

Minutes of the Third meeting of the Special Committee for Interlinking of Rivers held under the Chairmanship of Prof. Sanwar Lal Jat, Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation on 19.03.2015 at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi

The Third meeting of the Special Committee for Interlinking of Rivers chaired by Prof. Sanwar Lal Jat, Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation was held on 19.03.2015 at 15.00 hours at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi. The Members/representatives from various Central Government and State Government organizations attended the meeting. The list of Members and participants who attended the meeting is placed at Annex-I.

Prof. Sanwar Lal Jat, Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation extended a warm welcome to the members and participants of the Special Committee meeting. He mentioned that the Interlinking of Rivers projects are very much essential for overall development of the nation. He observed that implementation of Interlinking of Rivers Programme would help in bringing food security, better livelihoods and more employment generation. He mentioned that the Intra-State link proposals which were techno-economically feasible and not effecting the planning of link proposals of National Perspective Plan (NPP) are being taken up for preparation of Detailed Project Reports (DPRs). He urged the cooperation of all the States for successful implementation of Interlinking of Rivers Programme, which will bring prosperity to the nation. He emphasised that Government of India was fully committed to the implementation of Interlinking of Rivers Programme with consensus of all the concerned States. He requested all members/representatives to provide full support and cooperation to NWDA for accomplishing the task of preparation of Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) of various link projects and in other works related to Interlinking of Rivers.

After introductory remarks by Hon'ble Minister (WR, RD & GR), Director General, NWDA took up the Agenda items for discussions with the permission of chair.

Item No. 3.1: Confirmation of the Minutes of the 2nd Meeting of Special Committee for Interlinking of Rivers held on 06.01.2015 at New Delhi.

Director General, NWDA informed that no comments on the minutes of the Second Meeting of the Special Committee for Interlinking of Rivers circulated vide letter dated 9.3.2015 had been received from any of the members of the Committee. Therefore he proposed for the confirmation of the minutes.

The minutes of the meeting as circulated were confirmed by the Committee.

Item No. 3.2: Follow up action on the Decisions taken during previous meetings - Constitution of Sub-Committees and their meetings.

Director General, NWDA informed that as a follow up action of previous meetings, the MoWR, RD & GR vide OM dated 13th February, 2015 had notified the constitution of three Sub-Committees i.e. (i) Sub-Committee for comprehensive evaluation of various studies/reports available on ILR; (ii) Sub-Committee for system studies for identification of most appropriate alternative plan; and (iii) Sub-Committee for restructuring of NWDA.

These Sub-committees have started functioning. First and second meetings of the Sub-Committee for restructuring of NWDA were held on 24-25 February, 2015; and 10 March, 2015. The first combined meeting of Sub-Committees for (i) Comprehensive evaluation of various studies/reports on ILR (Sub-Committee-I) and (ii) System studies for identification of most appropriate alternative plan (Sub-Committee-II) was held on 26.02.2015. The second meeting of the sub-Committees (I) and (II) was held on 11.03.2015 and 12.03.2015 respectively.

During these meetings, broadly the Terms of Reference and modalities of working of these Sub-Committees were discussed.

Principal Secretary, PWD, Govt. of Tamil Nadu felt that the time duration given to the Sub-Committees for completion of their work was short and may have to be extended. Chief Advisor, MoWR, RD & GR mentioned that the time limit of Sub-Committees I & II was six months and that for Sub-Committee-III it was fixed two months. It was observed that the time limit will be reviewed at a later stage and extended further, if required.

Item No. 3.3: Ken-Betwa Link Project Phase-I - Status of Various Statutory Clearances

Item No. 3.3.1: Environment Clearance

Director General, NWDA, informed that Madhya Pradesh State Pollution Control Board (MPPCB) has conducted the Public Hearing for the project on December 23 and 27, 2014. The comments /replies on oral queries /questions and written statement raised/ submitted by villagers, local politicians, environmentalist, NGOs etc. during the public hearing have been submitted by NWDA to MPPCB for further processing the case for environmental clearance by MoEF & CC. NWDA is perusing regularly for early clearance. The details as given in the Agenda Notes were noted by the Committee.

