

Minutes of Seventh Meeting of the Sub-Committee for Comprehensive Evaluation of various Studies/Reports Available on the Issue of ILR held on 26th July, 2016 at Vigyan Bhawan Annexe, New Delhi

Seventh meeting of the Sub-Committee for Comprehensive Evaluation of various Studies/Reports Available on Issue of ILR was held on 26th July, 2016 at 03:00 P.M. at Vigyan Bhawan Annexe, New Delhi under the Chairmanship of Shri B.N. Navalawala, Chief Advisor, Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation. The list of participants who attended the meeting is at Annex-I.

The Chairman, Sub-Committee for Comprehensive Evaluation of various Studies/Reports Available on Issue of ILR (Sub-Committee-I) extended a warm welcome to the participants of the meeting. In his opening remarks, the Chairman mentioned that the meeting was originally scheduled to be held in February, 2016 but could not be held due to unforeseen circumstances. Thereafter, Shri K.P. Gupta, Superintending Engineer, NWDA and Convener of the Sub-Committee-I was requested to take up the agenda items for discussion.

Item No.8.1: Confirmation of the Minutes of the sixth meeting of the Sub-Committee for Comprehensive Evaluation of Various Studies/Reports Available on the Issue of ILR held on 29.09.2015 at New Delhi

The Secretary of the Sub Committee - I informed that the Minutes of the Combined Meeting of the “Sub-Committee for Comprehensive Evaluation of Various Studies/Reports Available on the Issue of ILR” (Sub-Committee-I) (6th Meeting) and “Sub-Committee for System Studies for identification of most appropriate Alternative Plan” (Sub-Committee-II) (7th Meeting) held on 29.09.2015 were circulated to all the members vide letter dated October 23, 2015. He mentioned that the items pertaining to Sub-Committee-II were confirmed in its Eighth Meeting held on 13th May, 2016. He further stated that no comments on the Minutes of the Sub-Committee-I were received from any of the members. As such, the Minutes of the 6th meeting of the Sub-Committee-I were confirmed.

Item No.8.2: Follow up actions on decisions taken during the 6th meeting of the Sub-Committee

- (i) It was decided in the last combined meeting of the Sub-Committees that the preliminary study of Mahanadi (Barmul)-Godavari (Inchampalli) link proposal should be circulated to all the members of the Sub-Committees. This item had already been dealt with by Sub-Committee-II in its 8th Meeting held on 13.05.2016. As such, no further action in this regard is required to be taken by this Sub-Committee.

- (ii) The issue relating to System Simulation Studies including Water Balance Studies of Mahanadi-Godavari link had already been discussed by the Sub-Committee-II in its 8th Meeting held on 13.05.2016.
- (iii) It was decided in the last combined meeting of the Sub-Committees that a format for preparation of Report of the Sub-Committees should be prepared. The format for preparation of the Report had been prepared and placed as Annex-8.2.2 of the Agenda Notes. A presentation on the draft Format of the Report was made during the meeting. Certain modifications in the format were suggested by the members during the meeting. The modified format of the report is at Annex-II.

The Chairman, Sub-Committee-I desired that various action points should be identified for evaluation and preparation of the report and 3-4 Sub-Groups may be formed for the purpose. All the Senior Consultants, Middle Consultants, Junior Consultants and concerned Chief Engineers/Superintending Engineers of NWDA should be involved in this task.

Shri A.D. Mohile suggested that tentative volume/size of the report may be decided so that content of various items in the report may be restricted accordingly.

Shri A.C. Tyagi suggested that the report should contain sufficient details about each link with action points.

Item No.8.3: Review of NWDA Guidelines for carrying out Water Balance Study in a river basin

The Secretary of the Sub Committee - I stated that during the eighth meeting of the Special Committee held on 8th February, 2016, it was decided that Shri B.N. Navalawala, Chief Advisor (WR,RD&GR) and Chairman, Task Force for ILR along with the Sub-Committee for System Studies would consider the issue of 'surplus water' for the purpose of Interlinking of Rivers and would give its recommendations to the Special Committee on ILR in two months time. This Agenda Item was circulated for consideration in the Combined meeting of the Sub-Committee for Comprehensive Evaluation of various Studies/Reports available on the Issue of ILR (Sub-Committee-I) (7th Meeting) and Sub-Committee for System Studies for identification of most appropriate alternative plan (Sub-Committee-II) (8th Meeting), which was scheduled to be held on 18th February, 2016 but could not be held due to unforeseen circumstances. Therefore, this Item was later considered by the Task Force on Interlinking of Rivers in its third meeting held on 28th April, 2016.

