

**Minutes for the Seventh meeting of the Group on Legal Aspects under Task Force for Interlinking of Rivers held on 14.02.2017 at New Delhi.**

The Seventh meeting of the Group on Legal Aspects under Task Force for Interlinking of Rivers was held on 14.02.2017 at 11:00 hrs, Sewa Bhawan, R.K. Puram, New Delhi. The meeting was chaired by Shri A.D. Mohile, Former Chairman, CWC and Chairman of the Group. At the outset, the Chairman of the Group welcomed all the members and invitees and others participants. He informed that draft report prepared by NWDA has been circulated by NWDA among the Members of the Group on Legal Aspects on 09.02.2017. Members are free to give their observations today or even after the meeting so that the same can be incorporated in final draft report to be placed before the Group in the next meeting. Later, Shri K.P. Gupta, Director (Technical), NWDA took up the Agenda Items. The list of the participants is enclosed at Annex-I.

**Item No. 6.1: Minutes of the meeting of the 6th meeting of the Group on Legal Aspects under Task Force for Interlinking of Rivers held on 2<sup>nd</sup> February, 2017 at New Delhi.**

The minutes of the 6<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Group on Legal Aspects under Task Force for Interlinking of Rivers held on 2<sup>nd</sup> February, 2017 at New Delhi were circulated to all the Members vide letter dated 9<sup>th</sup> February, 2017. Chairman once again expressed the view that if the Members have not got sufficient time to go through the minutes, they may offer their observations at later date also, preferably within a week. After deliberation the Minutes of the 6<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Group on legal aspects held on 02.02.2017 were confirmed by the Group as no comments were received.

**Item No 6.2: Discussion on of Draft report of the Group on Legal Aspects.**

Shri K.P. Gupta, Director (Technical) placed before the Group the first draft of the report for discussion. Members considered the section-I and II of the report and section-III upto para 3.3.2 and suggested certain modifications. Chairman also informed the Group that Shri Gopalakrishnan, Member of the Group had discussions with him regarding draft report on 13.02.2017 after sixth meeting of the Task Force as he was pre-occupied with some other engagement on 14.02.2017 (i.e., the date of seventh meeting of the Group). He offered two main observations as under:

- (i) International implications involved with Himalayan links requires to be further elaborated so that interest of Bangladesh in Manas-Sankosh-Teesta-Farakka link can be properly dovetailed. He was also of the view that the huge quantity of water is proposed for transfer from Himalayan links and this transfer will supplement the demand of Peninsular links. As such emphasizing the need of such huge transfer may help in drawing attention of the Union Government for early resolution of the international disputes.
- (ii) Shri Gopalakrishnan, further desired to incorporate few important international experiences of inter basin water transfer links in detail to know as to how inter-state or international issues were resolved by them. He suggested to refer to Shri Asit Biswas's book on inter basin water transfer for Chinese experience.

Apart from this, Members of the Group after deliberations decided following points for making improvement in the report:

- (i) 'Preface' should be replaced by 'Summary' in the beginning of the Report.
- (ii) "Acknowledgement" should be in brief and given at the end of the Report. There will be no Section-6 in the report.
- (iii) Section-I should start with para on 'Background of NPP' and it should be shortened. It should also include references of proposals of S/Shri Arthur Cotton, K.L.Rao and Captain Dastur.
- (iv) Last para of Para 1.1.2 requires to be rewritten which chairman of the Group agreed to do himself.
- (v) Section-V (Recommendations) should have signatures of all the Members.
- (vi) In view of the fact that Odisha is not agreeing to the divertible quantum of surplus water from Mahanadi, the feasibility of Peninsular links may depend upon Brahmaputra water coming through MSTG link. This aspect should be appropriately highlighted and accordingly inter-state and international issues involved with Peninsular links should be indicated in the concerned table.
- (vii) Prof. Avdhesh Prasad agreed to give note on relevant Supreme court judgement for inclusion in the report in next 2-3 days.

**Item No. 6.3 Any other item (s) with permission of the chair**

Chairman of the Group expressed the hope that the report would be finalised in next two meetings and suggested to hold next two meetings preferably on 23.02.2017 (AN) and 06.03.2017 (FN).

The Chairman of the Group informed that the issue of extension of tenure of the Group was discussed by the Task Force for Interlinking of Rivers in its 6<sup>th</sup> Meeting held on 13-02-2017 and the Chairman, Task Force approved the extension upto 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2017.

Meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

**List of participants of 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the “Group on Legal Aspects under Task Force for Interlinking of Rivers” held on 14.02.2017 at New Delhi.**

1.	Shri A. D. Mohile, Former Chairman, CWC	Chairman
2.	Prof. Avdhesh Pratap, Water Law and Management Expert	Member
3.	Shri A. B. Pandya Former Chairman, CWC	Member-Convener
<b>Officers from NWDA</b>		
4.	Shri R. K. Jain, Chief Engineer (HQ)	
5.	Shri K. P. Gupta, Director (Tech)	
6.	Shri M. K. Sinha Senior Consultant	