

Chapter 3

Interstate Aspects

3.1 General

The Pennar (Somasila) – Palar – Cauvery (Grand Anicut) link canal is one of the components of the Mahanadi – Godavari – Krishna – Pennar – Cauvery – Vaigai link system for inter-basin transfer of water proposals under Peninsular Component of National Perspective Plan. The system comprises of nine link canals. All the major rivers involved in this interlinking proposal are inter-state in nature. The basin states involved are Orissa, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and the Union Territory of Pondicherry.

So far as the Pennar (Somasila) – Palar – Cauvery (Grand Anicut) link is concerned, the important inter-state aspect involved, is arriving at a broad consensus on utilization of the waters received from Mahanadi and Godavari rivers. As part of the water so received in Pennar river, is proposed for utilization under this link scheme, no water which legitimately belongs to Pennar basin is envisaged for diversion elsewhere. However, the proposal is to transfer 8565 Mm³ of water out of the 10521 Mm³ of water delivered into Pennar through the preceding two links viz: Krishna (Srisaillam) – Pennar link and Krishna (Nagarjunasagar) – Pennar (Somasila) link.

3.2 States traversed by the rivers

Both the Pennar and Cauvery rivers involved in the Pennar (Somasila) – Palar - Cauvery (Grand Anicut) link are interstate rivers. The Pennar River originates in the State of Karnataka and flows through the States of Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh before joining the Bay of Bengal. The Cauvery River originates in the State of Karnataka and flows through Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Karaikal (Pondicherry U.T.) before joining the Bay of Bengal. State-wise break up of the catchment areas of the Pennar and Cauvery river basins is given in Table 3.1.

Table 3.1
State-wise catchment area of basins

Sl. No	Name of River basin	Catchment area in sq.km					Total
		Karna-taka	Andhra Pradesh	Tamil Nadu	Kerala	Pondi-cherry	
1	Pennar basin						
	i) as a whole	6937.0	48276.0	-	-	-	55213.0
	ii) upto Somasila dam site	6937.0	43555.5	-	-	-	50492.5
2.	Cauvery basin						
	i) as a whole	34273.0	-	43867.0	2866.0	149.0	81155.0
	ii) upto Grand anicut site	34273.0	-	36008	2866.0	-	73147.0

3.3 Inter-state agreements

3.3.1 Pennar river

No new inter-state agreements exist between Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh states on sharing of Pennar river waters. However, Inter-State agreements between the erstwhile Govts. of Madras and Mysore were made on 18.02.1892 for "Irrigation works Mysore State-restoration and construction certain rules and schedules" and later on for "Sharing of waters of inter-state rivers – Pennar waters" on 5.09.1933. The agreements are mainly for certain streams and specific projects only.

3.3.2 Palar river

Inter-State agreements between the erstwhile Govts. of Madras and Mysore were made on 18.02.1892 for "Irrigation works Mysore State-restoration and construction of certain rules and schedules" followed by for "Sharing of waters of Palar" on 5.09.1933. Further, an inter-state meeting between the Govts. of Mysore (now Karnataka), Govt. of Madras (now Tamil Nadu) and Govt. of India was held on 29.06.1956 and a decision was arrived at on Palar water disputes.

The agreements and water disputes involved are for certain streams and specific projects only.

3.3.3 Cauvery river

3.3.3.1 Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal Award

An agreement between the then Mysore Government (now Karnataka) and the then Madras Government (now Tamil Nadu) was made in 1892 regarding sharing of Cauvery water. This agreement was reviewed in 1924 and was subsequently to be reviewed in 1974. In 1991, the Cauvery Water Dispute Tribunal was formed and an interim award was given. As per the interim award of Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal (CWDT), 205 TMC of water is to be ensured at Mettur reservoir in Tamil Nadu by the Government of Karnataka by releasing water from its reservoirs as per the monthly schedule given below in Table 3.2.

Table 3.2
Monthly Flows to be ensured at Mettur Reservoir as per Interim Award of CWDT

Sl.No.	Month	Allocation in	
		Mm ³	TMC
1.	June	287.70	10.16
2.	July	1210.83	42.76
3.	August	1549.50	54.72
4.	September	831.38	29.36
5.	October	854.32	30.17
6.	November	454.48	16.05
7.	December	293.64	10.37
8.	January	71.07	2.51
9.	February	61.45	2.17
10.	March	67.96	2.40
11.	April	65.70	2.32
12.	May	56.92	2.01
	Total	5804.95	205.00

Out of 5804.95 Mm³ (205 TMC), Government of Tamil Nadu will deliver 170 Mm³ (6 TMC) of water to Karaikal region of Union Territory of Pondicherry.

3.3.4 Inter-State aspects under the Proposed Link Project

The Pennar (Somasila)-Palar-Cauvery (Grand Anicut) link is one of the several link proposals under the Peninsular Rivers Development component of the National Perspective Plan for large-scale transfer of

water from the surplus to the deficit river basins. It may not be possible to transfer these waters under the present inter-state agreements on sharing of water. Therefore, a separate agreement for sharing the surplus water of the basin concerned would have to be arrived at by the States involved through consensus. As regards the present proposal of Pennar (Somasila) – Palar – Cauvery (Grand Anicut) link is concerned, the states involved are Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu. However, a consensus on sharing of water of the preceding links is a pre-requisite for implementation of this project.