The Secretary of the Sub Committee - I mentioned that the issue of 'surplus water' in the context of Interlinking of Rivers was discussed in detail in the 3rd meeting of the Task Force for ILR under the Chairmanship of Shri B.N. Navalawala. The representatives of the Governments of Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Telangana also attended the meeting. It was decided in the meeting of the Task Force that the existing Guidelines of Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) of NWDA would be circulated to all concerned States by NWDA and thereafter, the TAC of NWDA headed by Chairman, Central Water Commission would consider and review the Guidelines in light of the views received from the States and revise appropriately.

The Secretary of the Sub Committee - I further stated that as decided in the third meeting of the Task Force, the existing Guidelines of TAC of NWDA for carrying out water balance study in a river basin were sent to all concerned States for conveying their comments/views and thereafter, the TAC of NWDA considered the comments/views of all the member States in its 42nd meeting held on 23rd May, 2016 at New Delhi. The issues of 'Surplus water' and 'Allowable lift' for inter basin water transfer links covered in the Guidelines were also discussed in the TAC meeting. Based on the discussions, the earlier Guidelines evolved by the TAC of NWDA have been appropriately modified. Based on these modified Guidelines, the Guidelines for preparation of preliminary water balance studies have also been revised.

The Secretary of the Sub Committee - I further mentioned that the revised Guidelines were placed before the Task Force in its fourth meeting held on 15th June, 2016. The Task Force deliberated and finalised Guidelines of TAC of NWDA for working out the water balance in a river basin/sub-basin. As decided, the Guidelines finalised by the Task Force have been circulated vide letter dated 12th July, 2016 to all the members of the TAC of NWDA and concerned States with the request that their consent or views of their Government be conveyed within one month's time on receipt, failing which it would be taken as the consent of their Government. Thereafter, these Guidelines would be placed before the Special Committee for Interlinking of Rivers for approval.

The Chairman, Sub-Committee-I referred to the views expressed by the Advisor, Government of Telangana over 'Surplus Water' in a basin in the tenth meeting of the Special Committee for Interlinking of Rivers (SCILR) held on 26th July, 2016 at 11:30 hrs at New Delhi. The Advisor, Government of Telangana had suggested that the issue of 'Surplus Water' for the basins, where Tribunals have given their Awards, should be viewed differently from those basins not covered by Tribunal Awards. The Chairman, Sub-Committee-I stated that the suggestion seemed to have some logic and needed to be examined. Director General, NWDA suggested that this issue could be discussed in the next meeting of the Task Force for Interlinking of Rivers.

It was decided that the issue may further be deliberated upon in the next meeting of the Task Force.

Item No.8.4: Report of the Group on Intra-State River Links

The Secretary of the Sub Committee - I stated that a Group on Intra-State River Links headed by Shri A.D. Mohile, Former Chairman, CWC was constituted vide Ministry of Water Resources, RD & GR O.M. dated 12.03.2015 to review all relevant issues related to Intra-State river links including definition of such links, and consider and suggest about funding of such links. Accordingly, the Group looked into details of the Intra-State River Links/Intra-State Links and submitted its Report to the Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation vide letter dated 28.5.2015.

Shri A.D. Mohile, Chairman of the above Group made a power point presentation of the Report in the meeting. The presentation covered water resources development in India, issues involved in Intra-State Links, process of clearance of projects, fast track process for river linking, etc. He also presented the Recommendations of the Group defining Intra-State Links, steps to be followed when States propose Intra-State Links for investigation by NWDA and implementation, financing of Intra-State Links for investigations as well as for implementation, organisational aspects for implementing Intra-State Links, etc. The important recommendations of the Group are at Annex-III.

The Chairman, Sub Committee-I appreciated the efforts made by the Group under the Chairmanship of Shri Mohile for coming out with valuable recommendations.

It was decided that the Recommendations of the Group may be forwarded to the Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation for their due consideration and further action.

The Secretary of the Sub Committee - I informed that a policy decision had been taken by the Ministry of WR,RD&GR in December, 2015 regarding funding of the proposals of the State Governments for preparation of DPR of Intra-State river link projects, which was as under:

“NWDA should generally confine itself to inter-state river linkage project DPR. They can take up intra-state river linkage projects only as consultancy works, if awarded by any State Government. The Government of India fund should not be utilized for DPR preparation of intra-state river linking projects.”

The above decision of the Ministry was noted by the Sub-Committee.

Item No.8.5: Water balance study of Godavari basin at proposed Inchampalli dam site

The Secretary of the Sub Committee - I informed that the agenda item had already been discussed by the Sub-Committee-II in its 8th Meeting held on 13.05.2016.

Item No.8.6: Expansion of Sub-Committee – inclusion of the representatives from other Departments/Ministries

The Secretary of the Sub Committee - I stated that as per decision of the Sub-Committee taken in its 2nd meeting held on 11th March 2015, Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change (MoEF & CC); Ministry of Agriculture; Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA); Ministry of Finance (MoF); Central Electricity Authority (CEA); Central Water Commission (CWC) and NitiAyog were requested to nominate their representatives. The responses of MoA, CEA, CWC, NITI Ayog, MoTA and MoF had been received. The MoF earlier nominated Shri Rishikesh Singh, Director (MI). However, MoF vide OM dated 13th April, 2016 has informed that since the role of the Sub-Committee is very technical in nature, the representation from Ministry of Finance may not be required in the Sub-Committee. However, nomination from MoEF & CC was yet to be received even after regular persuasion.

