

No. R-21011/2/2018-Pen Riv
Government of India
Ministry of Water Resources, RD & GR,
Peninsular Rivers Wing

Room No. 353-C,
Krishi
Bhawan,
New Delhi-110001
Dated the 17th February, 2018

**SUBJECT : REGIONAL CONFERENCE OF SOUTHERN STATES ON WATER
RESOURCES AT HYDERABAD ON 20.2.2018 - reg.**

Sir,

I am directed to convey that the first Regional Conference on Water Resources of Southern States viz. - Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, and UT of Puducherry will be held **on 20.02.2018 (TUESDAY) at TAJ VIVANTA, Begumpet, Hyderabad** under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Minister of State (WR, RD & GR). A copy of meeting notice dated 13.02.2018 is enclosed for ready reference. Before the conference, Hon'ble MoS (WR, RD & GR) will take a briefing meeting at 10 AM on 20.02.2018.

2. It is requested to make it convenient to attend the above Conference as well as briefing meeting as per schedule.

Yours faithfully,

Encl: as above


(A.C. Mallick)

Under Secretary to Govt. of India
Email - acmallick@nic.in/ Tel - 23383059

To

1. Chairman, Central Water Commission, Sewa Bhawan, R.K. Puram, New Delhi - It is requested to invite the concerned Regional Chief Engineers and Chief Engineer (IMO) to attend the above meeting/ Conference.
2. Chairman, Central Ground Water Board, Bhujal Bhawan, NH-IV, Faridabad - 121001.
3. Director General, National Water Development Agency, 18-20, Community Centre, Saket, New Delhi
4. Chairman, Krishna River Management Board, 5th Floor, Jalasoudha, Errum Manzil, Hyderabad- 500 082
5. Chairman, Godavari River Management Board, 3rd Floor, Jalasoudha, Errum Manzil, Hyderabad- 500 082

Signature Not Verified

Digitally signed by A.C.
MALLICK
Date: 2018.02.15 09:06:38 IST

Joint Secretary (RD & PP), MoWR, RD & GR

**MINUTES OF THE REGIONAL CONFERENCE OF SOUTHERN STATES
ON WATER RESOURCES HELD AT HYDERABAD ON 20TH FEBRUARY, 2018**

The Regional Conference of Southern States on Water Resources, a first of its kind initiative by the Government of India (GoI), to discuss the water related issues among the Southern States, was held at Hyderabad on 20th February, 2018. Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal, Hon'ble Union Minister of State (WR, RD & GR) chaired the Conference.

2. Five States namely, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, and Telangana, and Union Territory of Puducherry participated in the Conference apart from senior officers of Ministry of Water Resources, RD & GR, Central Water Commission (CWC), National Water Development Agency (NWDA), Godavari River Management Board (GRMB), Krishna River Management Board (KRMB), Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) and Polavaram Project Authority (PPA). The list of the participants is enclosed at Annexure-I.

3. Shri Sanjay Kundu, Joint Secretary (RD&PP) & DG-NWDA welcomed the Hon'ble Ministers of Irrigation/Water Resources from the States of Kerala, Telangana and Union Territory of Puducherry and the participants of the Conference.

4. Chairman, CWC, in his opening remarks said that while 'water' is a State subject under the constitution, a number of agreements have been entered by the States for water sharing and project implementation. He stated that many issues lingering for years in various courts, can be resolved at technical level through mutual cooperation and understanding and this meeting is a beginning in the direction.

5. Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal, Hon'ble Minister of State (WR, RD & GR), while explaining the background of the Conference, stated that in a recent meeting of NWDA at New Delhi, Dr. K.V.Thomas, Hon'ble Minister of Water Resources, Govt. of Kerala requested for a regional level conference on water issues to address outstanding inter-State issues. To this end, this conference for Southern States has been convened by the GoI at Hyderabad. He added that this step is the national interest, and is intended to resolve the issues which have been pending for years before tribunals/courts causing time and cost overruns of projects. Thereafter, he took up the Agenda items proposed by the States for discussion, which related to Godavari, Krishna, Pennar, Cauvery and other minor river basins and Inter-linking of rivers proposals under Peninsular Rivers component.

