



राष्ट्रीय जल विकास अभिकरण

(जल संसाधन, नदी विकास और गंगा  
संरक्षण मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार)

**National Water Development Agency**  
(Ministry of Water Resources, River Development  
and Ganga Rejuvenation, Government of India)

**Minutes of the  
Sixth Meeting of the Special Committee for  
Inter-linking of Rivers  
(Held on 15<sup>th</sup> September, 2015 at New Delhi)**

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New Delhi

**Minutes of the Sixth meeting of the Special Committee for Interlinking of Rivers held under the Chairpersonship of Sushri Uma Bharti, Hon'ble Minister of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation on 15.09.2015 at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.**

The sixth meeting of the Special Committee for Interlinking of Rivers chaired by Sushri Uma Bharti, Hon'ble Union Minister of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation was held on 15.09.2015 at 11.00 hours at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi. Shri Chandra Prakash Chaudhary, Hon'ble Minister of Water Resources, Government of Jharkhand; Shri M.B. Patil, Hon'ble Minister of Water Resources, Government of Karnataka; Shri Vijay Shivtare, Hon'ble Minister of State for Water Resources, Government of Maharashtra and members/representative 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.

At the outset Hon'ble Minister of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation extended a warm welcome to the members and participants of the Special Committee in the meeting. She mentioned that Interlinking of Rivers Programme was very important for enhancing water and food security of the country and would be very helpful in providing water to water short, drought prone and rainfed areas. The Government of India is committed for the Implementation of ILR Programme with the consensus and cooperation of the concerned State Governments. She mentioned that the Hon'ble Supreme Court in its judgment of 27<sup>th</sup> February, 2012 had held the ILR programme to be in national interest and had directed for its early implementation. Hon'ble Minister (WR, RD&GR) informed that a meeting of Consultative Committee of Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation was held under her chairpersonship on 31<sup>st</sup> August, 2015 at Khajuraho wherein Ken-Betwa Link Project was also discussed. Subsequently, the Consultative Committee visited the proposed Daudhan dam site of Ken-Betwa link project and interacted with the local people. The Hon'ble Members of Parliament appreciated the efforts made by her Ministry in pursuing the project for implementation. Hon'ble Minister further mentioned that the Detailed Project Report (DPR) of Par-Tapi-Narmada link project had been completed by NWDA and submitted to Government of Gujarat and Maharashtra on 25<sup>th</sup> August, 2015. She urged both the Governments of Gujarat and Maharashtra to address the issue of water sharing in respect of Damanganga-Pinjal and Par-Tapi-Narmada projects and arrive at an agreement so that the implementation of these two projects could be taken up at the earliest. She mentioned that a team of Senior Officers of the Ministry led by Special Secretary (WR,RD&GR) had a meeting with Chief Secretary, Government of West Bengal on 17<sup>th</sup> August, 2015 at Kolkata and discussed the proposal of Sankosh-Mahanadi link system which comprises of four links namely Sankosh-Teesta-Ganga, Ganga-Damodar-Subarnarekha, Subarnarekha-Mahanadi and Farakka-Sunderban. The proposed link system would provide large irrigation benefits of about 10.5 lakh

ha besides domestic / industrial water supply to West Bengal. She mentioned that the State Government had been requested to give them consent to the proposal and provide their suggestions for its improvement. The Hon'ble Minister solicited the cooperation and assistance of all members specially the concerned State Governments which is very essential for the successful implementation of ILR programme.

Hon'ble Minister (WR, RD&GR) thereafter requested the Hon'ble Ministers from State Governments to express their views.

*Jharkhand:*

Shri Chandra Prakash Chaudhary, Hon'ble Minister of Water Resources, Government of Jharkhand mentioned that agenda notes did not contain the details of three intra-state link projects of Jharkhand State. He desired the latest status of these links be given. He mentioned that the Pre-feasibility Reports of Sankh-South Koel and South Koel – Subarnarekha intra-state link projects had been completed by NWDA, however, the work of preparation of Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) of these links could not be taken up due to objections of Government of Odisha. He urged that an early meeting of the Group constituted in this regard be held at the earliest to sort out the issues. He observed that the work of DPR of Barkar-Damodar-Subarnarekha intra-state link was held up due to clearance from Damodar Valley Reservoir Regulation Committee (DVRRC) and requested for convening the meeting of the DVRRC at the earliest. He also requested that the funding policy for implementation of these link projects be decided early and urged that the intra-state link projects of his State be given the status of national projects.

Representative of Government of West Bengal requested that a “Sub-Group for Barkar-Damodar-Subarnarekha Intra-State link” may also be set up with representation from West Bengal so that the views of West Bengal could be considered in planning of Barkar-Damodar-Subarnarekha intra-state link. The Director General, NWDA mentioned that a Sub-Committee for Consensus Building under Special Committee had already been constituted under the Chairmanship of Chairman, CWC with the representatives from the concerned States. It was decided that the Barkar-Damodar-Subarnarekha intra-state link project would be discussed by this Sub-Committee wherein representative of West Bengal would also be invited.

*Karnataka:*

Shri M.B. Patil, Hon'ble Minister of Water Resources, Government of Karnataka observed that the benefits to his State from the surplus Mahanadi and Godavari waters through Mahanadi-Godavari-Krishna-Pennar link system had been reduced from 283 TMC in the year 1980 to 164 TMC in the year 2000 and completely abolished in the year 2010. He mentioned that the State of Karnataka had large DDP and DPAP areas in the Krishna basin and largest drought affected areas in

Cauvery basin. The Hon'ble Minister urged that the benefits from the diversion under the link schemes should be worked out on the principle of equitable distribution. He mentioned that NWDA should not consider the amount of regenerated water from Bengaluru city for diversion through Ponnaiyar-Palar Intra-State link of Tamil Nadu. The above views presented during the meeting and given in writing to the Chairperson by the Hon'ble Minister are enclosed as Annex – II.

Hon'ble Union Minister (WR, RD & GR) directed that a meeting of the officials of Government of Karnataka and NWDA be convened to discuss these issues in detail later during the day after the meeting of the Special Committee.

