

Minutes of the Third combined meeting of (i) Sub-Committee for comprehensive evaluation of various studies/reports available on issue of ILR and (ii) Sub-Committee for system studies for identification of most appropriate alternative plan held on 07.04.2015 at New Delhi.

The Third combined meeting of the (i) Sub-Committee for comprehensive evaluation of various studies/reports available on issue of ILR and (ii) Sub-Committee for system studies for identification of most appropriate alternative plan held on 07.04.2015 at New Delhi under the Chairmanship of Shri B.N. Navalawala, Chief Advisor, MoWR, RD & GR. The list of participants who attended the meeting is given at **Annex -I**. Gist of important issues discussed is furnished below:

1. Confirmation of minutes of second meetings

The minutes of the second meetings of (i) Sub-Committee for comprehensive evaluation of various studies/reports available on issue of ILR [Sub Committee-(i)] held on 11.3.2015 were circulated to all the members vide letter dated March 17, 2015; and the minutes of (ii) Sub-Committee for system studies for identification of most appropriate alternative plan (Sub Committee-(ii)) held on 12.3.2015 were circulated to all the members vide letter dated March 19, 2015 were confirmed.

Prof. P.B.S. Sarma, Chairman of the Sub-Committee (ii) informed the important outcome of earlier meetings of this Committee and mentioned that the TOR-1 of the Sub-Committee i.e. “To consider all the reports of the expert bodies and the status reports filed before the Hon’ble Supreme Court during the pendency of Writ Petition on Networking of Rivers” is overlapping with the ToRs 1 & 3 of the Sub-Committee for comprehensive evaluation of various studies/reports available on issue of ILR. Shri B.N. Navalawala, Chief Advisor, MoWR, RD & GR mentioned that the TOR overlapping if any may be avoided with mutual consultations by both the Committees. It was decided that the works related to ToR No. 1 of the Sub-Committee - ii will be taken care of by Sub-Committee - i under its ToRs No. 1 and 3.

2. Review of Reports of the Task Force on Inter Linking of Rivers

A power point presentation was made by Shri K.P. Gupta, SE, NWDA and Secretary of the Committee on the recommendations/suggestions by the then Task Force on ILR (2004). A copy of the

presentation is enclosed at **Annex-II**. The sub-committee reviewed the actions taken on the various Task Force on Inter Linking of Rivers

It was brought out that Task force got prepared Terms of Reference (TOR) for preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR). Chief Advisor MOWR, RD & GR enquired whether these guidelines were broadly accepted by the States. It was informed that these ToRs with the approval of MoWR were placed on the website. Subsequently the general ToRs for preparation of DPR of IBWT proposals duly approved by MoWR were also placed on the website of NWDA. As such, ToRs for preparation of DPR of IBWT proposals are available in public domain and are easily accessible to all stakeholders. It was further clarified that the ToRs are almost in conformity with the Guidelines for preparation of Detailed Project Report of Irrigation and Multipurpose Projects of Ministry of Water Resources, Government of India (2010).

When NWDA took up the work of preparation of DPR of Ken-Betwa link, using the ToRs prepared by Task Force, the project specific ToRs of Ken-Betwa link were prepared and submitted to MoWR. The ToRs and DPR of Ken-Betwa link duly approved by MoWR were placed on the website of NWDA. Shri A.D. Mohile, former Chairman, Central Water Commission mentioned that the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) headed by the Chairman, CWC is guiding NWDA in carrying out all its technical work as well as in deciding various norms/guidelines for working out basin/sub-basin wise water availability and water surplus/deficit in the ultimate stage of development i.e. 2050 AD. It was informed by the DG, NWDA that the TAC of NWDA has been represented by all the concerned States and the guidelines approved by the TAC in various meetings have been compiled and the same can be made available to the members of the Committee. The Chief Advisor, MOWR, RD & GR desired that during next meeting NWDA should make available the TAC guidelines of NWDA to the members and make a presentation covering the guidelines of TAC of NWDA and procedure of working out the water balance/deficit in a river basin. Chairman requested the members to go through the TAC guidelines.

Report on Economic Impact of ILR Programme prepared by Task Force on ILR through National Council of Applied Economic Research was also discussed in detail. The members of the Committee were of the opinion that the ILR programme should be divided into the smaller group of link projects (interdependent/independent) and the economic impact of these smaller groups of link projects should be carried out.

The sub-committees discussed various options available to set up the institution to implement the Ken-Betwa link project to begin with, once the DPR is approved from all the concerned Ministries. NWDA was advised to prepare a comprehensive note in lines with ILR Recommendations, the constitutional provisions, and the financial instrument likely to be used.