I. AGENDA ITEMS OF GOVERNMENT OF KERALA (GoK)

GoK raised the issues regarding Parambikulam Aliyar Project (PAP) and Attappady Valley Irrigation Projects (AVIP). As per Parambikulam Aliyar Project (PAP) Agreement executed between Kerala and Tamil Nadu on sharing of water on 29.05.1970 (with retrospective effect from 09.11.1958), Tamil Nadu has to supply 7.25 TMC of water at Manacadavu and 12.3 TMC of water at Kerala Sholayar. Kerala stated that Tamil Nadu is constantly violating the PAP Agreement. Kerala desires that its minimum entitlement at these sites be ensured and PAP Agreement (which has a provision of review of Agreement after expiry of 30 years) may be reviewed for ensuring

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better share of water. It was stated that during the State Secretary level meeting held on 19th January, 2018, a release of 400 cusec was agreed upon, which was not being honoured by Tamil Nadu. Subsequently, Tamil Nadu replied that the last two years being exceptional drought years, it was not possible to supply the assured quantum of water as per the agreement. It was decided that a meeting under the Chairmanship of Chairman, CWC may be held with the States to address this issue and to work out a mechanism for honouring the agreement. Thereafter, if required, a meeting of the Chief Ministers of two States may be convened to resolve the issue.

Attappady Valley Irrigation Project (AVIP) envisages construction of a dam across Siruvani river, a tributary of Bhavani river in Palakkad district of Kerala. Tamil Nadu requested the MoEF & CC not to grant permission for ToR for EIA of the project as the matter was subjudice in view of the Award of Cauvery Water Dispute Tribunal challenged by the Party States. However, Kerala is of the view that AVIP comes in the downstream of Siruvani and it will not, in any manner, adversely affect the availability of water at Siruvani from where drinking water is being supplied to Coimbatore city of Tamil Nadu. GoK desired that Tamil Nadu may give its NoC to MoEF & CC to approve ToR for undertaking EIA study for the project. It was decided that GoK will share a copy of the DPR with the GoTN. Further, the "scheme" which will be framed to implement the CWDT Award, as per direction of the Supreme Court, will take up this issue for fruition.

II. AGENDA ITEMS OF GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU (GoTN)

GoTN highlighted issues of Cauvery Water dispute, Mulla Periyar Dam, Parambikulam Aliyar Project (PAP), Penniyar river water, interlinking of rivers and other issues.

In respect of Cauvery basin, GoTN requested to advise Karnataka to release 15 TMC of water to save the standing crops in Tamil Nadu and constitution of Cauvery Management Board (CMB) and Cauvery Water Regulation Committee (CWRC) as directed by Hon'ble Supreme Court within six weeks. It also requested to restrain Karnataka from undertaking construction work across Cauvery river and its tributaries without the concurrence of the co-basin States. It was decided that all these issues can be placed before the "scheme" be framed by the Centre as per the direction of Hon'ble Supreme Court. Regarding PAP and Neyyar dam issue, it was decided that a meeting under the Chairmanship of Chairman, CWC be held with the States to address the issue and to work out a mechanism for honouring the Agreement. Thereafter, if required, a Meeting at the level of the Chief Ministers of two States may be convened to resolve the issue.

With regard to the inter-State issues pertaining to Attappady Valley Irrigation Project (AVIP) and repairs to Shenbagavalli project, it was decided that Chairman, CWC will convene a meeting with both Kerala and Tamil Nadu to which representative from MoEF & CC may also be invited. With regard to Mulla Periyar dam issue, it was felt that its Supervisory Committee may continue to make efforts to address the issues.

Further, GoTN pointed out that Chennai city is not getting 15 TMC (with contribution of 5 TMC each from Maharashtra, Karnataka and erstwhile AP) from Krishna basin. It was decided that GoI may intervene to ensure the release of waters to the city. GoTN also sought early implementation of Godavari-(Akinapalli) - Cauvery

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(Grand Anicut) link of NWDA as stated by the Hon'ble Union Minister Shri Gadkari. However, Hon'ble Minister, Telangana cautioned that enough water may not be available for diversion from Indravathi/Godavari as assessed by NWDA. Therefore, he suggested that water availability studies may be carried out with latest data and arrive at a consensus with the States before proceeding for DPR. He added that his State is in favour of ILR and the water from Godavari basin can be transferred to south after meeting the requirements of Telangana. He added that as the Krishna basin is water-deficit, four districts of Telangana in Krishna basin depend on Godavari water.

After discussions, it was decided that Chairman CWC shall examine the hydrological aspects of the link proposal after taking into account the latest hydrological data to establish if water is available for diversion. Regarding concurrence from Kerala for the Pamba – Achankovil – Vaippar Link of NWDA, it was advised to mutually discuss it in the Chief Minister level meeting of both the States. Regarding request of GoTN for concurrence of Kerala for Pandiyar – Punnampuzha Project of TANGEDCO Ltd., it was decided that GoTN will share the DPR with GoK for its examination.

III. AGENDA ITEMS OF GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH (GoAP)

GoAP requested for notification of jurisdiction of Krishna River Management Board (KRMB) and Godavari River Management Board (GRMB). GoAP highlighted the construction of new projects and enhancing the scope of on-going project by Government of Telangana without approval of CWC. GoAP requested release of water from upper riparian states to meet the basic water needs of Andhra Pradesh during lean periods. Regarding the issues related to KRMB, GRMB and on-going/new projects, it was decided that these issues will be addressed in the Apex Council Meeting likely to be held in the near future. Regarding the issue of release of water from upper riparian States, it was decided that this issue will be addressed in the basin level meetings to be convened in near future.