*Maharashtra:*

Shri Vijay Shivtare, Hon'ble Minister of State of Water Resources, Government of Maharashtra desired that the sharing of water in Damanganga-Pinjal link project should be at 75% dependability and various components of the project such as tunnel etc. be designed accordingly ensuring optimum use of diverted water. He mentioned that in water deficit years, distress should be shared by both the States of Maharashtra and Gujarat in proportion of water allocation. He further mentioned that NWDA had already studied Damanganga (Ekdare) – Godavari basin intra-state link proposal for diversion of 143 MCM from surplus water of Damanganga basin to water deficit Godavari basin and as per PFR prepared by NWDA, the link was techno-economically feasible. He mentioned that Government of Maharashtra had already requested NWDA to take up the work of preparation of DPR of this intra-state link and requested that this link be considered as part of the Damanganga – Pinjal link project. He desired that Damanganga-Pinjal link project be declared as national project and joint implementation Board on the lines proposed for Ken – Betwa link project be constituted. While acknowledging the receipt of DPR of Par-Tapi-Narmada link from NWDA, the Hon'ble Minister mentioned that the DPR of Par-Tapi-Narmada link was being examined and the views/observations of the Govt. of Maharashtra would be furnished to NWDA within a period of two months. He observed that Maharashtra Government was always in the forefront of the implementation of water sector reforms and was keen to implement these interlinking of rivers projects with Central assistance. He requested to expedite the work of preparation of DPR of Wainganga-Nalganga intra-state link project. He also urged for taking up the preparation of DPR of Koyna Tailrace-Mumbai intra-state link.

Regarding Wainganga-Nalganga intra-state link project, Director General, NWDA mentioned that the progress of work of the DPR of this link project had been hampered due to changes in the water availability made by WRD, Government of Maharashtra which affected the planning and design of the project.

Thereafter, with the permission of the Chair, Director General, NWDA and Member Secretary took up the agenda items for discussion.

**Item No.6.1: Confirmation of the minutes of the 5<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Special Committee for Interlinking of Rivers held on 13<sup>th</sup> July, 2015 at New Delhi**

Director General, NWDA informed that the minutes of fifth meeting of the Special Committee for Interlinking of Rivers were circulated vide letter dated 5.8.2015. Government of Tamil Nadu vide letter dated 11.9.2015 had sent their comments and suggested to add the following under Item 5.8 “Revised proposal of Mahanadi – Godavari link Project” of the minutes.

*“it was urged by the Hon’ble Minister for Finance and Public Works and the Principal Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, Government of Tamil Nadu that before finalization of the revised proposal, even in the preliminary stage, the NWDA should share the details of the revised proposal of the link, since it is vital to Tamil Nadu and emphasized that there should be no reduction in the quantity of diversion to Tamil Nadu as originally proposed”.*

Government of Andhra Pradesh vide their letter dt. 3.9.2015 had sent their comments and mentioned that:

*under item 5.8 the view of Andhra Pradesh State was recorded as “representative of Andhra Pradesh mentioned that the water in Godavari basin was not surplus and was just sufficient for the in-basin requirement”, which is in-correct. In fact, the statement made by the representative of Andhra Pradesh is that “the interlinking Projects shall be taken up by the concerned State Governments with Government of India funding”.*

No other comments on the minutes had been received from any other members of the Committee

The minutes of the meeting with the inclusion of above observations from Government of Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh were confirmed by the Committee.

**Item No. 6.2: Follow up action on the decisions taken during last meeting**

Director General, NWDA informed that as decided during the 5<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Special Committee:

- (i) A copy of executive summary of revised Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Report of Ken – Betwa link project had been forwarded to Shri Maharaj K. Pandit, Member vide letter dated 26.08.2015

- (ii) Copies of agenda and minutes of all the previous five meetings were forwarded to the Additional Chief Secretary, Water Resources Department, Government of Assam vide letter dated 25.08.2015.
- (iii) Copies of draft Feasibility Reports (FRs) of Sardar-Yamuna and Yamuna-Rajasthan link projects were sent to the Principal Secretaries (Irrigation/Water Resources) of Uttar Pradesh, Haryana and Rajasthan States vide letters dated 1.9.2015.

The follow up action taken as mentioned above was noted by the Committee.

**Item No. 6.3: Progress made by various Sub-Committees constituted with the approval of Special Committee for Interlinking of Rivers**

Director General, NWDA informed that the Sub-Committee for Comprehensive Evaluation of various studies/reports available on the issue of ILR (Sub-Committee I) held its 4th meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> April, 2015 and 5<sup>th</sup> meeting (combined meeting with Sub-Committee II) on 21<sup>st</sup> August, 2015. The guidelines of Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) of NWDA for preparation of water balance studies of various basins/sub - basins were discussed.

The Sub-Committee for System Studies for identification of most appropriate alternative plan (Sub-Committee II) held its 4<sup>th</sup> meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> May, 2015, 5<sup>th</sup> meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> July, 2015 and 6<sup>th</sup> meeting (combined with Sub-Committee I) on 21<sup>st</sup> August, 2015. During these meetings, Mahanadi-Godavari link, Godavari-Krishna links and Manas-Sankosh-Teesta-Ganga link were discussed.

**Item No. 6.4: Ken-Betwa link project Phase-I – Status of various statutory clearances**

**Item No. 6.4.1: Environment Clearance**

Director General, NWDA informed that the proposal of Ken - Betwa Link Project Phase-I was considered by Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC) of MoEF & CC for Environmental Clearance (EC) in its 86<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 24.8.2015 at New Delhi. EAC has considered in principle the issue of Environmental Clearance to Ken -Betwa Link project Phase-I. The EAC has desired certain additional information. EAC has also asked the NWDA to submit replies to the representations of NGOs/Individuals received by MoEF & CC in respect of the project. The required details/replies to above observations are being furnished by NWDA to MoEF & CC for consideration by the EAC for according environmental clearance of the project.

The details as given in the Agenda Notes were noted by the Committee.