It was decided that the Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change (MoEF & CC) may be further reminded to nominate their representative on the Sub-Committee.

Item No.8.7: Engaging Consultants for carrying out the work of the Special Committee/Sub-Committees/Task Force

The Secretary of the Sub Committee - I stated that the permission for engaging 12 consultants (6 at senior level, 4 at middle level and 2 at junior level) for the work of Special Committee for ILR and its various Sub-Committees/Task Force was accorded by the Ministry of WR,RD&GR. In compliance to this, 7 consultants (six at senior level and one at junior level) were selected during August, 2015. Out of them, six consultants (five at senior level and one at junior level) had joined. NWDA had further advertised for engaging remaining six consultants (one at senior level, four at middle level and one at junior level) during October, 2015 and five consultants (one at senior level, three at middle level and one at junior level) were selected. Out of them, two consultants at middle level and one consultant at junior level had joined.

The above information was noted by the Sub-Committee.

Meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

Annex-I

List of Members and participants of 7th Meeting of the Sub-Committee for Comprehensive Evaluation of various studies/reports available on the issue of ILR (Sub-Committee-I) held on 26.07.2016 at Vigyan Bhawan Annexe, New Delhi.

1.	Shri B.N. Navalawala, Chief Advisor, Ministry of WR,RD&GR & Chairman, Task Force on ILR	Chairman
2.	Shri A.D. Mohile, Former Chairman, CWC Member, Task Force for ILR	Member
3.	Shri A.D. Bhardwaj, Former Member, CWC	Member
4.	Prof. S. Iqbal Hasnain, Former Professor, Environmental Science, JNU	Member
5.	Prof. Samar K. Datta, Retd. Professor, Centre for Management in Agriculture, IIM, Ahmedabad	Member
6.	Shri A.C. Tyagi, Secretary General, ICID, New Delhi	Member
7.	Shri K.P. Gupta, Superintending Engineer, New Delhi	Secretary
	Special Invitee	
8.	Shri Sriram Vedire Social Activist & Advisor, MoWR, RD & GR, New Delhi	
9.	Shri Bhajan Lal, Assistant Commissioner (NRM), Ministry of Agriculture, New Delhi	
10.	Shri R.K. Jain, Chief Engineer (BPMO),CWC, New Delhi	
11.	Shri Vinay Kumar, Chief Engineer (Hydrology), CWC, New Delhi	

	NWDA Officers	
12.	Shri S. Masood Husain, Director General, NWDA, New Delhi	
13.	Shri R. K. Jain, Chief Engineer (HQ), New Delhi	
14.	Shri M. K. Srinivas, Chief Engineer (South), Hyderabad	
15.	Shri H.N. Dixit, Chief Engineer (North), Lucknow	
16.	Shri N.C. Jain, Director (Tech), New Delhi	
17.	Shri M.S. Agrawal Senior Consultant, New Delhi	
18.	Shri K.P. Singh, Senior Consultant, New Delhi	
19.	Shri M.K. Sinha, Senior Consultant, New Delhi	

Format of the Report of Sub-Committee for Comprehensive Evaluation of Various Studies/Reports Available on Issue of ILR

- 1.0 Introduction**
 - 1.1 Introduction**
 - 1.2 Hon'ble Supreme Court's Order dated 27.02.2012**
 - 1.3 Composition and ToRs of the Committee**
 - 1.4 Members co-opted/ Special invitees from Ministries etc**
 - 1.5 Number of meetings held with date**
 - 1.6 Reports/ Documents related to Interlinking of Rivers (ILR) Projects considered for evaluation by the Sub-Committee**
 - 1.7 Criteria/Parameters adopted for Evaluation by the Sub-Committee**
- 2.0 Reports/Documents of the Task Force on Interlinking of Rivers (2004) and its Sub-Groups/Committees**
 - 2.1 Report of Independent Group of Experts set up by the Task Force on Interlinking of Rivers**

The details of the Report submitted by the Independent Group of Experts set up by the Task Force on Interlinking of Rivers including their recommendations may be given here.
 - 2.2 Terms of References for preparation of Detailed Project Report of Interlinking of rivers project as prepared by Task Force on Interlinking of Rivers**

The Terms of References for preparation of Detailed Project Report of Interlinking of rivers project as prepared by Task Force on Interlinking of Rivers may be given here.
 - 2.3 Report on Institutional Mechanism for implementation of ILR Programme prepared by Task Force on Interlinking of Rivers through IIM Ahmadabad**

The details of the Report on Institutional Mechanism for implementation of ILR Programme prepared by Task Force on Interlinking of Rivers through IIM Ahmadabad may be given here.
 - 2.4 Report on Economic Impact of ILR Programme prepared by Task Force on Interlinking of Rivers through National Council of Applied Economic Research**

The details of the Report on Economic Impact of ILR Programme prepared by Task Force on Interlinking of Rivers through National Council of Applied Economic Research may be given here.

