

**Minutes of the Eighth Meeting of the "Group on Financial Aspects under Task Force for Interlinking of Rivers" held on 18.04.2018 in the Committee Room of NWDA, Palika Bhawan, New Delhi.**

-----

The Eighth meeting of the "Group on Financial Aspects under Task Force for Interlinking of Rivers" was held under the Chairmanship of Dr. Prodipto Ghosh, former Secretary to Govt. of India and Chairman of the Group on 18.04.2018 (Monday) at 11.30 A.M. in the Committee Room of NWDA, Palika Bhawan, New Delhi. List of Members and other participants is enclosed as **Annex-I**.

At the outset, the Chairman welcomed all the Members, invitees and other participants. He once again expressed concern over absence of Member from NITI Ayog. The Chairman informed that a meeting of the Group was held with Hon'ble Union Minister for WR, RD & GR. He made a presentation in the meeting on the approach of the Group in addressing the task assigned to the Group and the progress made by the Group so far. The Chairman informed that Hon'ble Minister suggested the following:

- i) Use of least cost technology for providing water for irrigation.
- ii) Wherever topographically feasible, use of pipelines for water conveyance to reduce the land requirement.
- iii) Consider providing drinking water in the coastal area by desalinization of sea water and irrigation water by treated sewage water.
- iv) Funding of the ILR project through external borrowing similar to the bullet train project funding, i.e. Government to Government long term sovereign loan with nominal rate of interest.
- v) Prioritization of link projects and plan for funding the prioritized links first (KBLP, PTNLP, DPLP and Godavari (Akinempally) – Cavary link).
- vi) ILR Projects will mitigate floods in surplus basins and drought in deficit basins. This should be highlighted.
- vii) ILR projects can be used as climate change adaptation projects.
- viii) The taxes, levies on the construction equipments etc and royalty on construction materials etc can be considered as share cost of the concerned States.
- ix) Some of the link canals can be planned as navigational canals.

He then requested Member Secretary of the Group to take up the agenda item for discussion.

**Item 8.1: Confirmation of minutes of the Seventh Meeting of the Group on Financial Aspect held on 19.03.2018**

The Member Secretary informed that the minutes of the seventh meeting of the Group on financial aspects were circulated among the Members/Special Invitee vide letter No. SCILR/Tech/400/12/2017 dated April 05, 2018. Since no comments were received from any of the Members, minutes of the Seventh meeting were confirmed as circulated.

**Item 8.2.1: Presentation by NITI Aayog on projection of fiscal resources**

This item was once again deferred for the next meeting as the representative of NITI Aayog could not attend the meeting. Chairman emphasized that participation of NITI Aayog is very essential to know the extent of Government funding for such infrastructure projects, as well as policy decisions bearing on private sector and external funding.

Member Secretary Shri K.P.Gupta informed the group that NITI Aayog vide letter dated 12.04.2018 nominated Shri Avinash Mishra, Joint Adviser (WR&LR) as representative of NITI Aayog in the Group on Financial Aspects under Task Force for Interlinking of Rivers.

**Item 8.2.2: Presentation by Yes Bank on projections of possible flow of funds for the ILR programme from Indian Banks/ Financial Institutions,**

The desired inputs were not made available to Yes bank. As such they could not modify their presentation as suggested in the seventh meeting. This item was deferred for the next meeting.

**Item 8.2.3: Classification of IBWT projects of NPP into various groups / sub-groups.**

Sri M.K.Sinha, Assessor KWDT and former Senior Consultant of NWDA, made presentation on classification of IBWT projects of NPP into various groups/sub-groups, and pointed out that total 30 projects are proposed under NPP, of which 14 projects are under Himalayan Component and 16 projects are under Peninsular Component. These links are suggested to be classified under following categories / groups:

**A- Himalayan Component –**

Group –1: Dependent on surplus water of Manas and Sankosh river in Brahmaputra basin;

- (i) Manas-Sankosh-Tista-Ganga (MSTG)
- (ii) Farakka-Sunderbans (FS)
- (iii) Ganga (Farakka) Damodar-Subernarekha (GDS)
- (iv) Subernarekha-Mahanadi (SM)

Group – 2: Dependant on Koshi Dam in Nepal:

- (i) Kosi-Mechi
- (ii) Kosi-Ghaghra

Group – 3: Dependant on the rivers flowing from Nepal:

- (i) Gandak-Ganga(GG)
- (ii) Ghaghra-Yamuna(GY)
- (iii) Sarda-Yamuna (SY)
- (iv) Yamuna-Rajasthan (YR)
- (v) Rajasthan-Sabarmati (RS)
- (vi) Chunar-Sone (CS)
- (vii) Sone Dam – Southern Tributaries of Ganga (S-STG)

Jogighopa-Tista-Farakka (JTF) link is the alternative to Manas-Sankosh-Tista-Ganga (MSTG) link

### **B- Peninsular Component**

Group – 4 : Dependant on surplus water of Mahanadi and Godavari rivers and also on the waters of Himalayan rivers through Manas-Sankosh-Tista-Ganga (MSTG) link.