#### **Item No. 6.4.2: Wildlife Clearance**

Director General, NWDA informed that a meeting of State Wildlife Board of Madhya Pradesh was held on 11.8.2015 under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Chief Minister, MP. The issue of wildlife clearance of Ken-Betwa Link Project was one of the agenda items which was deferred to the next meeting of the State Wildlife Board (SWLB) for want of clarifications on the various observations/ issues raised by various members of the State Wildlife Board.

It was mentioned that DG, NWDA had a meeting with the Hon'ble Chief Minister, Madhya Pradesh on 28<sup>th</sup> August, 2015 and requested him for early meeting of SWLB. The next meeting of the State Wildlife Board is scheduled to be held on 22<sup>nd</sup> September, 2015 at Bhopal under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Chief Minister, Madhya Pradesh.

The details as given in the Agenda Notes were noted by the Committee.

#### **Item No. 6.4.3: Forest Land Diversion Clearance**

Director General, NWDA informed that the proposal of Ken-Betwa link project had been discussed by each concerned Gram Sabha in the project area and passed. The FRA certificate in respect of Chhatarpur district has been received from Collector, Chhatarpur on 25.8.2015. The FRA certificate in respect of Panna district is under progress. It was mentioned that the revised CAT plan of Daudhan dam had been submitted by NWDA to CCF Chhatarpur and CCF Sagar and Director, Panna complying all queries on 30.07.2015. NWDA is pursuing the matter with concerned CCFs to obtain the technical approval of CAT Plan at the earliest, so that desired information could be uploaded on the website of MoEF&CC to process the case further.

#### **Item No. 6.5: Present status of DPR of Ken-Betwa Link Project Phase-II**

##### **Item No. 6.5.1: Forest Clearance of Lower Orr dam**

Director General, NWDA informed that Form-I for diversion of forest land of Lower Orr dam had been submitted to Collector and DFO Ashok Nagar and Shivpuri for processing the case of forest clearance. Further processing of the case for forest clearance of Lower Orr dam is to be done by Forest Department, MP. After completing other parts of the form by Forest Department, MP, the same will be submitted to MoEF & CC with their recommendations for issuing forest clearance.

##### **Item No. 6.5.2: Environmental Clearance of Lower Orr dam**

Director General, NWDA informed that the draft Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) studies of Lower Orr dam under Ken – Betwa Phase-II as per the

ToRs approved by MoEF & CC had been completed by WAPCOS. It was mentioned that the public hearing of Lower Orr dam was scheduled to be conducted at 3 places i.e., (i) Village Didauni, District Shivpuri on 17.09.2015, (ii) Village Piproud, district Ashok Nagar on 18.9.2015 and (iii) Village Nauner, district Datia on 19.09.2015.

The information as given in the Agenda Notes were noted by the Committee.

### **Item No. 6.5.3: Visit of the Consultative Committee of MoWR, RD&GR to Ken-Betwa Link project dam site**

Director General, NWDA informed that a meeting of Consultative Committee of Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation was held under the Chairpersonship of Hon'ble Minister (WR, RD&GR) on 31.8.2015 at Khajuraho. The meeting was attended by 9 Members of Parliament besides senior officers of the Ministry. After the meeting, Consultative Committee visited the proposed Daudhan dam site of Ken-Betwa Link Project-Phase I and interacted with the local people coming in the submergence. The local people expressed their full support to the project as it will improve their socio-economic condition. The Hon'ble Members of Parliament appreciated the efforts made by the Ministry under the leadership of Hon'ble Minister (WR, RD & GR) in pursuing the project for its implementation.

The details as given in the Agenda Notes were noted by the Committee.

### **Item No. 6.6: Present status of Detailed Project Reports (DPR) of Damanganga-Pinjal and Par-Tapi-Narmada link projects**

#### **Item No. 6.6.1. Damanganga-Pinjal Link Project**

Director General, NWDA informed that the DPR of Damanganga-Pinjal link project was completed by NWDA during March, 2014 and submitted to Govts. of Maharashtra and Gujarat States in April, 2014. The Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai (MCGM) has submitted the DPR of Damanganga-Pinjal link project to CWC during January, 2015 for appraisal. The report is under appraisal by CWC. The Hon'ble Union Minister (WR, RD&GR) held a meeting with Hon'ble Chief Minister of Maharashtra at Mumbai on 7<sup>th</sup> January, 2015 to expedite the further course of action.

Hon'ble Minister of State for Water Resources, Govt. of Maharashtra reiterated the views expressed in his opening address and urged to consider the planning of Damanganga-Pinjal link at 75% dependability instead of 100% dependability and the design of tunnels accordingly. He suggested that the water likely to be generated from Gujarat catchment area of existing Madhuban dam intercepted by the proposed Bhugad dam may be released from the proposed



Khargihill dam instead of Bhugad dam, so that Maharashtra could get sufficient water in the upper catchment of Bhugad dam for diversion towards east across the western ghats.

The Special Secretary (MoWR, RD & GR) requested Hon'ble Minister, of Maharashtra for his support in implementation of Damanganga-Pinjal link project which would meet the projected domestic water requirement of Mumbai City till the year 2060. He mentioned that NWDA was open to make minor modifications in the planning to accommodate the suggestions of Government of Maharashtra to make the project more attractive. The Hon'ble Minister, Maharashtra assured full support of his Government in implementation of Damanganga-Pinjal link project.

### **Item No. 6.6.2. Par-Tapi-Narmada Link Project**

Director General, NWDA informed that the DPR of Par-Tapi-Narmada link project had been completed by NWDA and submitted to Government of Gujarat and Government of Maharashtra in August 2015. It was mentioned that the issue of water and power sharing between Gujarat and Maharashtra States in respect of Damanganga-Pinjal and Par-Tapi-Narmada link projects would be taken up now with these States and a Memorandum of Understanding on water and power sharing was proposed to be negotiated and signed in this regard which would pave the way for its implementation.

Hon'ble Minister of State for Water Resources, Government of Maharashtra expressed support of his Government towards the implementation of Damanganga-Pinjal and Par-Tapi-Narmada link projects. He mentioned that the DPR of Par-Tapi-Narmada link project was being examined and their observations / views would be furnished to NWDA in a period of two months.

