

## **Minutes of the First Meeting of the Sub-Committee (12<sup>th</sup> meeting of the consensus group) for consensus building through negotiations and arriving at agreements between concerned States held on 17<sup>th</sup> April, 2015 at New Delhi.**

The First meeting of the Sub-Committee (12<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Consensus Group) for consensus building through negotiations and arriving at agreement, between concerned States was held on 17.4.2015 at New Delhi under the Chairmanship of Shri A.B. Pandya, Chairman, Central Water Commission, New Delhi. A list of participants who attended the meeting is given at Annex –I.

At the outset, the Chairman welcomed all the members and participants of the meeting of the Sub-Committee. In his opening remarks he mentioned that the Special Committee for Interlinking of Rivers constituted as per the directions of Hon'ble Supreme Court and Chaired by the Hon'ble Minister (WR, RD&GR), in its first meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> October, 2014 decided to constitute four Sub-Committees of which one Sub-committee is for consensus building through negotiations and arriving at agreements between the concerned States. The Ministry of Water Resources had earlier constituted a Consensus Group under Chairman, CWC with the members from the concerned States. This group has now been renamed as Sub-Committee for consensus building through negotiation and arriving at agreements between the concerned States. Though this is the 12<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Consensus Group but has been considered as the 1<sup>st</sup> meeting of the Sub-Committee. The Chairman mentioned that the role of this Sub-Committee was very vital and it would be assisting the Special Committee for interlinking of Rivers. He urged the members to arrive at consensus on technical aspects of the link projects. After a brief round of introduction the Chairman requested Director General, NWDA to take up the Agenda items for discussion.

Director General, NWDA gave a brief introduction of the agenda items proposed to be discussed in the meeting and subsequently requested, Shri R.K. Jain,

Chief Engineer (Hqs), NWDA for making presentation covering the agenda items of the meeting followed by discussions. A brief summary of the discussion and decisions taken are furnished below.

The terms of reference of the Sub-Committee were brought to the notice of the members. It was mentioned that during the 61<sup>st</sup> meeting of the Governing Body of NWDA held on 24.3.2015, it was decided to convene the meeting of this Sub-Committee to discuss the four link projects i.e. two Inter basin transfer links of NPP viz, Netravati – Hemavati link and Bedti – Varada link of Karnataka; and two Intra-state links viz; Sankh-South Koel and South Koel – Subernarekha links of Jharkhand State.

#### **Item 1.1 Netravati – Hemavati link Project under NPP**

Chief Engineer (Hqs), NWDA presented the brief details of the link proposal as furnished in agenda item. The Pre-feasibility Report of this link project was prepared and circulated by NWDA in 1995. Govt. of Karnataka was requested to convey their consent to carry out survey and investigation works for preparation of the Feasibility Report of this link by NWDA. In spite of repeated requests by NWDA response from Govt. of Karnataka is still awaited. The matter was also discussed during 61<sup>st</sup> Governing Body meeting of NWDA held on 24.3.2015.

Representatives of Govt. of Karnataka informed that Government of Karnataka was planning to utilise the waters of Netravati river for the purpose of providing drinking water supply to Bangalore city and other nearby towns where there is no source of water or water is scarce. After meeting this requirement surplus water if any, will be considered for transfer through Netravati – Hemavati link.

Representative of Tamil Nadu mentioned that the NWDA was requesting the consent of Government of Karnataka only to prepare Feasibility Report/ Detailed Project Report and not for implementation of the projects as such Government of

Karnataka should allow NWDA to take up Survey and Investigations work for preparation of FR/ DPR of this link.

Joint Secretary (PP), MoWR, RD & GR observed that Government of Karnataka should provide the details with the facts and figures as to how they were planning to use Netravati waters which is proposed to be transferred through Netravati – Hemavati link. Representative Karnataka agreed to convey the response of Karnataka Government within two months.

Chairman, CWC indicated that Netravati – Hemavati link is a Inter Basin Water Transfer (IBWT) project and what Karnataka is planning by using Netravati water for providing domestic water supply to Bangalore city and other nearby towns is also a IBWT project. The basic question is; who need how much water and where. He observed that if we did not take further steps to implement the project, we would be delaying the benefits of the project to the society.

Director General, NWDA mentioned that NWDA had prepared the Feasibility Report (FRs) of all the link projects of Peninsular Component of NPP except two links i.e. Netravati - Hemavati and Bedti – Varada link projects pertaining to Karnataka State.

Chairman, CWC and Chairman of the Sub-Committee requested representative of Government of Karnataka to send their response and also provide to NWDA the details of their planning to use Netravati waters along with the related data in a time bound manner. Representative of Government of Karnataka assured to convey the response of Karnataka State Government within two months which was agreed by Sub-Committee.