Item No. 3.3.2 Wildlife Clearance

Director General, NWDA mentioned that as desired by Wildlife Department, Government of Madhya Pradesh, a revised application in respect of Wildlife Clearance had been submitted by NWDA to Director and CCF, Panna Tiger Reserve, Panna on 20.02.2015. Wildlife Department of the State Government has been requested to expedite the process of Wildlife Clearance of the project. The details as given in the Agenda Notes were noted by the Committee.

Item No. 3.3.3 Forest Land Diversion Clearance

Director General, NWDA mentioned that online application for forest land diversion clearance of Ken-Betwa Link Project (Phase-I) had been submitted to Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change) in August 2014. NWDA in consultation with the officials of WRD, Madhya Pradesh and CCF, Bhopal has complied all the online comments of MoE&F and CC except Forest Right Act (FRA) clearance and approval of Catchment Area Treatment Plan (CAT Plan). The proposal for obtaining these clearances has already been submitted to concerned District Collectors and CCF, Chhatarpur and Director, Panna. The details as given in the Agenda Notes were noted by the Committee.

Director General, NWDA requested Principal Secretary, WRD, Govt. of MP to extend his help and support to expedite the process of obtaining the above clearances from concerned authorities. Principal Secretary, WRD, Madhya Pradesh suggested that for expediting the process of obtaining/pursuing above clearances, the NWDA office at Bhopal should be strengthened. He further suggested that NWDA may set up a higher level i.e. Circle Office headed by

Superintending Engineer office at Bhopal (Presently a Division Office headed by an Executive Engineer) and suitably modify the administrative channel so that Investigation Division, NWDA, Bhopal may directly report to the Chief Engineer posted at NWDA Headquarter regarding the urgent matters of the Project. He further emphasized the urgent need of hiring of a consultant to deal with the forest & environmental issues etc. for early clearance of the Project. Secretary (WR, RD&GR) mentioned that the proposal in this regard received from NWDA would be considered on priority.

Secretary, (WR, RD&GR) advised NWDA to consider the suggestions of Principal Secretary (WRD) Madhya Pradesh and take appropriate action. Director General, NWDA stated that all these aspects would be looked into by NWDA and appropriate action for expediting the work would be taken.

Principal Secretary, WRD, Govt. of Madhya Pradesh assured that all the issues related to Madhya Pradesh in respect of clearances from MoE&F & CC would be completed by the end of April, 2015.

Item No. 3.4 Present status of Ken-Betwa Link Project Phase-II

Director General, NWDA mentioned that NWDA had prepared the DPR of the Ken-Betwa Link Project Phase-II and submitted to Government of Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh on 17.01.2014. Application for forest clearance of Lower Orr dam under Ken-Betwa Link Project Phase-II has been submitted online on 02.10.2014 and compliance of all online comments of MoE&F and CC has been completed except Catchment Area Treatment (CAT) Plan. The proposal alongwith revised CAT Plan for obtaining approval from CCF, Shivpuri and Ashok Nagar, MP has been submitted.

Principal Secretary, WRD, Govt. of Madhya Pradesh, mentioned that Govt. of Madhya Pradesh was extending all the necessary help for obtaining clearance from the concerned Departments of the State Government. He requested to include Bina Complex Project already appraised by Central Water Commission in Ken-Betwa Phase-II. He expressed the hope that all the issues involved in Ken-Betwa link Phase-I and II will be sorted out by June, 2015 by the State Govts. of U.P. and M.P. and thereafter Ken-Betwa link project Phase-I and II will be perused further for implementation.

The representative of MoE&F & CC indicated that the Terms of Reference of EIA studies for Ken-Betwa link project Phase-I and Phase-II (Lower Orr Major

Dam) had been submitted to them as independent and as such ToRs of EIA studies have been approved accordingly.

Item No.3.5: Present Status of Damanganga-Pinjal and Par-Tapi-Narmada link.

Director General, NWDA apprised the Committee that the Detailed Project Report of Damanganga-Pinjal Link Project had been completed by NWDA during March, 2014 and submitted to Government of Maharashtra and Gujarat in April, 2014. The Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai (MCGM) has submitted the Detailed Project Report of Damanganga-Pinjal link project to Central Water Commission during January, 2015 for appraisal. The Hon'ble Union Minister for Water Resources, RD & GR held a meeting with the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Maharashtra at Mumbai on 7th January, 2015 to expedite the further course of action regarding the project. Director General, NWDA requested Principal Secretary, WRD, Maharashtra to expedite the process of obtaining of various statutory clearances in respect of Damanganga-Pinjal Link through MCGM.