Hon'ble Minister (WR, RD & GR) requested the State Governments of Gujarat and Maharashtra to take up the issue of cost, water and power sharing of both Par-Tapi-Narmada and Damanganga-Pinjal link projects for reaching an agreement. Hon'ble Minister mentioned that a meeting would be convened with Hon'ble Chief Ministers of Maharashtra and Gujarat regarding the water sharing in Damanganga-Pinjal and Par-Tapi-Narmada projects where all concerned would be invited. The NWDA will make a presentation on both these projects comprehensively covering all related issues.

### **Item No. 6.7: Revised proposal of Mahanadi-Godavari Link Project**

Director General, NWDA informed that during the 5<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Special Committee while discussing the revised proposal of Mahanadi-Godavari link project, the Principal Secretary, WRD, Government of Odisha had raised the issue of water balance in Mahanadi basin. This issue was discussed by the Sub-Committee for

System Studies for identification of most appropriate alternative plan (Sub-Committee II) in its 4<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> July, 2015. The Sub-Committee considered the views of Government of Odisha regarding water balance of Mahanadi basin.

It was mentioned that the proposal of Mahanadi-Godavari link was further discussed by the Sub-Committee-II during its 6<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> August, 2015 (combined with Sub-Committee-I). The representative of Government of Odisha was present during the meeting and presented the views of his Government. The variation in the water availability/water balance of Mahanadi basin at proposed Manibhadra dam site carried out by NWDA and WRD, Government of Odisha was discussed during the meeting.

Hon'ble Minister, Water Resources, Government of Karnataka desired that the details of water transfer as per the revised Mahanadi-Godavari link proposal to Godavari basin and further transfer to Krishna basin should be made available to Karnataka Government. Director General, NWDA mentioned that the various parameters of the revised Mahanadi-Godavari link proposal were still in discussion stage with Government of Odisha and as such the required details could be provided only after their finalisation. However, it was mentioned that the details of the preliminary proposal of Mahanadi-Godavari link had already been provided in the meetings of the Special Committee. The representative of Government of Tamil Nadu observed that for his State, being- a drought affected, the Mahanadi – Godavari – Krishna – Pennar – Cauvery – Vaigai – Gundar link system was the only hope for augmentation of water and requested for its implementation on priority.

### **Item 6.8: Godavari - Krishna link projects**

Director General, NWDA informed that during the 5<sup>th</sup> meeting of Sub-Committee for System Studies held on 28<sup>th</sup> July, 2015, the planning and present status of three peninsular link projects viz., (i) Inchampalli (Godavari) – Nagarjunasagar (Krishna) link; (ii) Inchampalli (Godavari) – Pulichintala (Krishna) link; (iii) Polavaram (Godavari) – Vijayawada (Krishna) link between Godavari-Krishna rivers was discussed. It was mentioned that the Sub-Committee decided that water balance study of Godavari basin at proposed Inchampalli dam site be revised/updated by November, 2015

### **Item 6.9: Manas-Sankosh-Teesta-Ganga link.**

#### **Item 6.9.1 Discussion in the meeting of Sub-Committee for System Studies**

Director General, NWDA informed that the present planning and status of Manas – Sankosh – Teesta - Ganga (MSTG) link was presented by NWDA to the Sub-Committee for System Studies for identification of most appropriate alternate plan (Sub-Committee-II) in its 5<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> July, 2015. The Manas-

Sankosh-Teesta-Ganga link envisages diversion of the surplus water available in Manas, Sankosh and other enroute rivers for augmenting the flow of Ganga at Farakka and make available about 13965 MCM of water after enroute utilization in Mahanadi basin for further diversion to south for utilization in water short Krishna, Pennar, Cauvery, Vaigai and Gundar basins.

Representative of Assam inquired about the approach of NWDA in dealing with the environmental issues involved in Manas-Sankosh-Teesta-Ganga link due to the interference of link project in Manas reserved forest and other eco-sensitive areas. Director General, NWDA clarified that the NWDA had re-aligned the Manas-Sankosh-Teesta-Ganga link which was now free from tiger reserve areas and was almost forest free. The representative of Assam desired to know whether sufficient water would be available for transfer in lean season from Manas River into MSTG link. Chairman, CWC clarified that the Manas-Sankosh-Teesta-Ganga link was backed up by two major reservoirs – Manas and Sankosh. The regulated releases from these two reservoirs would be transferred through the link canal, as such the lean season flows would not be affecting the planning of the link project.

**Item 6.9.2: Meeting of Team of MoWR, RD &GR with Chief Secretary, Government of West Bengal regarding Sankosh-Mahanadi Link System**

Director General, NWDA informed that a team of Senior Officers of the Ministry of Water Resources, RD&GR led by Special Secretary (WR, RD&GR) and including Director General and other officers of NWDA had a meeting with Chief Secretary, Government of West Bengal at Kolkata on 17<sup>th</sup> August, 2015 regarding the Sankosh-Mahanadi-Link system. Principal Secretary (Water Resources) and other senior officers of the WRD, West Bengal were also present. A presentation on the proposed Sankosh-Mahanadi Link system which comprised of four links namely Sankosh-Teesta-Ganga (first phase of Manas-Sankosh-Teesta-Ganga Link), Ganga-Damodar-Subernarekha, Subernarekha - Mahanadi and Farakka-Sunderbans was made during the meeting. The proposed Sankosh-Mahanadi link system envisages a total irrigation benefits of about 10.50 lakh ha besides domestic/industrial water supply etc. to the State of West Bengal. It was requested that the response of Government of West Bengal regarding the consent for preparation of Detailed Project Report of Sankosh-Mahanadi link system by NWDA may be given.

The representative of West Bengal stated that the project proposal may be submitted to them formally in writing, which would be examined and the views/observations of West Bengal Government on the project proposal will be conveyed thereafter. He expressed his concern regarding the land acquisition required in the project which was a serious issue in the State.