## **1.2 Bedti – Varada link Project under NPP**

Chief Engineer (HQs) NWDA presented the brief details of Bedti – Varada link Project as given in Agenda item. The Pre-feasibility report (PFR) of Bedti – Varada link project was prepared and circulated by NWDA during 1995. He mentioned that NWDA was facing resistance from local public in carrying out survey and investigation works for preparation of FR of this link. He further mentioned that to pacify the local public and NGOs in the project command, NWDA had organized a seminar at Sirsi in Karnataka for creating public awareness about the project.

Government of Karnataka has given their concurrence for the preparation of Feasibility Report. However, the work of survey and investigation could not be taken up due to protest of a local NGO who demanded that the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Studies of the entire Sirsi district which cover the link project be carried out by the Government of Karnataka with Terms of Reference prepared by them. Government of Karnataka has been requested to conduct EIA Studies as per the NGO's requirement. However, these studies are yet to be taken up by Government of Karnataka.

Representative of Karnataka mentioned that a committee to finalise the Terms of Reference of EIA studies has been constituted by their Government. Chairman observed that the NWDA had sent the draft ToRs of EIA studies to Government of Karnataka about 7 years back and thus the setting up the committee now by the Government of Karnataka was a very delayed response in the matter. The procedure for EIA studies is well defined. The ToRs for EIA studies are to be approved by Expert Appraisal Committee of Ministry of Environment & Forest and CC.

Joint Secretary (PP), MoWR, RD & GR requested Chairman, CWC and Director General, NWDA to send DO letters to the Principal Secretary, WRD, Govt. of Karnataka for expediting the matter.

Chairman, CWC and Chairman of Sub-Committee requested representative of Govt. of Karnataka to send their response within a period of one month.

### **1.3 Intra State link projects**

#### **1.3.1 Sankh – South Koel link**

Chief Engineer (HQ), NWDA presented the brief details of the proposal of Sankh-South Koel Intra-State link proposed by Jharkhand State. NWDA has carried out the Pre-Feasibility studies of the proposal and sent the report to Govt. of Jharkhand. As per the prefeasibility report, Sankh – South Koel link envisages diversion of 498 MCM of Sankh water to South Koel river for its further transmission to Subarnarekha river through South Koel – Subarnarekha link. The link is proposed to deliver 403 MCM of water after fulfilling enroute water needs. Government of Jharkhand has requested NWDA to take up the DPR of the project, however, the concurrence of the Odisha State being co-basin State is required before taking up the work of preparation of feasibility report / Detailed Project Report of this intra – State link proposal.

Representative of Govt. of Odisha mentioned that in the Pre-Feasibility report of Sankh – South Koel link the provisional requirement for Rengali reservoir has been kept as 139.33 MCM in this report on catchment area apportionate basis. Whereas, as per basin plan i.e. (3<sup>rd</sup> Spiral study got done by Government of Odisha) the Rengali reservoir has been planned by considering 37% yield from the upstream Sankh and Koel rivers after deducting their utilization to the extent of 63%. In contrast to this assumption, the provision made in the PFR for Rengali reservoir (139.33 MCM) is only 14%. This has a likelihood of severe implication in the future planning of Rengali irrigation project. He further mentioned that Mandira dam, which has been conceived as a dedicated reservoir scheme for meeting the industrial water need has a live storage capacity of 370.20 MCM. With the presently scheduled releases of 139.33 MCM, the priorities of Mandira dam shall be severely dislocated. The project, because of its smaller size, mostly behaves as a run-of the river scheme

during monsoon. Considering a modest 2 (two) times of live storage capacity including evaporation, the project is in need of 740 MCM of water. Hence in the eventuality of permanent transfer of half of the 75% dependable flow from Sankh to South Koel with only 139.33 MCM release, the priorities of Mandira Project are going to be severely compromised.

Representative of Govt. of Jharkhand was of the view that the NWDA in Pre-Feasibility Report has considered all the down-stream committed requirement and desired that NWDA should be allowed to prepare the DPR of this link.

Chairman, CWC and Chairman of the Sub-Committee, considering difference of opinion and the fact that study is not vetted by Central Water Commission, decided that a group under Chairmanship of DG, NWDA with Chief Engineer (HSO) CWC and Chief Engineer (IMO) CWC as members may be constituted to look into all the down-stream commitment below the proposed Sankh barrage. The Group should get the simulation done on 10 daily basis to ascertain the fulfillment of the various downstream requirements. The time line for the agency for undertaking the said study would be decided in consultation with Chief Engineer (HSO), CWC.

