basin Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meeting of River Basin Technical Support Group (TSG)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>River Parliament Sammelan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Documentation/Report writing</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2.0 Capacity building meetings/trainings

The capacity building trainings/meetings were organised in the six watersheds at different locations with different stakeholders on regular basis with the active involvement of six different partner NGOs working in the basin since last 20 years or more. In the first two years number of studies were conducted to understand the various aspects of natural resources management particularly water and land resource management in the Mashi River Basin. These studies helped in developing training manuals to facilitate NGOs and CEDSJ staff to undertake the capacity building activities. The ultimate objective was to form a River Basin Parliament and develop it as a model of ‘Community Management of River Basin’, in order to facilitate the new law enacted by the State Government for management of the River Basins in the State.

The special feature of Mashi River Basin is that it has two rivulets namely, Mashi and Bandi Rivers. These two rivers originate from two different places and meet at Mashi Dam near Niwai Tehsil (Figure 1). These two rivers passes through a totally different geological regimes, hence different issues of water resource management. Conditions also vary between upstream and downstream sections of both the rivers, therefore, the water and land related issues also vary. Rather the issues vary across six different watersheds and those clearly emerged during trainings/capacity building meetings. These issues are discussed in next section.

Figure 1: Drainage pattern of Mashi and Bandi Rivers
### 2.1 Details on the capacity building activities during the year 2018.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Watershed</th>
<th>Number of person attended</th>
<th>Details of Participants</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>March 30, 2018</td>
<td>Kalakh Dam</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>Sarpanch, Wardpanch, farmers and other active individual members.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 20, 2018</td>
<td>ShoepuraPanchayatSamiti</td>
<td>I</td>
<td></td>
<td>RACP project of linking Chambal water to Kalakh Dam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 22, 2018</td>
<td>Naggar, Tonk District</td>
<td>IV</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>4 Sarpanch of Naggar, Dhandoli, Sitapura, and Etakhoi, 8 Wardpanch, 3 NGOs, 5 Agriculture Supervisors and Secretary of three panchayats.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 27, 2018</td>
<td>Gram Panchayat Kalakh</td>
<td>I</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Selected farmers and persons owning large Dairy in the area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 27, 2018</td>
<td>Rojda, Amber PanchayatSamiti, Jaipur</td>
<td>I</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>Selected KisanSabha member farmers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 10, 2018</td>
<td>Jairampura, PanchayatSamitiJalsu, Tehsil Amber, District Jaipur</td>
<td>I</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>Sarpanch (four), NGO (two), PanchayatSamiti members, JilaParishad members, KisanSabha members</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 28, 2018</td>
<td>Village Kansel, Tehsil Fagi,</td>
<td>V</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>Sarpanch, Wardpanch, Secretary, Agriculture Supervisor, and farmers.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 5, 2018</td>
<td>Village Nimera, PanchayatSamitiPhagi, District Jaipur</td>
<td>IV</td>
<td></td>
<td>Sarpanch, Wardpanch, and other members</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 20, 2018</td>
<td>Gram PanchayatAtalSeva Kendra MadhorajPura, Tehsil Phagi,</td>
<td>V</td>
<td></td>
<td>Sarpanch, Ward Panch and active village women’s group</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 20, 2018</td>
<td>Gram PanchayatAtalSeva Kendra Fiyawari, District Tonk.</td>
<td>VI</td>
<td></td>
<td>Sarpanch, Wardpanch and village committee members</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 8, 2018</td>
<td>Village Kishore Pura, Tehsil Phagi, District Jaipur</td>
<td>IV</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 8, 2018</td>
<td>Village Nimera, Tehsil</td>
<td>IV</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>Phagi, District Jaipur</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
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<td>------------------------------------------------------</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 24, 2018</td>
<td>Hanuman Temple Kalakh Dam, Tehsil Sambhar, District Jaipur,</td>
<td>I and II</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 5, 2018</td>
<td>NGO office at Chaksu</td>
<td>IV, V, and VI</td>
<td>Group of parliament members</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 14, 2018</td>
<td>NGO office at Naggar</td>
<td>IV</td>
<td>GVNML members Mr. Laxman Singh Laporia and Ramji Lal Sarpanch, Naggar</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 18, 2018</td>
<td>NGO JVS office,</td>
<td>III</td>
<td>Parliament members</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 20, 2018</td>
<td>GVNML, Laporia and Naggar, Prayas, Harsoli,</td>
<td>IV</td>
<td>NGO representatives and few members of parliament</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 24, 2018</td>
<td>Hanuman Temple Kalakh Dam, Tehsil Sambhar, District Jaipur,</td>
<td>I and II</td>
<td>150 MLA, Pradhan, Member Jila Parishad, Sarpanch, and Wardpanch. The other members were from Technical Support Group, Farmer Members from all the watersheds, Line department officials, IWP representative Dr. Veena Khanduri and few special guests.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Capacity building of River Basin Committee and Meeting of River Basin TSG were held at CEDSJ office or in the respective line department office from time to time to seek clarification or information based on the issues raised by stakeholders in the capacity building trainings/meetings. TSG experts were invited to CEDSJ office for consultation and also to deliver lecture in the capacity building trainings.