2.5 Action Plan-I and Action Plan-II of Task Force on Interlinking of Rivers

2.5.1 The details of the Action Plan-I of Task Force on Interlinking of Rivers may be given here.

2.5.2 The details of the Action Plan-II of Task Force on Interlinking of Rivers may be given here.

3.0 Other Reports/ Documents related to Interlinking of Rivers

3.1 Reports of Standing Committee of Parliament for Water Resources

The details and the recommendations contained in the Reports of Standing Committee of Parliament for Water Resources may be given here.

3.2 Affidavits/Counter Affidavits filed in Hon'ble Supreme Court

The Status Reports in the form of Affidavits/Counter filed before the Hon'ble Supreme Court during the pendency of the Writ Petition on Networking of Rivers and their review may be given here. This could be separate for Peninsular Rivers Component and Himalayan Rivers Component and/or State wise.

4.0 Detailed Project Reports prepared by NWDA in respect of water transfer proposals of National Perspective Plan

4.1 Ken - Betwa Link Project Phase-I

4.1.1 Project in brief

4.1.2 Inter-State Agreement on Ken-Betwa link project

4.1.3 Details of the water proposed to be diverted from river Ken to river Betwa and Pre-feasibility, Feasibility and Detailed Project Reports

4.1.4 Status of various statutory clearances

4.1.4.1 Techno-economic clearance

4.1.4.2 Environmental clearance

4.1.4.3 Wildlife clearance

4.1.4.4 Forest land diversion clearance

4.1.5 Evaluation by the Sub-Committee

4.1.6 Implementation of the project

4.2 Ken - Betwa Link Project Phase-II

Similar details applicable to Phase-II may be included in this section.

4.3 Damanganga - Pinjal Link Project

4.3.1 Project in brief

4.3.2 Details of the water proposed to be diverted from river Damanganga to river Pinjal and Pre-feasibility, Feasibility and Detailed Project Reports

4.3.3 Inter-State Agreement on Damanganga-Pinjal link project (proposed)

4.3.4 Evaluation by the Sub-Committee

4.3.5 Recommendations of the Sub-Committee for implementation of the link project

4.4 Par- Tapi - Narmada Link Project

Similar details as in case of Damanganga-Pinjal link project applicable to Par-Tapi-Narmada link project may be included in this section.

5.0 Feasibility Reports prepared by NWDA in respect of water transfer proposals of National Perspective Plan

5.1 Mahanadi (Manibhadra) - Godavari (Dowlaiswaram) link

5.1.1 Project in brief

5.1.2 Details of the water proposed to be diverted from river Mahanadi (at Manibhadra) to river Godavari (at Dowlaiswaram)

5.1.3 Details of the Pre-feasibility, Feasibility Reports

5.1.4 Evaluation by the Sub-Committee

5.1.5 Recommendations of the Sub-Committee for implementation of the link project

5.2 Godavari (Polavaram) - Krishna (Vijayawada) link

5.3 Godavari (Inchampalli) - Krishna (Nagarjunasagar) link

5.4 Godavari (Inchampalli) - Krishna (Pulichintala) link

5.5 Krishna (Nagarjunasagar) - Pennar (Somasila) link

5.6 Krishna (Srisailam) - Pennar link

5.7 Krishna (Almatti) - Pennar link

5.8 Pennar (Somasila) - Cauvery (Grand Anicut) link

5.9 Cauvery (Kattalai) - Vaigai - Gundar link

5.10 Parbati -Kalisindh - Chambal link

5.11 Pamba - Achankovil - Vaippar link

(The Sections from 5.2 to 5.11 may be described on the pattern of Section 5.1)

6.0 Pre-Feasibility Reports prepared by NWDA in respect of water transfer proposals of National Perspective Plan

Peninsular Component

6.1 Bedti - Varda link

6.1.1 Project in brief

6.1.2 Details of the water proposed to be diverted from river Bedti to river Varda

6.1.3 Details of the Pre-feasibility Report

6.1.4 Evaluation by the Sub-Committee

6.1.5 Recommendations of the Sub-Committee for implementation of the link project

6.2 Netravati - Hemavati link

Himalayan Component

6.3 Manas-Sankosh-Tista-Ganga (M-S-T-G) link

6.4 Jogighopa-Tista-Farakka link (Alternative to MSTG link)

6.5 Ganga-Damodar-Subarnarekha link

6.6 Farakka-Sunderbans link

6.7 Subarnarekha-Mahanadi link

6.8 Kosi-Mechi link

6.9 Kosi - Ghaghara link

6.10 Gandak-Ganga link

6.11 Ghaghara-Yamuna Link

6.12 Sardar-Yamuna link

6.13 Yamuna-Rajasthan link

6.14 Rajasthan-Sabarmati link

6.15 Sone Dam - Southern Tributaries of Ganga link

6.16 Chunar-Sone Barrage link

(The Sections from 6.2 to 6.16 may be described on the pattern of Section 6.1)