It was decided that the preliminary proposal regarding the Sankosh-Mahanadi link system would be submitted to Govt. of West Bengal. Thereafter, the State Government would provide their response / observation in this regard. The Hon'ble Minister (WR, RD & GR) observed that the issues/concerns of West Bengal were very important and would be addressed appropriately while planning and implementing the ILR projects.

### **Item No. 6.10: Any other item with the permission of the Chair**

#### **Report of the Sub Committee on Restructuring of NWDA**

Director General, NWDA mentioned that Special Committee for Interlinking of Rivers had constituted a Sub-Committee for Restructuring of NWDA under the Chairmanship of Shri M. Gopalakrishnan, Former Secretary General, ICID. It was informed that the Sub-Committee had completed its work on restructuring of NWDA and finalised its report. Shri M. Gopalakrishnan was requested to make a brief presentation on the salient aspect of Report on Restructuring of NWDA.

Shri Gopalakrishnan briefly explained the approach of the Sub-Committee in suggesting the restructuring of NWDA considering its enhanced mandate. He mentioned that the Report had been completed and would be submitted formally very soon.

Some of the important recommendations of the Sub-Committee in brief are as under:

- i. A new institution called National Interlinking of Rivers Authority (NIRA) be created, suitably empowered to effectively function with enhanced mandate for achieving the overall objectives of ILR through an Act of Parliament.
- ii. The Head of the Authority be empowered to call meetings inviting State Government officials at highest level and help the Special Committee on ILR as appropriate.
- iii. NIRA will absorb all existing NWDA officers and personnel protecting their rights and privileges and enhancing them comparable to that of an Organised Services.
- iv. Strengthening of NWDA with professionals to address the issues in a comprehensive and effective manner is an absolute necessity.
- v. Thus Strengthening the existing set up with a new field unit headed by a Chief Engineer in the Eastern/ North Eastern region and specific new functional units for Systems Studies, Comprehensive Evaluation /Project Monitoring and a GIS &RS Unit (also to be headed by an officer of the rank of a Chief

Engineer in each case) with supporting staff. Sufficient strengthening of allied support (Administration, Finance etc.) is also envisaged compatible to the augmented structure of NWDA.

- vi. The immediate strengthening envisages NWDA with a minimum of 710 posts in all levels (comprising of 124 Group 'A' officers, 107 Group 'B' officers & 479 Group 'C' officials and staff) which is far less than the strength figures of 1677 at the inception stage of NWDA in the year 1982.

The brief details of presentations including recommendations are given at Annex-III.

Hon'ble Minister (WR, RD & GR) observed that the recommendations of the Sub-Committee on Restructuring of NWDA may be processed for the early approval of the Government. She requested Shri B.N. Navalawala, Chief Advisor (WR, RD&GR) and Special Secretary (WR, RD&GR) to examine the report for restructuring of NWDA and process for the approval of the same immediately.

Some of the members requested that a copy of the Report on Restructuring of NWDA be provided to them. It was decided that the said Report when submitted formally to the Ministry of WR, RD & GR would be placed on its website.

Representative of Bihar requested that the updated status of the DPRs of Intra-State link projects of various States may be given in the Agenda Notes of the meetings of Special Committee for ILR which was agreed.

It was decided that to make the Members of Special Committee fully aware about the various aspects of ILR programme, the Director General, NWDA, in the next meeting of the Committee, would make a presentation on Inter Linking of Rivers (ILR) comprehensively covering the background, the studies carried out so far, various issues involved in planning of the link projects and views of States Governments etc.

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

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**List of Members, Special Invitees and participants of 6<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Special Committee for Interlinking of Rivers held on 15.9.2015 at New Delhi.**

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| 1. | Sushri Uma Bharti,<br>Hon'ble Union Minister (WR, RD & GR)<br>Govt. of India, New Delhi                            | In Chair |
| 2. | Shri M.B. Patil,<br>Hon'ble Minister,<br>Water Resources Department,<br>Govt. of Karnataka, Bangaluru              | Member   |
| 3. | Shri Chandra Prakash Chaudhary,<br>Hon'ble Minister,<br>Water Resources Department,<br>Govt. of Jharkhand, Ranchi  | Member   |
| 4. | Shri Vijay Shivtare<br>Hon'ble Minister of State,<br>Water Resources Department,<br>Govt. of Maharashtra, Mumbai   | Member   |
| 5. | Shri A.B. Pandya<br>Chairaman,<br>Central Water Commission, New Delhi  | Member   |
| 6. | Shri Satish Gavai<br>Principal Secretary,<br>Water Resources Department,<br>Govt. of Maharashtra, Mumbai           | Member   |
| 7. | Shri Naveen Prakash<br>Principal Secretary,<br>Irrigation & Waterways Department,<br>Govt. of West Bengal, Kolkata | Member   |
| 8. | Shri Suresh Kumar Goyal<br>Secretary,<br>Irrigation & Water Resources Deptt.,<br>Govt. of Haryana, Chandigarh      | Member   |
| 9. | Shri Sukhdev Singh<br>Principal Secretary,<br>Water Resources Department,<br>Govt. of Jharkhand, Ranchi            | Member   |

