

**Minutes of the first combined meeting of the Sub-Committee for comprehensive evaluation of various studies/reports available on issue of ILR and Sub-Committee for system studies for identification of most appropriate alternative plan held on 26.2.2015 at New Delhi.**

In compliance to the Hon'ble Supreme Court judgment dated 27.02.2012 in the Writ Petition (Civil) No. 512 of 2002 on "Networking of Rivers" alongwith Writ Petition No. 668 of 2002, the MoWR, RD and GR has constituted a Committee called Special Committee on Interlinking of Rivers vide Gazette Notification dated 23<sup>rd</sup> September, 2014. As decided in the first meeting of the Special Committee for Interlinking of Rivers (ILR) held on 17.10.2014, three Sub-committees: (i) Sub-Committee for comprehensive evaluation of various studies/reports available on issue of ILR; (ii) Sub-Committee for system studies for identification of most appropriate alternative plan; and (iii) Sub-Committee for restructuring of NWDA were constituted by the Ministry of WR, RD & GR vide OM dated 13.2.2015. The first combined meeting of Sub-Committees (i) and (ii) was held under the Chairmanship of Shri B.N. Navalawala, Chief Advisor, Ministry of WR, RD & GR on 26.2.2015 at New Delhi. The list of participants who attended the meeting is given at Annex.-I. Gist of important issues discussed is furnished below:

- i. Shri B.N. Navalawala, Chief Advisor, Ministry of WR, RD & GR and Chairman of the Sub-Committee for comprehensive evaluation of various studies/reports available on issue of ILR welcomed all the participants and mentioned that all the three Sub-Committees constituted by the Special Committee for ILR are inter related and as such should work in close coordination with each other.
- ii. Chairman mentioned about email dated 25.02.2015 from Shri A. C. Tyagi Secretary General, ICID urging to provide soft copy of all related documents /reports through a common gateway in a readily accessible format. He suggested for creating a Drop Box. He also desired information on present proposal of implementation of ILR.

Chairman invited the views from all the members present in the meeting on the issue of providing information to the members. The Members expressed their views on the issue. NWDA has carried out number of studies and the reports are available in NWDA. These reports shall be made available to the members of the Sub-committee. It was expressed that NWDA shall make the Power Point Presentation on each of the study report completed.

Some of the members were of the opinion that the gist/salient features of all the relevant reports should be made available to the members. Based on the expertise of the individual members the Sub-Groups may be set up for in-depth studies. As per the Terms of Reference, the Sub-Committee is to consider and evaluate various reports/studies carried out by NWDA. All the reports be provided to the members in printed form with the list of the reports.

Shri M. Gopalakrishnan, former Secretary General, ICID who is the Chairman of Sub-Committee on Restructuring of NWDA indicated that he was associated with the Task Force on Interlinking of Rivers. Many reports have been prepared during that period. He advised a caution in placing these reports in public domain. The Chairman desired that due care for this "precaution" be taken while deciding the mode/format for communication of various study reports/information/data to the members for the official purpose of these sub-committees.

Shri P.B.S. Sarma, CED, IIT, Delhi, expressed that comprehensive study require detailed analysis of each link.

Shri A. D. Mohile, former Chairman, CWC, agreed for providing reports of Peninsular Component of NPP and cautioned to have Himalayan Component report in Public domain as being classified in nature. The Chairman desired that this needs to be examined in view of the scope and various provisions of the Official Secrets Act-1923 and accordingly the compliant action in this regard be taken.

iii. Following reports have been made available to the members present in hard copy during the meeting:

- Action Plan-I and Action Plan-II of Task Force on ILR
- Report on Economic Impact of Interlinking of Rivers Programme by NCAER
- Eleventh Report of Standing Committee of Water Resources (2008-2009) on ILR and
- Action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in Eleventh Report of Standing Committee on Water Resources (2009-10)
- Counter Affidavits, Affidavits and status Reports in the form of Affidavits filed before Hon'ble Supreme Court.

iv. After deliberations following decisions have been taken during the meeting:

- The list of all the available reports/documents necessary to address the Terms of References of the Sub-Committees will be compiled by NWDA and will be provided to the members alongwith the summary/gist within 15 days.
  - NWDA shall have close coordination and frequent interaction with the members of the Sub-Committees.
  - Next combined meeting of Sub-Committees (i) and (ii) will be held on 26<sup>th</sup> March, 2015 at New Delhi.
  - For deliberating the Terms of References (TORs) both the Sub-Committees shall hold meeting separately before next combined meeting.
- v. Shri M. Gopalakrishnan expressed that the work of Sub-Committee on Restructuring of NWDA is interrelated with the work of Sub-Committee for comprehensive evaluation of various studies/reports available on issue of ILR as such he desired that the tenure of Sub-Committee on Restructuring of NWDA to be extended from two months to same as of other two Sub-Committees. He also expressed that Task Force on ILR has constituted various Working Groups and utilised the services of various experts, resource institute for speedy analysis of various related aspects.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

**Participants of the first meeting of the Sub-Committees for comprehensive evaluation of various studies/reports available on issue of ILR and Sub-Committee for system studies for identification of most appropriate alternative plan held on 26.2.2015 at New Delhi.**

**I. Sub-Committees for comprehensive evaluation of various studies/reports available on issue of ILR**

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|----|--|-----------|
| 1. | Shri B.N. Navalawala<br>Chief Advisor, MoWR, RD & GR                 | Chairman  |
| 2. | Shri A.D. Mohile,<br>Former Chairman, CWC                            | Member    |
| 3. | Shri A.C. Tyagi,<br>Secretary General, ICID                          | Member    |
| 4. | Shri S.N. Huddar,<br>Former Secretary (WRD),<br>Govt. of Maharashtra | Member    |
| 5. | Shri A.D. Bhardwaj,<br>Former DG, NWDA & former Member, CWC          | Member    |
| 6. | Prof. S. Iqbal Hasnain<br>Retd. Eminent environmental expert         | Member    |
| 7. | Shri K.P. Gupta<br>Superintending Engineer, NWDA                     | Secretary |

**II. Sub-Committee for system studies for identification of most appropriate alternative plan**

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| 8. | Prof. P.B.S. Sarma (Retd.)<br>CED, IIT, Delhi. | Chairman |
| 9. | Prof. Sanjeev Kapoor,<br>IIM, Lucknow.         | Member   |

## **Annex-I (Contd.)**

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| 10. | Prof. Kamta Prasad,<br>Chairman, IRMED, Delhi.    | Member    |
| 11. | Shri M. Illangovan,<br>Former Chief Engineer, CWC | Member    |
| 12. | Shri Sriram Vedire,<br>Advisor, MOWR, RD & GR     | Member    |
| 13. | Shri N.C. Jain<br>Director (Tech), NWDA           | Secretary |

### **Special Invitee:**

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| 14. | Shri M. Gopalakrishnan,<br>Former Secretary General, ICID<br>Chairman, Sub Committee on Restructuring<br>of NWDA |  |
| 15. | Shri S. Masood Husain,<br>Director General, NWDA   |  |
| 16. | Shri R.K. Jain,<br>Chief Engineer (HQ), NWDA   |  |