IV. AGENDA ITEMS OF GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA (GoTL)

GoTL raised issues of equitable share of Telangana in Krishna water, share of Telangana in Godavari water diverted by Andhra Pradesh, back water studies for Polavaram Project and protective measures for the important places of Telangana likely to be affected due to Polavaram Project, installation of telemetry stations and devices to account for utilisation of water in Krishna basin and declaration of Pranhita-Kaleswaram project as National Project. The State also requested to expedite the final Award of the KWDT-II.

Further, GoTL expressed the difficulties encountered in modernization of Rajolibanda Diversion Scheme (RDS) works on Tungabhadra river. Hon'ble Minister, Telangana called for operating protocols of all reservoirs in all river basins, enforcement mechanism of the Awards and a single standing Tribunal for the country. JS (PP), MoWR, RD & GR replied that the issue of setting up of a permanent Tribunal is under active consideration of the Centre and a Bill in this regard was introduced in the Parliament on 14.03.2017. Official amendments to the same are under consideration of the Centre. In respect of RDS, it was decided that a meeting shall be called by the Chairman, Tungabhadra Board to comprehensively address the issue.

Regarding declaring Pranhita-Kaleswaram project as National Project, it was informed that the project at present is under appraisal in CWC and a view on declaring

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it as a National Project will be taken as per extant guidelines for the purpose once it is recommended by TAC and Investment Clearance is given by MoWR, RD & GR. Member-Secretary, KRMB, provided the status of installation of telemetry stations and devices to account for utilisation of water in Krishna basin in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.

V. AGENDA ITEMS OF GOVERNMENT OF PUDUCHERRY (GoP)

No Agenda items were received from GoP. However, in the Conference, Puducherry highlighted issues pertaining to equitable release of water from Tamil Nadu in Cauvery basin, NoC from Andhra Pradesh for the Yanam Flood Management Scheme, financial support from Centre for its new projects and renovation of tanks.

On the advice of Hon'ble MoS (MoWR, RD & GR), Andhra Pradesh agreed to issue NoC for the Yanam Scheme and assured that formal communication to this effect will be issued to Puducherry within a week. Hon'ble MoS (WR, RD & GR) assured that the Centre will look into the issue of extending budgetary support and facilitate loans from NABARD/JICA/World Bank to Puducherry.

VI. AGENDA ITEMS OF GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA (GoKTK)

GoKTK raised the following issues:

- (a) Allocation of additional share in the enhanced diversion from Godavari river by GoAP in Polavaram Project,
- (b) Requested GoI to expedite the Gazette Notification of KWDT-II award,
- (c) Allocate share to Karnataka from surplus waters of Mahanadi and Godavari under Peninsular Rivers Development Component,
- (d) Allocate share in the proposed Godavari (Akinapalli) – Cauvery (Grand Anicut) link system in phase-I, Krishna (Almatti)-Pennar link and projects taken up by other States in Krishna and Pennar basins.
- (e) Requested to provide DPR of Ponnaiyar – Palar link of Tamil Nadu taken up by NWDA for examination by Karnataka.

It was decided that the issues pertaining to KWDT and the projects taken up by other States in Krishna basin may be discussed in the basin level meeting to be convened in near future. Chairman, CWC will look into the issue of projects taken up by GoAP in North Pennar basin. DPR of Ponnaiyar – Palar link will be provided by NWDA after it is prepared. The issue of submersion in Karnataka, due to construction of a dam near Gundrevulu across Tungabhadra downstream of RDS Anicut by the GoAP, shall be discussed in the meeting of Tungabhadra Board scheduled next month.

6. Hon'ble Minister of State (WR, RD & GR) in his concluding remarks expressed his pleasure at the healthy discussions that took place among the States in the Conference. He added that basin-wise approach shall be adopted to fine tune and resolve the issues with the riparian States. To this end, the Ministry would convene basin-wise meeting at the earliest. He was of the view that a permanent standing Tribunal will help in timely resolution of inter-State issues and thus save the time and cost overruns of the projects. He assured to extend budgetary support by the Centre to the various schemes of the States under PMKSY and facilitate loans for the States from NABARD or foreign institutions (World Bank/JICA). He conveyed that rivers are national assets and it is the duty of the Centre to ensure that all the riparian enjoy the benefits of

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its waters. He was hopeful that this initiative of his Ministry to conduct Regional Conferences would be successfully taken up in other regions of the nation as well.

The meeting ended with vote of thanks by Chief Engineer (South), NWDA, Hyderabad.