Principal Secretary, Water Resources Department, Govt. of Maharashtra desired that water sharing issues are resolved on priority. DG, NWDA clarified that the issue of water sharing would be taken up after the DPR of Par- Tapi - Narmada link Project completed as requested by Government of Gujarat. It was informed that the work for preparation of Detailed Project Report of Par-Tapi-Narmada link project was under progress and scheduled to be completed by March, 2015.

Item No. 3.6: Alternate Studies of Mahanadi-Godavari Link.

Director General, NWDA informed the Committee that water balance studies done by NWDA reveal that Mahanadi and Godavari basins are water surplus basins. The combined surpluses of Mahanadi and Godavari proposed to be diverted will meet the water needs of deficit basins in the South up to river Gundar. Feasibility Report of Mahanadi-Godavari link has been prepared by NWDA in 2004.

Considering large submergence of Manibhadra reservoir, NWDA has made alternate studies in two scenarios:

- (i) Two barrages; one each at Manibhadra and Barmul across Mahanadi river and two projects in Tel Sub-basin.
- (ii) A barrage at Barmul across Mahanadi river and five projects in Tel Sub-basin.

It was informed that preliminary study/analysis for the above two alternatives had been completed which would be followed by detailed studies. These alternative studies are proposed to be discussed with WRD, Government of Odisha for further action.

Representative of Govt. of Odisha mentioned that Mahanadi upto Manibhadra was not surplus basin. He requested that the details of these new alternative proposals may be furnished to Government of Odisha for examination. Additional Secretary, MoWR, RD &GR mentioned that these proposals were being framed in consultation with Engineer-in-Chief, Govt. of Odisha. He further indicated that the Mahanadi-Godavari link project was of immense benefits to nation including the State of Odisha and desired cooperation from Govt. of Odisha for further firming up of these alternative proposals.

The Principal Secretary, WRD, Govt. of Tamil Nadu desired that the other party States of Mahanadi-Godavari-Krishna-Cauvery - Vaigai link system should also be involved in the discussion on alternative proposals of Mahanadi-Godavari link.

Item No. 3.7: Status of Intra State link proposals

Director General, NWDA informed that so far, NWDA had received 46 proposals of intra-state links from 9 States viz; Maharashtra, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Odisha, Bihar, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Chhattisgarh. Pre-Feasibility Reports (PFRs) of 33 intra-state links have been completed by NWDA so far. Some of the proposals have not been found technically feasible at the preliminary stage. Director General, NWDA further informed that the DPR of two links namely (i) Burhi Gandak-Noon-Baya-Ganga Link and (ii) Kosi-Mechi Link of Bihar had been completed and sent to Government of Bihar in December, 2013 and March, 2014 respectively and submitted to CWC. The Intra State links namely; Ponnaiyar - Palar Link of Tamil Nadu; Wainganga - Nalganga Link of Maharashtra; Barkar-Damodar-Subernarekha Link of Jharkhand; and Vamsadhara - Rushikulya of Odisha have been taken up for the preparation of DPR by the NWDA on the request made by the concerned States.

Representative of Govt. of Jharkhand mentioned that NWDA had completed the PFR of three intra-State link of Jharkhand State and the DPR of Barkar-Damodar-Subernarekha link was in progress. He desired that NWDA should immediately convene the meeting of the Consensus Group under Chairman, Central Water Commission for arriving the consensus between Govt. of Odisha and Jharkhand so that the DPRs of remaining two links taken up by NWDA.

Secretary, MoWR, RD & GR advised that the meeting of Consensus Group (Sub-Group-IV) may be convened in April, 2015.

The Secretary, WRD, Government of Rajasthan stated that the two intra-state link proposals of Rajasthan were not found feasible by NWDA due to low Benefit-Cost (B-C) ratio. He requested NWDA to consider the other indirect benefits of the project while working out the Benefit-Cost (B-C) ratio. Director General, NWDA mentioned that the economic viability of the projects was being assessed as per the standard procedure of MoWR.