3. Consideration of Affidavits etc filed before the Supreme Court

Another power point presentation was made on the Affidavits/counter affidavits filed in the Hon'ble Supreme Court during the pendency of the Writ Petition (Civil) No 512 of 2002 on Networking of Rivers along with writ petition No. 668 of 2002. A copy of the presentation is enclosed as **Annex-III**. The various orders made by the Hon'ble Supreme Court from time to time during pendency of the writ petition and follow up action taken on these orders were presented in the meeting. The various directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court given in its judgment dated 27.2.2012 were also presented.

4. Status of Ken – Betwa link

The Director General, NWDA made a presentation on DPR of Ken-Betwa link project Phase-I & Phase-II. A copy of the presentation is enclosed as **Annex-IV**. Director General, NWDA mentioned that the DPR of Ken-Betwa Phase-I Project had already been completed in 2010 and its techno-economic appraisal had been completed by CWC. Issues related to environment clearance are being actively pursued with concerned State Government Departments and Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change and the clearances of project are expected to be completed by July 2015. The other issues such as Executing Authority of the Ken-Betwa link project, its funding etc. were also discussed in detail. Prof. P. B. S. Sarma also mentioned that the Committee required the support of Technical Consultants with requisite expertise in the field. The Director General, NWDA responded that a proposal in this regarding has been submitted to the Ministry and a response is awaited. As members have made various queries on methodology used in DPR, It has been decided that NWDA will further make a power point presentation during next meeting on Ken-Betwa Link Project Phase-I & Phase-II covering the following aspects:

- (i) Area to be irrigated by the project as also affected by estimated extent of utilization of the irrigation potential in different years during the life of the project.

- (ii) Cropping pattern proposed in the project area w.r.t. land use and land irrigability classification.
- (iii) Whether soil survey in the project area is carried out
- (iv) Conjunctive use of ground water in the project area
- (v) Benefits with project and without project
- (vi) Whether water requirement for environmental purpose in the river d/s of proposed dam has been considered
- (vii) Water planning of the project
- (viii) B.C. ratio calculations
- (ix) During the public hearing held in the project area of Ken-Betwa link, how many suggestions were received from the public, of which how many suggestions are agreed by NWDA for incorporation in the EIA report. Whether due to inclusion of these suggestions, any change is to be made in DPR?
- (x) Comments made by others questioning critical data and assumptions having a bearing on social impact and the BC ratio projected in the DPRs

5. Need for system studies for various links

- (i) The issue of carrying out system studies for various links under NPP was discussed in detail. Members were apprised that DPRs viz; Ken-Betwa Link Project Phase-I and Phase-II and Damanganga- Pinjal Link Project and Par-Tapi-Narmada Link Project for which DPRs had been completed/under completion were prepared duly considering various alternative plans and adopting most appropriate plan. It was agreed that system studies for these links need not to be done again as it would amount to restarting the entire exercise which would cause further delays.

The link proposals for which FRs have been completed, it was agreed that system studies may be taken up by the Committee before preparation of DPR.

6. Consensus building

Shri A. C. Tyagi, Secretary General, ICID indicated that one of the important recommendations of erstwhile Task Force-Interlinking of Rivers (2002) concerns bringing early consensus among different stakeholders. Despite passage of 10 years no headway has been achieved. He stressed that the sub-committee looks at initiating this right from beginning. It was also pointed out that although some information is available on the website of NWDA, there is need to improve it to make it more users friendly. Shri

A.D. Bhardwaj, former DG, NWDA suggested that all the feasibility reports completed by NWDA are already placed on the website of NWDA.

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

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Participants of the Third combined meeting of the Sub-Committees for (i) comprehensive evaluation of various studies/reports available on issue of ILR and (ii) system studies for identification of most appropriate alternative plan held on 07.04.2015 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 Chief Advisor, MoWR, RD & GR | Chairman |
| 2. | Shri A.D. Mohile, Former Chairman, CWC | Member |
| 3. | Shri A.C. Tyagi, Secretary General, ICID | Member |
| 4. | Shri S.N. Huddar, Former Secretary (WRD), Govt. of Maharashtra | Member |
| 5. | Shri A.D. Bhardwaj, Former DG, NWDA & former Member, CWC | Member |
| 6. | Prof. S. Iqbal Hasnain Retd. Eminent environmental expert | Member |
| 7. | Shri K.P. Gupta 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.), Emeritus CED, IIT, Delhi. | Chairman |
| 9. | Prof. Sanjeev Kapoor, IIM, Lucknow. | Member |

Annex-I (Contd)

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| 10. | Prof. Kamta Prasad, Chairman, IRMED, Delhi. | Member |
| 11. | Shri Sriram Vedire, Advisor, MOWR, RD & GR | Member |
| 12. | Dr. Sharad K. Jain Scientist G, NIH | Member |
| 13. | Shri N.C. Jain Director (Tech), NWDA | Secretary |

Special Invitee:

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| 14. | Shri S. Masood Husain, Director General, NWDA | |
| 15. | Shri R.K. Jain, Chief Engineer (HQ), NWDA | |
| 16. | Shri. O.P. S. Kushwah, Superintending Engineer, NWDA | |