

# THE HINDU Business Line

**No dearth of water projects, but not enough engineers to work on them, says expert**

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*Water management: (from left) S. Gopal, Managing Director, Chemplast Sanmar; Vibhu Nayar, Project Director, Tamil Nadu Irrigated Agriculture Modernisation and Water Resources Management Project; and N.K. Ranganath, Chairman, CII Conference on Water Management, at a conference on water management, organised by the CII, in Chennai on Friday. — Bijoy Ghosh*

**Chennai, August 10, 2012 :** Water management projects worth nearly Rs 10,000 crore are available for implementation but there are not enough water engineers to execute the works. There are big projects, including the one in the Ganga-Jamuna stretch, said S. Raghupathy, Executive Director, CII-Sohrabji Godrej Green Business Centre, at a CII conference on water management.

“There is enough employment and business opportunity in water management but not enough people. We advertised for water engineers, but the response was very poor,” he said.

### **More research needed**

According to Vibhu Nayar, Project Director, Tamil Nadu Irrigated Agriculture Modernisation and Water Resources Management Project, industry needs to undertake more research and development and technology to manage better the river basin. He clarified that he was speaking on his personal capacity, and not of the government.

The industry draws enormous water from the rivers, and they have a responsibility to ensure that the water is managed properly, he said. Inaugurating the conference, Nayar said industry should also have better models and flood forecast and decision support system. They should help policy makers on various water management issues.

Industry should not pollute the waters they draw and help in capacity building. The private-public-partnership is an excellent model. However, water is a complex subject as the issue of who owns the water is critical. The Government should own the assets while the private sector should help in distribution of water.

### **14 departments**

According to Raghupathy, there are 14 different departments accountable for water in every State and in the Centre. In comparison, in Singapore and the Netherlands, there is only one monitoring authority for everything related to water.

Similarly, India has only 30 days of rainfall storage capacity while in Europe and the US, it is nearly 900 days. Clearly, storage capacity should be augmented, he said.

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