He requested for funding for taking up Detailed Project Reports of two Intra-State projects. He further desired that the details of feasibility report of Sarda-Yamuna and Yamuna–Rajasthan link may be shared with Government of Rajasthan. Representative of Government of Gujarat also desired a copy of the same. Additional Secretary, (WR, RD & GR) mentioned that the feasibility reports of these links were at draft stage. Once the feasibility report is firmed up after incorporating the details of availability of water from Nepal catchment these reports will be furnished to the concerned State Governments.

The representative of Govt. of Gujarat requested to take up the Damanganga-Sabarmati-Chorwad intra-state link of Gujarat for preparation of DPR.

Representative of Government of Andhra Pradesh expressed the support of his Government for Interlinking of Rivers Programme. He stated that the Polavaram-Vijayawada link projects had already been taken up for implementation and requested to take up other link projects of Peninsular Components south of Godavari River.

Representative of Government of Bihar indicated that out of 9 Intra-State link proposals proposed by Government of Bihar NWDA has completed PFR of 6 proposals and 3 link proposals were not found feasible by NWDA. He mentioned about joint site visit of officials of NWDA and Government of Bihar and urged NWDA to reconsider these three link proposals which were not found feasible by NWDA for further studies. DG, NWDA mentioned that the Government of Bihar may submit their revised proposals in this regard which will be considered by NWDA.

The Additional Secretary, MoWR, RD & GR observed that the NWDA had limited resources/manpower and requested State Governments to prioritise Intra-State link proposals of their States.

Item No. 3.8: Any other item with the permission of the Chair.

The Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation in his concluding remarks mentioned that Interlinking of Rivers Programme is an important programme of the Government of India. The peoples of the country are eagerly waiting for the ILR Projects to come up. Hon'ble Minister of State also mentioned that the non-viable schemes shall be reviewed & also the procedure shall be remodified for reflecting actual viability on the grounds & benefits out of the scheme. Hon'ble Supreme Court has also directed to implement the ILR programme in a time bound manner. He mentioned that the link projects where the concerned States were in agreement would be taken up immediately for implementation. He made a personal appeal to the participating States for their active support and cooperation in the ILR Programme.

Meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the chair.

List of Members and participants of 3rd Meeting of the Special Committee for Interlinking of Rivers held on 19.3.2015

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| 1. | Prof. Sanwar Lal Jat,
Hon'ble Minister of State (WR, RD & GR) | In Chair |
| 2. | Shri Rama Chandra Tejavath,
Special Representative
Cabinet Rank Minister,
Govt. of Telangana | Representing
Hon'ble Minister of
Irrigation, Telangana |
| 3. | Shri Anuj Kumar Bishnoi,
Secretary to Govt. of India,
MoWR, RD and GR, New Delhi | Member |
| 4. | Shri A. B. Pandya,
Chairman, CWC,
New Delhi | Member |
| 5. | Shri Aditya Nath Das,
Principal Secretary,
Irrigation Department,
Government of Andhra Pradesh, Hyderabad | Member |
| 6. | Shri R.S. Julania
Principal Secretary, Water Resource Department
Govt. of Madhya Pradesh | Member |
| 7. | Smt. Malini V Shankar,
Principal Secretary,
Water Resources Department,
Government of Maharashtra, Mumbai | Member |
| 8. | Shri Ajitabh Sharma,
Secretary, Water Resources Department
Rajasthan, Jaipur | Member |
| 9. | Shri N. S. Palaniappan,
Principal Secretary,
Water Resources Department,
Government of Tamil Nadu, Chennai | Member |
| 10. | Ms. Tinku Biswal,
Secretary, Water Resources Department,
Government of Kerala,
Thiruvananthapuram | Member |