### 3.0 Issues addressed in the Capacity Building Trainings/Meetings

It is now well known and evident all over that flowing fresh water rivers in India have either ceased to flow or going to die soon and most will be turned into rivers of sewage and garbage. We have lost most of the rivers. One of the reasons suggested by some of the studies is that number of rainy days is falling across river basins in India and rainfall intensities are seen to be increasing. It is also being argued that reduction in flow of rivers is because water planners and water engineers introduced the idea of tapping rivers and secondly, under watershed development program construction of large number of structures on drains. The engineering
intervention transformed seasonally inundated floodplains into sites for irrigation sites involving construction of barrages and weirs. Many of the mighty rivers have been reduced to a trickle. Many of our rivers have turned into veritable sewers. Some of them are toxic cesspools. Today in official documents these rivers have been renamed as drains. Rivers have just become dirty nullahs as one finds sewage, plastic bags and pigs... in them.

The pertinent question is what happened to all the small rivers that flowed through every village? First, deforestation has destroyed nature's source of perennial flow. Second, there are the dams that have stopped their natural flow. Third, the State and people did not care for their sustainability rather involved in exploiting them. Studies also argue that anthropogenic activities (construction of storage reservoirs, diversions, urbanization, land-use change, and soil and water conservation measures, among others) have probably affected the flow and responsible for generation of peak floods in the rivers of India. Further, the other very important reason given is that the people also lost the spiritual connect with rivers, or somewhere the connection between river and people has been lost. There is no desire left to connect with the river, to at least protect what is left, to once again build up at least a bit of the great relationship that is lost.

Reduction in water flow in rivers is more prominently evident in Arid and Semi-Arid regions, such as Rajasthan. There are 14 River Basins in Rajasthan and except two basins and rest are deficit basins as rivers are mostly seasonal. Rivers flow only for few months in rainy season and rest of the year river beds are dry. In many cases because of low rainfall or drought year there is no flow in rivers for many years and therefore, people do not see them as river and try to use river bed for various other activities. This has resulted in mass encroachment of river lands and government has also used river bed by setting up industrial areas, allotment for many different economic activities even going against the laws of the land. It is for this reason that in our capacity building meetings/trainings large number of issues related to rivers were raised by the participants and those are discussed below.

3.1 Issues addressed in the Capacity Building Trainings/ Meetings

I. River and River health related Issues
   Do we need river, if yes, why?
   What is the present status of river in your area?
   How to augment flow in their part of river which is obstructed by a structures constructed by state government?
   Rampant sand mining from river bed, increasing encroachments in water bodies.
   Land encroachments in the river bed.
   No water flow in the river for last 10 years.
   Overexploitation of groundwater in Watershed I and II, falling under Bandi River.

II. Water Resources Management/ Governance related Issues

   Release of VKI industrial area waste water in the Bandi River.

   Conversion of river land into private land and government land by allotment to schools, roads, community hall, panchayatbhavan, industrial area, etc.
How to stop and get back the river land allotted to private people and used for other activities?

