

Chapter 3

Interstate aspects

3.1 General

The Krishna (Almatti) – Pennar link canal is one of the components of the Mahanadi – Godavari – Krishna – Pennar – Cauvery – Vaigai link system for inter-basin transfer of water in peninsular India. The system comprises of nine link canals. All the major rivers involved in this interlinking proposal are inter-State in nature. The States involved are Orissa, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Bihar, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamilnadu, Kerala and the Union Territory of Pondicherry. Sharing of the water of Krishna basin amongst the co-basin States of Maharashtra, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh has already been adjudicated by the Krishna Water Disputes Tribunal.

As far as the Krishna (Almatti) – Pennar link is concerned, the important inter-State aspect involved, is arriving at a broad consensus on utilisation of the waters received from Mahanadi and Godavari rivers. As part of the water so received in Krishna river is proposed for utilisation under this link scheme, no water which legitimately belongs to Krishna basin is envisaged for diversion elsewhere. However, the proposal is to transfer 1980 Mm³ of water out of the surplus available in Krishna river at Almatti dam for exchange of the surplus water of Mahanadi and Godavari river proposed to be brought to Krishna through various link canals.

Brief details of the provisions under the award pronounced by the Krishna Water Dispute Tribunal (KWDT) and the effect of the proposed water transfer from Mahanadi and Godavari rivers to Krishna and beyond on the basin states of Krishna and Pennar are briefly presented below:

3.2 The KWDT Award

The competitive claims of the riparian states for the utilisation of the waters of the Krishna basin have given rise to disputes amongst them for sharing of the water. Eventually, the Central Government constituted the Krishna Water Disputes Tribunal (KWDT) and referred various disputes for adjudication. As per the Tribunal, the availability of water in the Krishna basin at 75% dependability is 2060 TMC (58333 Mm³). The Tribunal allocated this quantity of water, among the riparian states as indicated in Table 3.1.

Table 3.1
State-wise water allocation as per KWDT Award

Sl. No.	State	Allocated quantum TMC (Mm³)
1	Maharashtra	560(15857)
2	Karnataka	700 (19822)
3	Andhra Pradesh	800(22654)
	Total	2060 (58333)

In addition to the above quantities, the KWDT had also allocated the regenerated flows to the tune of 70 TMC (1982 Mm³) in the Krishna basin to the riparian States in the order of 25 TMC (708 Mm³) to Maharashtra, 34 TMC (963 Mm³) to Karnataka and 11 TMC (311 Mm³) to Andhra Pradesh. The KWDT award was slated for review after May 2000 AD. Accordingly, a new Tribunal has now been constituted to review the earlier Award.

However, Clause XIV (B) of the tribunal award states that "In the event of the augmentation of the water of the river Krishna by the diversion of the water of any other river, no State shall be debarred from claiming before any Authority or Tribunal even before the 31st May, 2000 that it is entitled to a greater share in the water of the river Krishna on account of such augmentation nor shall any state be debarred from disputing such claim".

The Govt. of Maharashtra, Karnataka, & AP have agreed to spare a quantum of 5 TMC (142 Mm³) each out of their respective allocation by KWDT for water supply to Chennai city.

There is a proposal formulated by the Govt. of Andhra Pradesh for transfer of 2265 Mm³ (80 TMC) water from Polavaram dam on Godavari to Prakasam Barrage on Krishna for irrigation in Krishna delta area. This proposal was endorsed by the Godavari Water Disputes Tribunal (GWDT). According to this proposal, 2265 Mm³ of water to be received in Krishna river at Prakasam Barrage would be utilised to take over the command in Krishna delta, which otherwise is served by the existing Nagarjunasagar project. This arrangement provides for utilisation of an equivalent quantity under projects upstream of Nagarjunasagar dam. This proposal was concurred by the Governments of Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka by an agreement entered into in August 1978. This quantum of 2265 Mm³ of water so conserved in Krishna would be shared among

Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and Karnataka in the order of 1274 Mm³ 396 Mm³ and 595 Mm³ respectively.

3.3 Inter-State Aspects under the Proposed Link Project

The Krishna (Almatti) – Pennar 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. As regards the present proposal of Krishna (Almatti) – Pennar link is concerned, the states involved are Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka. However, a consensus on sharing of water of the preceding links is a pre-requisite for implementation of this project.