

PRESS NOTE

NOTE ON PRANAHITA -CHEVELLA LIFT IRRIGATION PROJECT

About 40 years back (on 6-10-1975) a meeting between the Chief Ministers of A.P. Mr. Jalagam Vengal Rao and Chief Minister of Maharashtra S.B. Chavan was held for distribution of Godavari water. - Lendi, Lower Penganga and Pranahita projects were discussed and agreement was reached on first two projects and agreement could not be reached on Pranahita. There after series of meeting took place but in vain.

As a part of Jalayagnam program the then Government of A.P. decided to take up Pranahita project and entrusted the work of survey and preparation of D.P.R. to WAPCOS (Govt. of India under taking). After two years of field survey WAPCOS submitted their D.P.R. on Pranahita Project. After detailed examination government have decided to take up the Pranahita Project (Pranahita Chevella Lift Irrigation Project) and accorded administrative sanction vides G.O. Ms. No. 124 dated 16-5-2007 at the cost of Rs. 17,875 crores.

Within seven months, the cost was revised to Rs.38,500 crores, the reason for enhancement stated that the WAPCOS have not properly prepared the estimates and additional areas of Nirmal and Mudhole were added. The work was divided into 28 packages and started.

On May 5th 2012 the then Chief Minister of A.P., Mr. Kiran Kumar Reddy entered into an agreement with Maharashtra counterpart for constitution of Interstate Board consisting of 15 Prl. Secretaries, 14 H.O.D. etc. for Pranahita project. During last 4 years the board never met nor any decisions taken.

Again on 17-2-2015 a high level committee headed by Chief Minister of Telangana Sri Chandra Sekhar Rao went to Maharashtra for discussion on Pranahita project. As there were problem of submergence of land in Maharashtra no agreement could be reached. Subsequently Government of Telangana proposes to shift the project site to Kaleshwaram or alternatively take up about 3 projects.

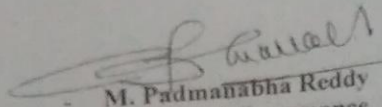
As there was lot of confusion prevailing on the fate of Pranahita-Chevella Project, Forum for Good Governance requested the Chief Engineer of the project to come out with a white paper so that people will understand the project better. The Chief Engineer expressed his inability to publish white paper. We approached the Prl. Secretary, I & CAD, with a similar request, he also did not respond to our request.

Now we are approaching MLAs of six districts (connected to this project) to discuss the issue in the state assembly. The following are the issues which require clarity.

1. As per the report of WAPCOS the flood waters at Thummidi hetti on Pranahita can be lifted. The scheme is run of the river scheme and no storage is planned at diversion site.

2. The survey report says, "at present about 160 T.M.C. of Water is available, but once the upper states of Maharashtra and M.P. start developing their own water sources, the water availability in Pranahita will reduce from 160 T.M.C. to 110 T.M.C. only" (The pumps and canals designed for 160 T.M.C. will be underutilized).
3. For Pranahita project, permission from 11 agencies / ministers of Government of India are required. Since last 9 years with continuous persuasion the state government could get clearances from 6 ministries only. In the name of reengineering if the project design and location is shifted to Kaleshwaram etc., when are we going to get clearances?
4. The project cost is about Rs. 40,000 crores (and reported that it may go up to 75,000 crores with three projects planned). It is hoped against hope that centre will declare it as national project and share 90% of the cost. If that is not materializes can the state bear such huge expenditure.
5. Pranahita project is most expensive project. The capital cost to provide water to one Acre will be 5 lakhs, the recurring cost (power charges) will be Rs.15000/Ac/annum. Who will pay the power charges?
6. About 2525 M.W. of power is required.
7. Out of 28 packages, about 7 packages are in Ranga Reddy district (Chevella). Works with estimated cost of Rs.5983 crores were taken up around Chevella, Tail end of the canal.
8. About 1485 crores was given to contractors as mobilization advance. Even after 8 years about 567 crores advance is still un-recovered.
9. Now with re engineering Pranahita canal is not going to Chevella, it means about Rs. 3000 crores spent on canals here will go waste.
10. Out of 160 T.M.C. supposed to be lifted from Pranahita 40 T.M.C. is allotted for drinking water and 16 T.M.C. to industry, leaving 104 T.M.C. for agriculture. In dry sandy soils one T.M.C. of water can hardly irrigate 10,000 Ac. as such 104 T.M.C. of water will irrigate 10 lakh Ac and not more.
11. Now in the name of re engineering new projects are appearing on the stage at an estimated cost of Rs.75,000/- than what about the expenditure incurred so far on Pranahita project.

Keeping all these inconsistencies Forum for Good Governance is requesting the legislators of Telangana state to discuss the issue in the assembly so that people understand this mega project and appreciate the efforts being made by government.


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