7.0 Suggestions and Recommendations

The suggestions/recommendations of the Sub-Committee in light of the ToR may be discussed here.

Group on Intra-State River Links

headed by Shri A.D. Mohile, Former Chairman, CWC

(Constituted vide MoWR,RD&GR's O.M. No.2/11/2012-BM(Part-iv)/392-402 dated 12.03.2015)

Important Recommendations

1. Background

The Group constituted by the Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation has already given its recommendations to the Ministry. The recommendations of the Group are summarised below.

2. Inclusion of Intra-State River links as a part of National ILR

The following criteria may be used to decide if a project or a scheme is of the nature of an Intra-State river link :

- (i) It transfers water from one river to another river or to the area adjoining the other river. A simple system of contour and ridge canals which transfer the water of a river to its tributaries or streams joining these rivers on the downstream will not be considered as a river link. Similarly, where a project or a scheme plans to use the waters of a basin in a contiguous area, a significant part of which is within the basin, and some part outside the basin, this project or scheme need not be considered as a river link.
- (ii) The intra-State river links to be included in the ILR and thus, the intra-State link which may concern the NWDA need to be in general fitting in the National Perspective Plan. The general direction of water transfers should not be normally contradicted by the Intra-State river links to be included in the NPP.

The National ILR programme should have two components, one dealing with the NPP and the other dealing with such of the intra-State links which meet the conditions and attributes detailed in the Report of the Group.

3. Selective inclusion of intra-State links in ILR

The intra-State links may be classified in two parts. Some of the links having the essential attributes of the ILR programme and satisfying the conditions as outlined in the Report of the Group will be classified as links which can be included in the ILR and which thereby can be given the advantages regarding fast tracking and better finances will form one part and the remaining will be in another part.

4. Modification of Guidelines for National Projects

For intra-State river links, the National Project Guidelines need to be modified. Any intra-State link project having an irrigation of more than 50,000 ha in one State should qualify as a National Project. Similarly, any intra-State link project having a municipal water supply component of more than 100 MCM per year should qualify as National Project. For links providing both irrigation and municipal water, the qualifying limit will be 50,000 ha after considering every one MCM per year of municipal supply as equivalent to 500 ha of irrigation.

5. Acceptability of intra State river link proposals – Procedural Recommendations

Many of the Intra-State links as proposed by the States are ‘intra-State’ only from the point of location of the proposed physical works, but the basins involved (the donor, recipient and/or en-route) may be inter-State. Thus, there would be interstate considerations. Before the proposal becomes acceptable, these issues need to be resolved. Although the NWDA may assist in this regard, the primary responsibility of obtaining the consent of the other States will be with the proposing State.

The general procedure for Investigation and Implementation of Intra-State Links has been abstracted as shown in Figure-1 (appended with these recommendations).

The detailed procedure to be followed for acceptability of intra-State river links proposed by the States is given at Annexure-A (appended with these recommendations).

If, after following the procedure given at Annexure-A, it is found that the project can be included as a part of the ILR programme, the Group recommends that these be included in the ILR. Such projects can be considered for a favoured treatment in regard to (i) their consideration as a part of river link programme (ii) their consideration as a National Project (iii) their fast track clearance through the Special Committee for Interlinking of Rivers as set up by the Hon’ble Supreme Court or a similar other mechanism (iv) their implementation through a Central Government programme involving financing by the Central Government and (v) their implementation through a central agency such as Special Purpose Vehicle.

6. Role of NWDA in Investigations and Project Preparation of Intra-State River links

In general, for the larger intra-State links which can be included in the ILR, the NWDA can play a larger role in obtaining clearances and thus facilitating

implementation. For the intra-State links not included in the ILR, the NWDA may give only some assistance to the State in this regard.

7. Organizational Arrangements

Some models which can be adopted have been discussed in the Report of the Group but no clear recommendations in this regard have been given since the administrative model for the implementation of the NPP links has also not emerged, as yet.

In general, the Bansagar model can be adapted for the intra-State link implementation. The execution can be by the State in which the physical works lie. However, a higher level superintendence by an inter-State control board, or a similar mechanism, set up by the Centre, and in which the other concerned States are represented, may be necessary.