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| 11. | Shri R. S. Prasad,
Retd. Chairman, CWC,
Expert, MoWR, RD & GR, New Delhi | Member |
| 12. | Shri Sriram Vedire,
Social Activist
Adviser, MoWR, RD & GR | Member |
| 13. | Shri K.K. Payasi
Social Activists | Member |
| 14. | Shri M. Bangara Swamy
Chief Engineer, Water Resources,
Government of Karnataka,
Bangaluru | Representing
Secretary, WRD,
Govt. of Karnataka |
| 15. | Shri Vipin Kumar, IAS
Resident Commissioner,
Bihar | Representing Chief
Secretary,
Govt. of Bihar |
| 16. | Ms. Kalpana Mittal Baruah,
Principal Resident Commissioner,
Govt. of Punjab | Representing Principal
Secretary, WRD,
Govt. of Punjab |
| 17. | Shri H.R. Kutare,
Engineer-in-Chief,
Water Resources Department,
Government of Chhattisgarh, Raipur | Representing Principal
Secretary, WRD,
Govt. of Chhattisgarh |
| 18. | Dr. D. K. Singh,
Superintending Engineer
Water Resources Department,
Government of Jharkhand, Ranchi | Representing Principal
Secretary, WRD,
Govt. of Jharkhand |
| 19. | Shri Rajeev Verma,
Chief Engineer,
Haryana Irrig. & Water Resources Deptt.
Govt. of Haryana | Representing Principal
Secretary, WRD,
Govt. of Haryana |
| 20. | Shri M.P. Raval,
Chief Engineer (Q.C.) &
Additional Secretary,
Narmada, Water Resources, Water Supply &
Kalpsar Deptt., Govt. of Gujarat,
Gandhinagar | Representing Principal
Secretary, WRD,
Govt. of Gujarat |

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| 21. | Shri Bishwanath Sinha,
Joint Secretary,
Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate
Change, New Delhi | Representing
Secretary, MoEF &
CC |
| 22. | Shri S. Masood Husain,
DG, NWDA | Member-Secretary |

Special Invitees

1. Shri B. N. Navalawala,
Chief Advisor MoWR, RD & GR and
Chairman of Sub-Committee-I of SCILR
2. Prof. P. B. S. Sarma
Emiretus Prof., CED, IIT Delhi and
Chairman of Sub-Committee-II of SCILR
3. Shri M. Gopalakrishnan,
Former Secretary General, ICID and
Chairman of Sub-Committee-III of SCILR
4. Shri A. D. Mohile
Former Chairman, CWC and
Chairman of Group on Intra State Links

Officers from Ministry of WR, RD and GR & Central Government

1. Dr. Amarjit Singh,
Additional Secretary to Govt. of India,
MoWR, RD and GR, New Delhi
2. Shri B. Rajender,
Joint Secretary (PP),
MoWR, RD and GR, New Delhi
3. Shri Pradeep Kumar,
Commissioner (SP),
MoWR, RD and GR, New Delhi
4. Shri S.K. Gangwar,
Sr. Joint Commissioner (BM),
MoWR, RD & GR, New Delhi

5. Shri Asit Chaturvedi,
Deputy Commissioner (BM),
MoWR, RD & GR, New Delhi
6. Shri B. K.Panda,
OSD to MoWR, RD & GR,
New Delhi

Officers of State Governments

1. Shri R. Subramanian,
Chairman, CTC cum ISWW,
Water Resources Department,
Government of Tamil Nadu,
Chennai
2. Shri Indu Bhushan Kumar,
Chief Engineer,
Planning & Monitoring, WRD,
Govt. of Bihar, Patna
3. Shri T.D. Sahoo,
Engineer-in-Chief, WRD,
Govt. of Chhattisgarh
Raipur
4. Shri T. Hanumantha Rao
Chief Engineer,
Water Resources Department,
Andhra Pradesh, Hyderabad
5. Shri R.G. Dhungar,
Executive Engineer,
Damanganga Project Division,
Govt. of Gujarat, Valsad
6. Shri Yogesh Mittal
Executive Engineer (N),
Water Resources Department,
Rajasthan, Jaipur

NWDA Officers

1. Shri R. K. Jain,
Chief Engineer (HQ),
New Delhi
2. Shri M. K. Srinivas,
Chief Engineer (South),
Hyderabad
- 3.. Shri H. N. Dixit,
Chief Engineer (North),
Lucknow
4. Shri N. C. Jain,
Director (Tech.)
New Delhi
5. Shri K.P. Gupta,
Superintending Engineer
New Delhi
6. Shri M. P. Gupta,
Director (Fin.)
New Delhi