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| 10. | Shri P.B. Ramamurthy<br>Additional Chief Secretary,<br>Water Resources Department,<br>Govt. of Karnataka, Bangaluru | Member   |
| 11. | Shri G.S. Priyadarshi<br>Special Secretary, Irrigation Department,<br>Govt. of Uttar Pradesh, Lucknow               | Representing Secretary,<br>Irrigation Department,<br>Govt. of Uttar Pradesh                  |
| 12. | Shri Davinder Kumar<br>Addl. Chief Secretary,<br>Water Resources Department,<br>Govt. of Assam, Dispur              | Representing Chief Secretary,<br>Govt. of Assam  |
| 13. | Shri V.J. Kurian<br>Addl. Chief Secretary,<br>Water Resources Department,<br>Govt. of Kerala, Thiruvananthapuram    | Member   |
| 14. | Shri Dipak Kumar Singh,<br>Secretary,<br>Water Resources Department,<br>Govt. of Bihar, Patna                       | Member   |
| 15. | Shri Sriram Vedire<br>Advisor,<br>Ministry of WR, RD & GR, New Delhi  | Member   |
| 16. | Shri Virag Gupta<br>Member, Task Force  | Member   |
| 17. | Shri K.K. Payasi<br>Chief Engineer (Retd.)<br>Social Activist   | Member   |
| 18. | Shri T.D. Sahoo,<br>Engineer-in-Chief (P&D)<br>Water Resources Department,<br>Govt. of Odisha, Bhubaneswar          | Representing Chief Secretary,<br>Govt. of Odisha   |
| 19. | Shri Vinod Shah<br>Chief Engineer, SWRPD,<br>Govt. of Rajasthan, Jaipur   | Representing Secretary,<br>Water Resources Department,<br>Govt. of Rajasthan                 |
| 20. | Shri O. Xaxa<br>Chief Engineer (Monitoring),<br>Water Resources Department,<br>Govt. of Chhattisgarh, Raipur        | Representing Principal<br>Secretary,<br>Water Resources Department,<br>Govt. of Chhattisgarh |

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| 21. | Shri D. Rama Krishna<br>Chief Engineer, IS & WR,<br>MoWR, Govt. of A.P., Hyderabad                                      | Representing Principal<br>Secretary (P), I & CAD Deptt.,<br>Govt. of Andhra Pradesh    |
| 22. | Shri S.P.S. Saini<br>Chief Engineer/RWC,<br>Irrigation Department,<br>Govt. of Punjab, Chandigarh                       | Representing Chief Secretary,<br>Govt. of Punjab                                       |
| 23. | Shri R. Subramanian<br>Chairman, CTC cum ISWW,<br>Govt. of Tamil Nadu, Chennai  | Representing Chief Secretary,<br>Govt. of Tamil Nadu                                   |
| 24. | Shri Rajeev Kumar Sukalika<br>Commissioner, CAD/Chief Engineer,<br>Water Resources Department,<br>Govt. of M.P., Bhopal | Representing Principal<br>Secretary,<br>Govt. of Madhya Pradesh                        |
| 25. | Shri D.C. Singh,<br>Chief Engineer<br>Irrigation Department,<br>Govt. of Uttarakhand, Dehradun                          | Representing Secretary,<br>Irrigation Department<br>Govt. of Uttarakhand               |
| 26. | Shri G. Shankar Naik<br>Chief Engineer,<br>Hydrology & Investigation ,<br>Govt. of Telangana, Hyderabad                 | Representing Principal<br>Secretary, I&CAD Deptt.,<br>Govt. of Telangana,<br>Hyderabad |
| 27. | Shri P.K. Aggarwal<br>Advisor (Cost)<br>Ministry of Finance,<br>Deptt. of Expenditure, New Delhi                        | Representing Chief<br>Advisor (Cost),<br>Ministry of Finance,<br>Deptt. of Expenditure |
| 28. | Brijesh Sikka<br>Adviser, MoEF & CC, New Delhi  | Representing Secretary,<br>MoEF & CC   |
| 29. | Shri Kamlesh Rabadia<br>Chief Engineer (SG) & Addl. Secy.,<br>NWRWS & K Deptt.,<br>Govt. of Gujarat , Gandhinagar.      | Representing Secretary<br>WR, NWR, WS & K Deptt.,<br>Govt. of Gujarat                  |
| 30. | Shri K.K. Singh<br>Additional Resident Commissioner,<br>Govt. of Puducherry, Puducherry                                 | Representing Secretary(PWD),<br>Govt. of Puducherry                                    |
| 31. | Shri S. Masood Husain,<br>Director General,<br>National Water Development Agency,<br>New Delhi                          | Member-Secretary   |



### **Permanent Invitees**

1. Shri B. N. Navalawala,  
Chief Advisor, MoWR, RD & GR &  
Chairman, Task Force on ILR

### **Special Invitees**

1. Dr. Amarjit Singh  
Special Secretary (MoWR, RD & GR) ,  
New Delhi.
2. Shri M. Gopalakrishnan,  
Former Secretary General, ICID &  
Chairman of Sub-Committee-III of SCILR

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

1. Dr. B. Rajender  
Joint Secretary (PP),  
MoWR, RD and GR, New Delhi
2. Shri Pradeep Kumar,  
Commissioner (SP),  
MoWR, RD and GR, New Delhi
3. Shri B.K. Panda  
OSD to Minister,  
MoWR, RD & GR, New Delhi
4. Shri S.K. Sharma  
Sr. Joint Commissioner (PP),  
MoWR, RD & GR, New Delhi
5. Shri Asit Chaturvedi,  
Sr. Joint Commissioner (BM),  
MoWR, RD & GR, New Delhi
6. Shri Samir Sinha  
PIO, MoWR, RD & GR, New Delhi
7. Shri Sunil Kumar Verma  
Assistant Secretary,  
MoWR, RD & GR, New Delhi
8. Shri Anup Kumar Singh  
Assistant Secretary,  
MoWR, RD & GR, New Delhi

9. Shri M. Bharani Kumar  
Assistant Secretary,  
MoWR, RD & GR, New Delhi
10. Shri Manish Kumar  
Assistant Secretary,  
MoWR, RD & GR, New Delhi

**Officers of State Governments**

1. Shri Gurupada Swamy B.G.  
Secretary,  
Water Resources Department,  
Govt. of Karnataka, Bangaluru
2. Shri Y.S. Patil  
Private Secretary,  
Water Resources Minister,  
Govt. of Karnataka, Bangaluru
3. Shri Anil Kumar  
Deputy Secretary, WRD,  
Govt. of Karnataka, Bangaluru
4. Shri A.K. Gupta,  
Engineer-in-Chief,  
Irrigation & Water Resources Deptt.,  
Govt. of Haryana, Chandigarh
5. Shri Pawan Verma  
Chief Engineer,  
Irrigation & Water Resources Deptt.,  
Govt. of Haryana, Chandigarh
6. Shri S.C. Sharma  
Superintending Engineer,  
Irrigation & Water Resources Deptt.,  
Govt. of Haryana, Chandigarh
7. Shri D.K. Dudeja  
Engineer-in-Chief  
Irrigation & Water Resources Department,  
Govt. of Uttar Pradesh, Lucknow
8. Shri Anil Kumar  
Chief Engineer (South)  
Irrigation & Water Resources Deptt.,  
Govt. of Uttar Pradesh, Jhansi