If the project is to be executed by the State outside the National river link programme, the onus of obtaining clearances including statutory clearances by all the bodies of the Central government, as may be applicable, for the DPR of an intra-State link project (which may include inter-State aspects and economic viability, environmental sustainability etc.) will be with the State.

If the project is to be included in the National river link programme the Central government or the NWDA may have to first scrutinize whether it is fit for such inclusion. If it is found to be fit, then the ownership of the project can be taken over by the Special Purpose Vehicle or the other administrative arrangement and further clearances will have to be obtained by that owner (in a few cases, where the inclusion in the ILR programme is agreed to, but the special administrative arrangements have not been finalized, in the transitional period the concerned State along with NWDA may be given the responsibility for obtaining further clearances).

8. Financing of Intra-State River links

8.1 General

If the intra-State link is so planned as to meet the criteria of promoting equity in water use and national integration and are fairly large, these could be included, if so requested by the State, in the ILR programme.

8.2 Financing Investigations and Report Preparation

ILR programme will have two components. Part I will consist of the NPP river links and the Part II will consist of such of the intra-State river links, which can be included in the ILR. In regard to the intra-State river links which get included in the ILR programme it would not matter as to who prepared the DPR whether the State or

the NWDA. The processes of investigation of the intra-State river links and their implementation need to be separated.

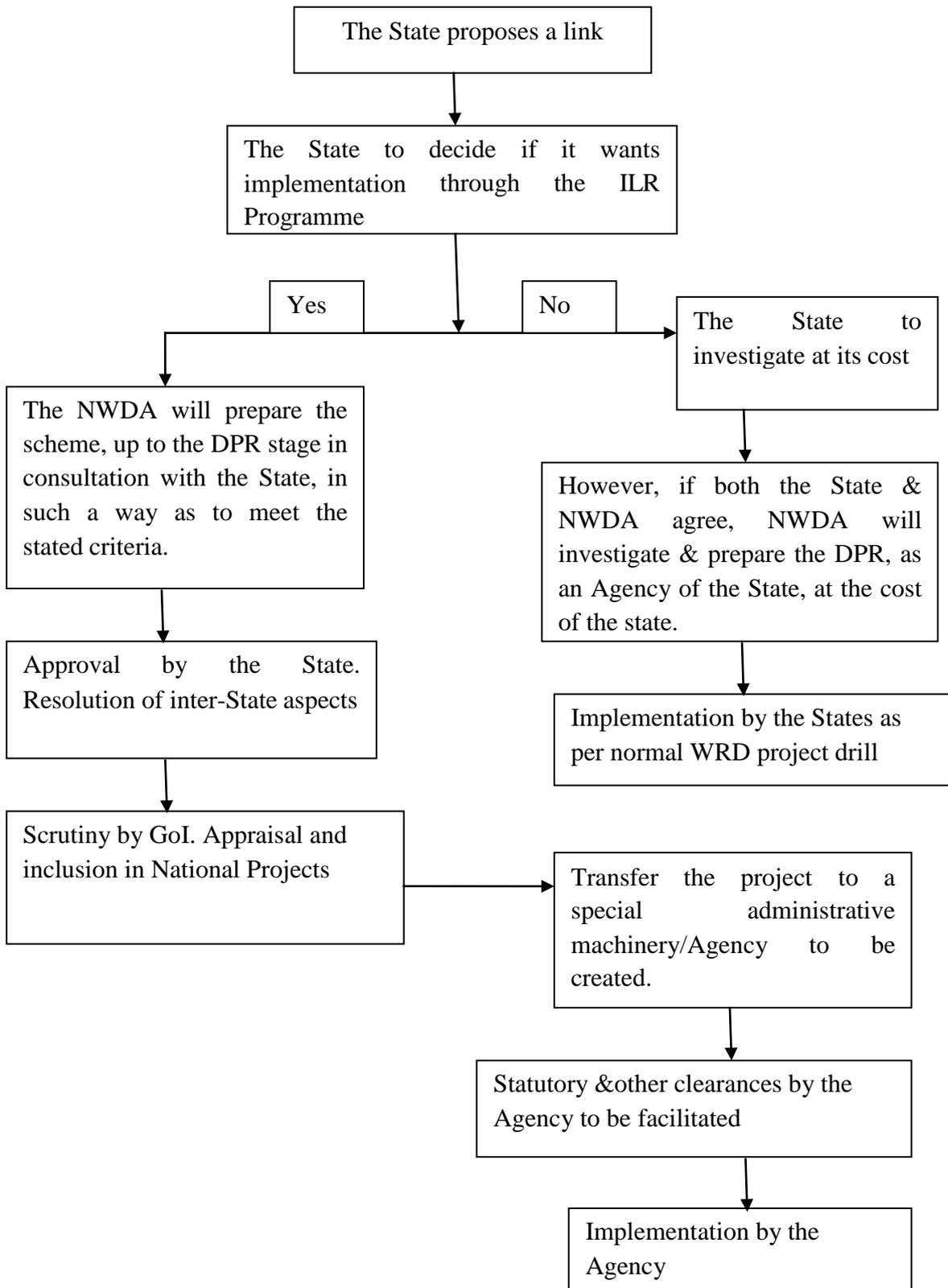
With the larger financial resources available with the States, they should normally investigate and prepare the PFR / FR / DPR for the intra-State river links on their own and with their own funds. While preparing these project proposals, if they have planned to obtain the special treatment for this project in view of its distinct planning philosophy catering to equity in water use, or due to the size of the project which cannot be managed by them for implementation, they can prepare it in accordance with the criteria suggested above so that these get included in the ILR programme.

