23rd Technical Committee meeting of the Dam Rehabilitation and improvement project (DRIP) was held in Dehradun on 24th June 2019.

Ongoing DRIP with a financial outlay of over 3400 crore is rehabilitating 198 dam projects across 7 States with Financial assistance from the World Bank. Uttarakhand is one of partner state in DRIP and is rehabilitating 5 of its large dams and barrages under DRIP. Shri N K Mathur, Chairman of the Technical committee and Member, Central Water Commission in his opening remarks highlighted the significant progress made under DRIP during the last 7 years of its implementation. The project will get formally completed in June 2020. In this regard, he urged all the DRIP partner agencies to concentrate on logical completion of the project. He also announced that based on the success of DRIP, Government of India has launched DRIP Phase II and Phase III with financial outlay around 10000 crore aimed at rehabilitating over 700 large dams across 18 states of India.

Shri S N Verma, Managing Director, UJVNL welcomed all the DRIP partners and the World Bank officials to the meeting and highlighted the benefits of participating in DRIP which went beyond financial assistance to provide much needed technical support for the implementation as well as institutional capacity building for effective and efficient operation and maintenance of dams.

Shri Pramod Narayan, Project Director, DRIP highlighted the progress made in the implementation of DRIP. He informed that during the last year of the ongoing DRIP, all the partners should gear up to complete the balance works. He urged the academic partners to provide technical assistance to dam owners in their rehabilitation efforts. He also stressed the need and importance of Operation and maintenance manuals and Emergency action plans. He also informed about the international recognition of DRIP and reception of the presentation made about DRIP during recently concluded 87th General assembly of ICOLD in Ottawa, Canada. He requested all the agencies involved with DRIP phase II and Phase III to complete the preparatory activities to effectively start the project in time.

Dr C Rajagopal Singh, Task Team Leader, the World Bank appreciated the progress made under DRIP which helped the management to finance the DRIP phase II and phase III. He also emphasized the need for all the agencies to complete the preparatory activities to effectively start the DRIP Phase II and Phase III.

The meeting continued for the entire day with presentation made by all the DRIP implementing agencies about their progress and the issues involved in detail. Appropriate recommendations have been made for successful completion of DRIP.