System of nine links - Feasibility report of all the 9 link projects has been prepared:

- (i) Mahanadi (Manibhadra) – Godavari (Dowlaiswaram) Link Canal
- (ii) Godavari (Polavaram) – Krishna (Vijayawada) Link Canal
- (iii) Godavari (Inchampalli) – Krishna (Nagarjunasagar) Link Canal
- (iv) Godavari (Inchampalli) – Krishna (Pulichintala) Link Canal
- (v) Krishna (Almatti) – Pennar Link Canal
- (vi) Krishna (Srisailam) – Pennar Link Canal
- (vii) Krishna (Nagarjunasagar) – Pennar (Somasila) Link Canal
- (viii) Krishna (Nagarjunasagar) – Pennar (Somasila) Link Canal
- (ix) Cauvery (Kattalai) – Vaigai – Gundar Link Canal

Independent links –

- (i) Ken-Betwa (KB)
- (ii) Par-Tapi-Narmada (PTN) - DPRs
- (iii) Damanganga-Pinjal (DP)
- (iv) Parbati-Kalisindh-Chambal (PKC) - FR completed
- (v) Netravati-Hemavati (NH) } PFRs completed. Consent of Karnataka Govt.
- (vi) Bedti – Varda (BV) } for preparation of FR is still awaited.
- (vii) Pamba-Achankovil-Vaippar (PAV) –FR completed. Kerala Assembly passed resolution for non-Implementation of this link.

Shri Sinha further indicated that since Odisha and Telangana have not agreed with NWDA study of surplus water in Mahanadi basin and Godavari basin respectively, planning of nine links needs to be reviewed with available surplus Brahmaputra water. Shri Sinha further mentioned that though Sardar-Yamuna link is the part of group of seven Himalayan Link System (Group-3), this link alone can be considered for implementation for water supply to Delhi as bilateral agreement between India and Nepal on Pancheswar dam on Sardar/Mahakali has been reached. Other links of this system may take long time as the bilateral agreement between India and Nepal on dams on Gandak and Ghaghra Rivers is yet to be realised.

The Member Secretary of the group, Shri K.P.Gupta, pointed out that the cost of links whose DPRs are prepared i.e. **Ken-Betwa, Par-Tapi- Narmada and Damanganga-Pinjal links** should be taken as per DPRs and for remaining links the cost may be extrapolated as suggested by the Group.

All the members of the group agreed with this suggestion given by Shri K.P. Gupta, Member Secretary of the group and requested to Shri Sinha to work out the cost of individual links and the entire ILR programme accordingly.

#### **Item 8.2.4: Potential for declaration of ILR Project as climatic change adaptation project**

Prof. Gosain, IIT Delhi, requested Member Secretary of the group to provide the detailed Hydrological study of **Ken-Betwa, Par-Tapi- Narmada, Damanganga- Pinjal** link projects for which NWDA has already completed the DPRs. Chairman requested Professor Gosain to make a presentation in this regard in the next meeting of the Group.

#### **Item 8.3.1&8.3.2: Review of progress of work of the Group and to draw up a work programme completion of its tasks.**

- (i) Chairman made a review of the work programme at the end of the discussion and introduced new themes of task. Regarding cost estimation and classification of groups of ILR projects, Chairman mentioned that the task assigned to NWDA has been completed. However he suggested NWDA to prepare a write-up on the theme in about not more than 1000 words which can be included in the main Report of the Group.
- (ii) A PPT on MDB, pension fund and Bilateral assistance by Yes Bank, Shri H. Satish Rao, Sri Deepak Das Gupta should be taken up in next meeting.
- (iii) Group suggested following 5 links on highest prioritization :
  - a) Ken-Betwa Link Project (KBLP)
  - b) Damanganga-Pinjal Link Project (DPLP)

- c) Par-Tapi-Narmada Link Project (PTNL)
- d) Godavary (Akinempalli) – Cavary link
- e) Sarda-Yamuna link

**Item 8.4: Any other matter(s) with the permission of the Chair.**

After discussion with Members and other participants it was decided to convene next meeting of the Group on 1<sup>st</sup> May, 2018 at 11.30A.M in the Committee Room of NWDA, Palika Bhawan, New Delhi.

The meeting ended with vote of thanks to the Chair.

**List of Members, Special Invitees and other participants of the Eighth meeting of the “Group on Financial Aspects under Task Force for Interlinking of Rivers” held on 18<sup>th</sup> April, 2018 at New Delhi.**

1.	Dr. Prodipto Ghosh, Former Secretary to Govt. of India & Member of Task Force for ILR and Distinguished Fellow, TERI, New Delhi	In-Chair
2.	Shri H. Satish Rao, (Retd.) Director General, ADB, Bangaluru	Member
3.	Shri M. K. Mittal, Director (Finance), NHPC, New Delhi	Member
4.	Shri Navin Kumar Chief Engineer (IMO), CWC, New Delhi	Member
5.	Shri Pranay Ranjan, Sr. Vice President -CF, Yes Bank Ltd., New Delhi	Representing Shri Rana Kapoor, Managing Director and CEO, Yes Bank Ltd., Mumbai
6.	Shri K. P. Gupta, Director (Tech.), NWDA, New Delhi	Member-Secretary
7.	Prof. A.K. Gosain, Professor, Department of Civil Engineering, IIT, Delhi	Special Invitee
8.	Shri M.K. Sinha, Assessor, Krishna Water Disputes Tribunal & (Retd.) Chief Engineer, CWC, New Delhi	Special Invitee
9.	Shri Raj Kumar Pachauri, Chief Engineer (PPO), CWC, New Delhi	Special Invitee
	<b>Other Officers</b>	
10.	Shri Anil Kumar Jain, Deputy Director(SCILR), NWDA New Delhi	
11.	Shri R. K. Agrawal, Consultant, NWDA, New Delhi	