Who will monitor the entire Mashi and Bandi Rivers to check sand mining, encroachment, allotments of river land by the State going against the court judgments and existing water and other Laws?

Will the existing rights of people and village community on own land, grazing land, village common lands, river bed, etc. be affected by the formation of river parliament?

III. River and Livelihoods related Issues

How livelihood of people is linked to river?
If sand mining is stopped or regulated what will happen to the large section of population getting employment and income from this activity?
People are also engaged in river bed cultivation in some parts of river how they will be compensated?
People involved in fish production and marketing, Singara and Lotus production.

IV. River Basin conflicts: Upstream – Downstream and other Issues

The present revenue laws support old encroachments by regularizing them and giving Khatedari rights to encroacher then how to protect our river?

The major issue of sharing of water between upstream and downstream villages when there is flow in the river for short period. As people put obstruction and divert water at different location along the river and fill water structures seriously damaging the river and river flow. How to address this issue and re-establish social and economic relationship between the two set of users while taking care of river hydrology?

Sandminers versus rest of people.
Agriculture versus fishing, Agriculture versus water demand for domestic usage.
Industrial and city sewer pollution in river related conflicts.

V. Convergence with government programs/projects related Issues

If village community proposes certain activities to protect, conserve and manage village natural resources will those be addressed by Parliament in terms of resource provision or directing to the village Sarpanch?
How to establish relationship with the line department in the capacity of Basin Parliament member? Also how to get line department officials support/cooperation at watershed level?

Review the existing government plans/programs/projects in operation, in each of the watershed by the members of River Parliament and identify gaps in their implementation and suggest measures for their improvement, particularly in the context of water resources management.

VI. Role and Responsibility of PRIs, Line Department officials, and other stakeholders
Role and responsibility of Sarpanch in Mashi River Parliament and how that will benefit the village.

How to activate people at village level to save river and participate in the Basin Parliament activities?

The State is ignoring the usefulness of river and river ecology and allotting river lands or using river lands and catchment areas of river in their economic development activities/projects then how to save our river?

The watershed development program is implemented unscientifically affecting the natural resources, particularly water flow in old water bodies, dams and other structures. This issue was flagged in most of the meetings in the past. Presently the programme is directly affecting the water flow in river then how to improve the situation?

Coordination between partner NGOs and River Parliament members to organise meetings in each watershed and also to attend the parliament meeting.

VII. River Basin Parliament – Functioning, Constitutional and Sustainability issues
Is the proposed River basin Parliament concept and its constitution acceptable to all the stakeholders?
How to strengthen our parliament so that it becomes effective institution?
Who will provide technical support for actions on the prioritized issues?
Large number of people are still not aware about the River Basin Parliament and its functioning so how to make it as a peoples movement?

If village community proposes certain activities to protect, conserve and manage village natural resources will those be addressed by Parliament in terms of resource provision or directing to the village Sarpanch?
How the three main identified issue in the watershed namely; a) sand mining in river bed, b) encroachment in river bed, and c) drawing water from wells in the river bed, will be addressed by the river parliament?

Relation between village community and Parliament.

Preparation of work plan for all six watersheds by the members for getting them approved by the Mashi Basin Parliament for forwarding to the concerned government line departments for implementation.

VIII. Future Plan of Action
What is the CEDSJ concept/plan of ‘River Rejuvenation’ and in that what role is envisaged of Panchayats?

4.0 Decisions taken in the Meetings
The above listed issues were raised and discussed in the trainings/meetings at length and also suggestions were made to address at different levels. The Watershed wise decisions taken in the stakeholders meetings/trainings are reported below:

Watershed 1

1. It was decided that Sh. Pema Ram Sepat will be overall responsible for taking up all the issues related to Watershed 1 & 2 with the support of members with appropriate authority including River Basin Parliament.
2. Sh. Pema Ram Sepat took the responsibility of undertaking the mass awareness campaign in the villages of Watershed 1.
3. It was also decided that a group under the name of Kalakh BandhJalSansadSamiti be formed and registered under Society’s Act immediately to officially deal with government. In this connection a list of executive members was prepared, office bearers were nominated under the leadership of Sh. Pema Ram Sepat. Also decided that CEDSJ will guide in registration of this group.
4. The technical guidance in addressing all the issues listed above will be provided by CEDSJ.
5. A larger meeting of all the villages falling under Watershed-1 will be organised immediately after the registration of the JalSansad.