NWDA's involvement in investigation and preparation of reports should be limited to such proposals where the State brings out that it is not capable of preparing such a scheme due to constraints of staff etc. If this contention is accepted, and if NWDA has the spare capacity, it may undertake the task. Where NWDA agrees to take up the work, the NWDA will prepare the scheme on its own with constant consultation with the State as a scheme for its subsequent inclusion in the ILR programme. The costs will be met by NWDA.

8.3 Financing Project Implementation

If the link is considered to be meeting all the conditions for its inclusion in the ILR programme (this will include a check as to whether it qualifies as a river link, whether the direction of water transfer is as per the NPP direction, whether it negates or impedes an NPP link and thereafter whether it meets the equity, integration and size criteria) and if the proposing State as also the other concerned States agree, the link can be included in the Part-II of the ILR and implemented as a part of the ILR, utilizing the fast track approval procedure and the larger availability of the central funds as per the ILR procedure.

Figure-1
Intra-State Links
Process of Investigation and Implementation



Detailed Procedure to be followed for Acceptability of Intra-State River Links proposed by the States

The Group is of the view that normal water development projects should be able to cater to local deficit areas such as regions with large urbanization or local drought areas. Such projects need not be considered as intra-State ILR projects.

As already brought out, the programme for river linking (the ILR Programme) has very special planning attributes in as much as it promotes equity in water utilization, promotes national integration by allowing water to be used by non co-basin States, and involves projects which are in general much larger than the normal water resource development (WRD) projects of the States. The Government of India has already given a high priority to the ILR. The Hon'ble Supreme Court of India has also given a Special dispensation for Fast Track clearance of such projects through the Special Committee on ILR.

Although the ILR was earlier thought to include only the NPP projects as being investigated by the NWDA, by now the intra State river links are also under consideration. Many of the intra-State river links may meet at least two of the three attributes. These intra-State river links may promote equity by transferring water from the comparatively water rich or less water stressed areas of the State to the less water rich or more water stressed areas. Although the objective of National Integration through transfer of water to non co-basin States would not be met by such river links, promotion of such river links would be in the national interest if the other planning attributes are present.

Considering this, the Group recommends that the intra-State river links proposed by the States should undergo the following exercise:

(A) Examination of preliminary proposal of intra-State links:

1. The State Government prepares a PFR/FR of the intra State link, and sends to NWDA. The PFR or FR should be a detailed document prepared on the basis of topo-sheet studies, reconnaissance study and if FR is being prepared, some surveys. The report should indicate the link, the surplus water available for transfer, possible use in terms of irrigation area, quantity of water supply etc., discuss the inter-State issues and their implication in regard to the link, and indicate preliminary designs, costs and benefits.

2. NWDA makes a preliminary analysis based on the following:
 - a) Decide if the proposed intra State link is actually a river link or is a simple water resource development project. If it is a normal WRD project, the State should be so informed and requested to deal with it through the normal process.
 - b) Examine if the general direction of water transfer is as per the directions envisaged in the NPP and as are indicated in para 4.1(3) of the Report of the Group.

If it is not so, examine the proposal more critically. Only if the situation about the overall supply demand balance, in a local area served by the link, is different from the regional / basin situation, such transfers against the direction of the NPP transfers, should be accepted.
 - c) Examine if such a transfer is so planned as to negate or reduce another possible transfer included in the NPP. If this is so, the NWDA or the Central government agencies may not get involved in such an intra State water transfer.
3. If the preliminary analysis is unsuccessful, NWDA will inform the State accordingly. The scheme will stand rejected. Similarly, if the PFR /FR after NWDA examination indicates that the scheme is techno-economically not viable, it would stand rejected.

(B) Examination of DPR by NWDA to decide inclusion in ILR

4. If the analysis is successful, then the State will be informed about that the scheme is good enough for preparing a DPR. However, the State, with some assistance from NWDA, will have to obtain the concurrence of the other co-basin States. With this concurrence, either the NWDA or the State can prepare the DPR.