9. Shri R.V. Panse  
Chief Engineer (KWDT) & Jt. Secretary,  
Water Resources Department,  
Govt. of Maharashtra, Mumbai
10. Shri Sujit Borkar  
OSD to MOS,  
Govt. of Maharashtra, Mumbai
11. Shri M.P. Samria  
Superintending Engineer,  
Water Resources Deptt.,  
Govt. of Rajasthan, New Delhi
12. Shri Yogesh Mittal  
Executive Engineer,  
Water Resources Department,  
Govt. of Rajasthan, Jaipur
13. Smt. Saroj Sharma  
Liaison Officer,  
WRD Department,  
Govt. of Rajasthan, New Delhi
14. Shri Nitin Nandgaonkar  
Additional Director & SA to IM,  
WRD & Comm. Tax Min.,  
Govt. of Madhya Pradesh
15. Dr. D.K. Singh,  
Superintending Engineer,  
Water Resources Department,  
Govt. of Jharkhand, Ranchi
16. Shri Bhavani Rama Shankar  
Superintending Engineer (Retd.),  
Consultant (Hydrology),  
Govt. of Telangana, Hyderabad
17. Shri R. Sivaprasadan Pillai  
Executive Engineer,  
Cauvery Special Cell,  
Govt. of Kerala, New Delhi
18. Shri Vijay Kumar P.G.  
Assistant Engineer,  
Cauvery Special Cell,  
Govt. of Kerala, New Delhi

19. Shri D. Sankara Rao  
Dy. Executive Engineer (IS & WR),  
Govt. of Andhra Pradesh, Hyderabad
20. Shri Uday Kumar  
Resident Commissioner, WRD Department,  
Govt. of Bihar, New Delhi

**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. Mrs. Jancy Vijayan,  
Director (MDU),  
New Delhi
7. Shri M.S. Agrawal  
Senior Consultant, NWDA,  
New Delhi.

**Views of Government of Karnataka presented by Shri M.B. Patil, Hon'ble Minister for Water Resources in the sixth meeting of the Special Committee for Inter-Linking of Rivers.**

**Mahanadi-Godavari-Krishna-Pennar-Cauvery-Vaigai-Gundar Link**

1. In 1980 the diversion of surplus water (from Mahanadi and Godavari river basins) was estimated to be about 1300 TMC (30 MAF). The State of Karnataka was allocated 283 TMC (196 TMC in Krishna basin and 87 TMC in Cauvery basin)
2. In 2000, the surplus water available was revised to 925 TMC (26193 Mcum) consequence of which was the revision of the allocation of Karnataka to 164 (TMC) (107 TMC in Krishna basin and 57 TMC in Cauvery basin)
3. In 2010, the availability of surplus was revised as 718 TMC (20, 326 Mcum) the allocations to the State of Karnataka were abolished completely.
4. In the process of effecting modifications in allocations by NWDA (with the knowledge of Government of India), the share of Karnataka from the augmentation was completely abolished both in Krishna and Cauvery basins.
5. The State of Karnataka has the large DDP and DPAP areas in the Krishna basin and largest drought affected areas in Cauvery basin, which fact has been completely ignored by the NWDA apart from other relevant and substantive basin factors.
6. Government of India in the matter of allocating the naturally available water resources has beefed up the shares of Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu by allocating further hefty shares in addition to the larger shares to these two States already allocated by the Tribunals.
7. The benefits from the diversion should be worked out based on the “equitable principle” advocated by the Water Disputes Tribunals in India such as (i) culturable area; (ii) existing irrigated area; (iii) potential irrigation (iv) drinking water requirements; (v) environmental needs; (vi) drought prone areas etc.
8. In the deliberations during “Jal Manthan” (20-22<sup>nd</sup> November, 2014), Shri M.B. Patil, Hon'ble Minister for Irrigation, Government of Karnataka observed that:

- (i) The state of Karnataka supports the interlinking of rivers scheme.
  - (ii) The interlinking of rivers should be based on equitable water sharing.
  - (iii) The benefits of Karnataka from ILR have been reduced from 283 TMC to 164 TMC in 2000 report.
  - (iv) The benefits of Karnataka from ILR have been further reduced from 164 TMC to Nil in 2010 report.
9. The Principal concern of the State of Karnataka, right from the year 2010 has been to get its share of water from surplus transferred from Mahanadi and Godavari restored. Despite persistent efforts by Karnataka, the concern of the State of Karnataka has not been brought back into focus either by MoWR or NWDA.
  10. The State of Karnataka has been deprived of its rightful share under PRD schemes unlike Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu.
  11. The arrangement of the utilization of shares by the upstream States from the perspective plan has been by the concept of substitution. It is not understood as to how this concept has been given by a go-by by the Government of India.
  12. The NWDA through Special Committee for Inter-linking of Rivers (ILR) is going ahead with preparation of Detailed Project Reports (DPR) unmindful of the concerns raised by the State of Karnataka.
  13. So far, no tangible cognizance of the plea of Karnataka has been taken by the NWDA or Union Ministry of Water Resources. Instead, the State of Karnataka has been delivered to make a participant spectator in the decisions of NWDA without showing any regard to assure and ensure the rightful share of Karnataka in the benefits under PRD scheme.

**Almatti – Pennar Link:**

1. The allocations to Karnataka have been shown as 13.66 TMC in Almatti-Pennar river link.
2. The present Almatti reservoir in Karnataka at FRL 524.256m is entirely required for the utilization of 303 TMC of water in Karnataka form its share allocated by the KWDT-I & II.
3. In accordance with Clause-XVI of the Final Order in the Further Report of KWDT-II, the order will come for review or revision at any time after 31<sup>st</sup> May, 2050.
4. The allocation of surplus water of Krishna river basin will also come for consideration after 31<sup>st</sup> May, 2050.