### **1.3.2 South Koel – Subernarekha link**

The Chief Engineer (HQ) presented the brief details of link proposal. The proposal envisages diversion of 403 MCM water from Sankh-South Koel link and additional and unused 1281 MCM of water available at Manoharpura block of South Koel basin into Subernarekha basin through Tajna river to Chandil dam via Karkari river. Accordingly, NWDA has carried out the Pre-Feasibility study of the proposal. As per the Pre-Feasibility report, South Koel – Subernarekha link envisages diversion of 1792 MCM (including 403 MCM water from Sankh and 1281 MCM form South Koel river) water from South Koel to Subarnarekha out of which after enroute utilization, 1684 MCM of water will reach to Subarnarekha river which, Government of Jharkhand proposed to utilize for industrial and navigational purpose. The

concurrence of the Odisha State being co-basin State is required before taking up the work of preparation of Feasibility Report / Detailed Project Report of this intra-State link proposal.

Representative of Govt. of Odisha mentioned that they have projected the worst scenario to be 63% basin utilization by Jharkhand in the own basin and balance 37% will be available for Orissa as a downstream riparian state. On this account the entire planning of Brahmani basin and the linked projects have been carried out by assuming 1290 MCM availability (37% of the 75% dependable yield). In comparison to this planned figures, the 475.86 MCM committed reserve by the upstream State is too meagre to accept the proposal.

Representative of Govt. of Jharkhand requested that the preparation of DPR of this link project may be taken up by the NWDA at the earliest.

Chairman CWC and Chairman of the Sub-committee observed that both the links i.e. Sankh – South Koel and South Koel – Subernarekha are inter connected, therefore, these proposals should be analysed together. The group under DG, NWDA as decided above for Sank – South Koel will look into the relevant aspects of this link also after completing the study in respect of Sankh-South Koel link.

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

\*\*\*\*\*

**List of Participants of the First meeting of the Sub-Committee (12<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Consensus Group) for consensus building through negotiations and arriving at agreements between the concerned States held on 17.4.2015 at New Delhi.**

<b>Sl.No</b>	<b>Name of participant</b>	
1	Shri A.B. Pandya Chairman, CWC	Chairman
2	Shri A. Mahendran Member (WP&P), CWC	Member
3	Shri Navin Kumar Chief Engineer (IMO), CWC	Member
4	Shri M. Bangara Swami Chief Engineer, ISW, WRDO, Bengaluru, Karnataka	Representing Principal Secretary, WRD, Govt. of Karnataka (Member)
5	Shri R. Subramanian Chairman, CTC cum Inter State Waters Wing, Tamil Nadu	Representing Commissioner cum Secretary, PWD, Govt. of Tamil Nadu (Member)
6	Shri Nirajan Panda, Superintending Engineer, WRDO, Odisha	Representing Principal Secretary, WRD, Govt. of Odisha (Member)
7.	Shri D.K. Singh Superintending Engineer, WRD, Govt. of Jharkhand, Ranchi	Representing Principal Secretary, WRD, Govt. of Jharkhand (Member)
8.	Shri Joseph Jasheen Paul Executive Engineer, WRD, Govt. of Kerala	Representing Commissioner cum Secretary , WRD, Govt. of Kerala (Member)
9.	Shri S. Masood Husain, Director General, NWDA, New Delhi	Member – Secretary
<b>Officers from MoWR, RD &amp; GR</b>		
10.	Dr. B. Rajender Joint Secretary (PP) MOWR, RD & GR	Special Invitee
11.	Shri S.K. Gangwar Sr. Joint Commissioner (BM) MOWR, RD & GR	Special Invitee
<b>Officers from CWC</b>		
12.	Shri R.K. Jain Chief Engineer, BPMO, CWC	Special Invitee
13	Shri Harikesh Meena Director, NWP, CWC	Special Invitee



<b>Officers from State Governments</b>		
14.	Shri Sriramaiah Technical Advisor, WRD, Govt. of Karnataka, Bengaluru	
15	Shri Madan Mohan Sethi AEE, IWD Cell, Odisha	
<b>Officers from NWDA</b>		
16	Shri M.K. Srinivas Chief Engineer (South), NWDA, Hyderabad	
17	Shri R.K.Jain Chief Engineer (HQs), NWDA, New Delhi.	
18	Shri H.N. Dixit Chief Engineer (North), NWDA, Lucknow	
19.	Shri N.C. Jain Director (Tech), NWDA, New Delhi	
20.	Shri K.P. Gupta Superintending Engineer, NWDA, New Delhi	
21.	Shri O.P.S. Kushwah, Superintending Engineer, NWDA New Delhi	
22.	Shri Muzaffar Ahmad Superintending Engineer, NWDA, Patna	