Watershed 1: Meeting at Rojada Village
May 2018
Meeting at JairamPura Village June 2018

Watershed 2

At Basin level, the River Basin Parliament should constitute a group of members representing all the stakeholders to support and supervise the working of village level committees in order to manage basin natural resources efficiently and sustainably.

It was decided that nominate 5 persons from each village on the banks of Bandi River to look after all the issues and also maintain link with the River Basin Parliament and help implementation of the decisions of the parliament. The five nominated person will then contact Sarpanch’s of villages located on upstream and they then monitor their portion of the river. It was decided that Sarpanch in consultation with the Gram Sabha will select 5 persons and inform the group in the next meeting of river basin. All these nominated members then coordinate and make efforts to rejuvenate Bandi River.

Watershed 2: Meeting at Kalakh Dam Village May 2018
Watershed 2: Meeting at Kalakh Dam Village August 2018

Watershed 2: Mashi-BandiJalSansadConstitutionrelease on Oct. 29, 2018

Watershed 2: Mashi-BandiJalSansadat Kalakh Dam Oct. 29, 2018
Watershed 3

The Watershed 3 area covers the upstream of Mashi River. The major issue emerged was conflict between upstream water users and downstream water users (Watershed 4), as in the upper part people obstructing flow of river by constructing small ponds, Anicut and other water harvesting structures. The upstream people argued that if we allow sufficient water to flow in the river our agriculture will suffer then how people belonging to Watershed 4 will compensate for this loss. The outcome of the capacity building meetings and River Parliament meeting was that let the representatives of two watershed sit and find way out so that minimum environmental flow is ensured. As similar problem was also discussed in the case of Bandi River it was resolved that the issue be taken up in the Mashi River Basin Parliament so that appropriate decision acceptable to all can be made.

Watershed 3: Meeting at Dudu Bag, Dudu Village, November 2018
In each village located on the bank of the river or rivulet constitute a village level committee. That committee will investigate the problem and propose a solution to Sarpanch and village Sarpanch will address it with the support of villagers and the committee will monitor progress in its execution. CEDSJ will provide all technical help to the committee and Sarpanch.

The issue of livelihoods and river was more contested as good number of households is deriving their livelihood from sand mining activity. The negative consequences of access that is, over exploitation through sand mining and also about the present High Court order to put ban on sand mining in the state was discussed at length. The role of Sarpanch was highlighted and finally was agreed that a village committee will be formed to save river. Participants expressed apprehension about impact of their effort and mentioned that unless such effort is made all along the river by people it will be difficult to save river. Therefore, it is the role and responsibility of River Basin Parliament to take up this issue with representatives from all the watersheds and make it as movement.

Watershed 4: Meeting at Naggar Village, May 2018

Watershed 4: Encroachment in Mashi River Bed
Watershed 4: Meeting at Kishore Pura Village, August 2018
Watershed 4: Meeting at Nimera Village, August 2018

Watershed 5

The Bandi River when reaches the area of Watershed 5 there moisture in the river bed is visible and also lots of sand is also available. Therefore, the major issue in that part was sand mining and digging of wells in the river bed and transporting water for agriculture.

A cell be created at PanchayatSamiti level to address grievances in the given government institutional framework.

After long discussion the suggestions emerged out of the meeting was that State must bring out a law addressing all these issues to save all the Rivers in Rajasthan. In that also address the issue of ensuring river flow by removal of structures/obstructions in the catchment areas and provide guideline for river bed management by regulating sand mining.

Watershed 5: Meeting at Kansel Village, June 2018

Watershed 5: Meeting at Madhorajpura Village, July 2018
Watershed 6

At Basin level, the River Basin Parliament should constitute a group of members representing all the stakeholders to support and supervise the working of village level committees in order to manage basin natural resources efficiently and sustainably.