5. The Almatti – Pennar link is therefore to be kept out of PRD scheme.

**Ponnaiyar (Krishnagiri) - Palar Link – in Tamil Nadu.**

1. The NWDA has carried out studies on the feasibility of Ponnaiyar (Krishnagiri) – Palar Link in Tamil Nadu.
2. About two thirds of Bengaluru city is located in Ponnaiyar river basin which receives water from Cauvery River for drinking water supply.
3. The NWDA has prepared a pre-feasibility report in which the water balance study has taken into account an import of 271 Mcum (9.57 TMC) upto the upstream of Krishnagiri dam available from drinking water supply of Bengaluru City.
4. In view of the right to use the regenerated water by Karnataka from Bengaluru Water Supply which is being drawn from Cauvery river, it would have been appropriate not to have considered the 271 Mcum in the water balance study in favour of Tamil Nadu.
5. As Karnataka is meeting the requirement from Bengaluru Water Supply, by cutting down the allocation made for irrigation in Cauvery basin and by sacrificing on that account, Karnataka is entitled to make use of regenerated flow for its benefit as and when it feels necessary. The reckoning of the regeneration flow by NWDA in its water balance study ignoring Karnataka's interests is not correct.
6. In the third meeting of the Special Committee it is mentioned that the preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR) of Ponnaiyar – Palar link of Tamil Nadu has been taken up by NWDA.
7. It is to be once again reiterated that, the NWDA shall not consider the regenerated water from drinking water supply of Bengaluru city in water balance study in DPR.
8. The Government of Karnataka has prepared a scheme costing about 1000 crores for utilization of re-generated water of Bengaluru City.

**Brief details of the presentation including recommendations made by Shri M. Gopalakrishnan, Chairman, Sub-committee on Restructuring of NWDA during the 6<sup>th</sup> meeting of Special Committee on ILR.**

Shri Gopalakrishnan briefly explained the composition of the Sub-Committee the approach of the Sub-Committee in suggesting the restructuring of NWDA considering its enhanced mandate. He mentioned that the Report had been completed and would be submitted formally very soon. His observations are as under.

The Sub-Committee finds that the NWDA had been able to accomplish its assigned basic tasks on the works on Interlinking of Rivers in the best possible manner; and respecting the uniqueness of the tasks and constraints within which the studies were to be carried through by NWDA, the performance is commendable. The implementation of ILR under the present scheme of things with NWDA as a Society had resulted not necessarily in an effective and aggressive promotion of the project to the extent desired. A lot of time has dragged by when 'speeding up the implementation' had been repeatedly urged from different quarters, particularly the Judiciary.

While NWDA as a society was and is relevant till the scheme, commenced as a desk study moved to various stages on links which required a persuasive and conciliatory approach with States to facilitate such studies like water balance studies, pre-feasibility studies and feasibility studies with a limited survey and investigations. Things are not the same as we move further on to advanced stages leading to implementation. The tasks have moved on and the commencement of Detailed Project Reports (fundable development project report, in donor agencies' parlour) and take off of the project on ground, require quick steps for creating appropriate machinery for implementation with necessary funding.

The important recommendations of the Sub-Committee in brief are as under.

- i. A new institution called National Interlinking of Rivers Authority (NIRA) be created, suitably empowered to effectively function with enhanced mandate for achieving the overall objectives of ILR. The Authority should be enabled with the wherewithal to implement ILR. The Sub-Committee feels that creation of the proposed Authority through an Act of Parliament would be necessary.
- ii. The Head of the Authority be empowered to call meetings inviting State Government officials at highest level and help the Special Committee on ILR as appropriate—the core objective being support in achieving needed consensus on the Link Projects.



- iii. Special Purpose Vehicles (SPVs) be created for the implementation of links duly agreed to by the concerned States, sequentially as proposed for Ken-Betwa Link Project.
- iv. The specific internal and staffing pattern of the International and National Coordination Wing of NIRA could be firmed up after consultations with Ministry of External Affairs, Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change and Ministry of Law. The Sub-Committee is, for the present, not getting into the amplification of the full-fledged structure for the NIRA at present. The Sub-Committee, however, opines that the function related to International and National co-ordination is very crucial and necessary mechanism is required to be put in place without any further delay.
- v. NIRA will absorb all existing NWDA officers and personnel protecting their rights and privileges and enhancing them comparable to that of an Organised Services. All the Government rules and regulations shall apply. These extend to pension benefits for the employees following similar provisions as in the Government.
- vi. Any other provisions that are necessary and appropriate for such a change, may be promulgated by an appropriate Order of the Central Government.
- vii. Pending the above, as some time lapse is but unavoidable, make certain immediate restructuring measures so as to equip the Organisation deliver the expected outputs and assist SCILR effectively in the near future.
- viii. The Sub-Committee observes that while the functions and activities of NWDA have consistently increased, the strength of the professionals in NWDA has been going down. This is undoubtedly a matter of serious concern. The Sub-Committee very strongly feels that strengthening of NWDA with professionals to address the issues in a comprehensive and effective manner is an absolute necessity. A multi-disciplinary team of professionals equipped with modern advanced tools such as Geographical Information Systems, Remote Sensing Applications and System studies Software are immediate requirement.
- ix. The Sub Committee proposes, as a part of strengthening the existing set up, with a new field unit headed by a Chief Engineer in the Eastern/ North Eastern region and suggest specific new functional units for Systems Studies, Comprehensive Evaluation /Project Monitoring and a GIS &RS Unit (also to be headed by an officer of the rank of a Chief Engineer in each case) with supporting staff. Sufficient strengthening of allied support (Administration, Finance etc.) is also envisaged compatible to the augmented structure of NWDA.

- x. The immediate strengthening envisages NWDA with a minimum of 710 posts in all levels (comprising of 124 Group 'A' officers, 107 Group 'B' officers & 479 Group 'C' officials and staff) which is far less than the strength figures of 1677 at the inception stage of NWDA in the year 1982.

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