5. Further Examination of the DPR

If the preliminary examination shows that this is a desirable intra State link, check if the special planning attributes of (i) promoting equity in water use and (ii) being of a large size are being met. If the analysis shows that this is an Intra State river link project with attributes which allow its inclusion in the ILR, it can be included, if the concerned State so desires, in the ILR along with the other NPP projects. The facility of Fast Track Clearance through the Special Committee would also become available to this project. The administrative machinery/ machineries/ institutions as would be created for the NPP projects would take care of these intra State river links under the ILR.

6. In case these attributes are not being met, inform the State that the project cannot be included in the ILR, but the State would be encouraged to implement on its own. Funding through AIBP for the Project may be available, if eligible.

7. A stepwise process of deciding whether any intra State link can be classified as an intra State link distinct from a water development project, to see if it fits with the NPP in regard to the direction of transfer and in regard to not hampering the NPP proposals, and to see if it has the attributes of equity, integration and size to allow its entry into the ILR programme, is already detailed above and in section 4.3 of the Report of the Group. To facilitate this stepwise procedure, the Group has further recommended as follows that:

- a) In checking whether the link provides water from a relatively less water stressed area/basin to a relatively more water stressed area/basin which lacks viable alternative sources of water, examine the following. If the transfer is from a surplus basin to a deficit basin, it is very desirable. If, it is from a surplus basin to a basin which is neither surplus nor deficit, this can also be accepted. Similarly, if it is from a basin which is neither surplus nor deficit to a basin which is deficit, this is also acceptable. If, both the basins are in the same category by the current definition of surplus and deficit basins, as used by NWDA, and based only on irrigation, further analysis will be required. If the recipient basin has much larger demands such as the demands of large municipal and industrial use in the vicinity, as compared to the donor basin, this can also be accepted.
- b) Sometimes, the whole basin may be a deficit but a small sub-basin on the upstream may be surplus. Transfer from such small surplus region to other basins within the State need not be allowed.
- c) Sometimes, the whole basin may be surplus but smaller upstream basins may be deficit. In such cases, transfers from other water rich basins to the deficit part of the surplus basin can be allowed.
- d) While considering the Intra-State river links it needs to be seen if, the general direction of water transfer involved in such intra State river links fit with the general directions indicated in para 4.1(3) of the Report of the Group.
- e) The Group agrees that there could be some local exceptions to such directional rule but these would require much detailed analysis before accepting the transfer which does not fit into the direction indicated by the NPP.

f) In section 4.3 of the Report, the Group has already indicated that if the intra State river links are long enough, they will supply water from one region of the State to another. Thus, to a limited extent, the integrative role of water transfer would be fulfilled. In this regard, the Group recommends that if the total distance from the point of pickup of water to the point of use is 200 kms, this role would be fulfilled.

g-i) As already stated in section 4.3 of the Report of the Group, the size is important. The Group recommends that the size criteria can be either (i) by the cost or (ii) by the size of the benefits. The size of the benefit itself can be judged by the irrigated area or by the domestic and industrial water supply.

The Group also recommends that if an intra-State link is “large”, either by cost or by size of benefits, it would be classified as large and would be eligible for inclusion in ILR by the size criteria.

g-ii) While reviewing the National Projects Guidelines, the Group noticed that the benefits are being assessed only in terms of irrigation. In the background of current food self-sufficiency and growing urbanization, municipal water supply is becoming increasingly important. The municipal water supply would be mainly for domestic water use which is given the highest priority in the water policy. It may also include some industrial supplies, and as per the location, these also may have high priority. Municipal supplies for growing metropolitan areas cannot be met, often, by nearby sources and river linking becomes more relevant. Therefore, the group is of the view that the criteria depicting the size of the benefits should weigh both irrigation and water supply uses together.

g-iii) When classifying by cost, the intra State link to be included in the ILR need to have a capital outlay of more than Rs. 1500 crores (2011-12 price level).

g-iv) When classifying by size of benefits, the links which provide irrigation to more than 50,000 ha. The current guidelines for National Projects require the national projects to have an irrigation potential of greater than 200,000 ha. The group has considered these in suggesting a smaller size of inclusion of intra State links in the ILR.

g-v) In regard to classification by size of links providing water supply, schemes which have an annual water supply (domestic and industrial) of more than 100 MCM per year could be considered as a part of the National River link programme. Since some links have both irrigation and

water supply components, the Group recommends that for the purpose of this criteria, every one MCM of water supply can be considered as equivalent to 500 ha of irrigation.

- h) However, the smaller of the link projects, which do not meet the size criteria, can be taken up by the States themselves, if the inter-State issues involved in such intra State link projects can be resolved amongst States concerned, with the central government using its “good offices”. Such execution by the States is important since most of the States, by now, are capable of such implementation. Even in regard to financing, the States now are much better placed after the devolution of a large chunk of the common pool funds to the States as per the recommendations of 14th Finance Commission.