After long discussion the suggestions emerged out of the meeting was that State must bring out a law addressing all these issues to save all the Rivers in Rajasthan. In that also address the issue of ensuring river flow by removal of structures/obstructions in the catchment areas and provide guideline for river bed management by regulating sand mining.

Watershed 6: Meeting at Fiyawari Village, July 2018

Meeting at Malpura Village, November 2018
5.0 Output/Outcome

The output of these more than 20 meetings/trainings was that people started taking initiatives to address their water problem through participatory approach. CEDSJ staff with the support of NGOs tried to motivate people in each of the watershed to form committees/groups responsible for village or gram panchayatan and get them register, particularly in the area falling under big dams in the Mashi and Bandi Rivers and resolve water and river related issues. This will strengthen the functioning and effectiveness of the Mashi River Parliament at apex level.

The important aspect of these meetings was that these meetings were demanded by people rather than forced by CEDSJ and partner NGOs. This was all because of our capacity building efforts in the past few years. Now people have started organising themselves around water issues and want to come together and want water security issues to be the pertinent issue in the next state assembly election.

The reasons for groundwater depletion were discussed in all the watersheds and there was general agreement to adopt water saving technology in agriculture, i.e. sprinklers, drip, using plastic films to reduce evaporation losses and Polly house technology, rainwater harvesting in farm ponds, etc. particularly in the catchment area of Bandi River. But did not agree to change cropping pattern immediately, rather agreed to save water and change cropping pattern gradually.

The issue of rejuvenation of Bandi River was discussed in the groups of Watershed 1 and 2 and the general view were that Bandi River be linked with Yamuna River under the Interlinking of Rivers scheme as the MP and MLA of that area have given press statements in favour of it. Secondly, people from Watershed 1 and 2 also drafted a representation to be given to Collector, MLA, MP and Chief Minister to expedite the ERCP state interlinking project to transfer water from Chambal River.

In order to address the issues emerged in the meetings/trainings in the six watersheds such as, encroachments, sand mining, diversion of water, allotment of common and river lands, etc. the general suggestion emerged that nominate 5 persons from each village on the banks of Mashi
and Bandi Rivers to look after all river related issues in their part and also maintain link with the River Basin Parliament and help implementation of the decisions of the parliament. It was decided that Sarpanch in consultation with the Gram Sabha will select 5 persons and inform the group in the next meeting of River Basin Parliament.

These five nominated person will then contact Sarpanch’s of villages located on upstream and suggest them to nominate 5 persons from each village and they then monitor their portion of the river. All these nominated members then coordinate and make efforts to rejuvenate Mashi and Bandi Rivers.

The issue of livelihoods and river was more contested in the downstream part of Mashi and Bandi Rivers, as good number of households are deriving their livelihood from sand mining activity. In the group meetings the negative consequences of all the activities listed above was explained in detail and also mentioned that all there are unlawful activities as they go against the present High Court order to put ban on sand mining in the state and other water related laws. The role of Sarpanches in resolving these issues was highlighted and was agreed that a village level committees will be formed to save Mashi and Bandi Rivers. Though people expressed apprehension about impact of their effort and mentioned that unless such effort is made all along the river by people jointly with PRI representatives it will be difficult to save river. CEDSJ tried to reiterate about the need of river basin parliament and its role in rejuvenation of river. Emphasis was given on linking village committees with parliament and work for making the River Basin Parliament a sustainable institution. It requires support of all the stakeholders to which the participants readily agreed.

**Major Outcome of 2018**

The major outcome in the year 2018 was that in the Mashi River Basin Parliament meeting held in the month of November, 2018 the constitution of the Parliament was unanimously approved. It was also decided to form an Executive Committee after the state assembly election when new MLA member of the River Parliament will be elected. PRI representatives also mentioned that since the River Basin Parliament is in place, we look forward to the plans and projects that can be implemented by them with the support of state government.

**6.0 Future Plan**

CEDSJ will like to continue to provide technical support to the River Basin Parliament and try to strengthen it till it becomes self sustaining. Efforts will be made to get financial support to continue the association with the parliament and NGO partners.
ललचाद दासस ने कहा कि जल संसद पर कार्यशाला का हुआ आयोजन।