

Hyderabad  
19<sup>th</sup> February, 2015

## PRESS NOTE

About 40 years back (on 6-10-1975) a meeting was held between Sri Jalagam Vengala Rao the then Hon'able Chief Minister of A.P. and Sri S. B. Chavan Hon'able Chief Minister of Maharashtra to finalize the following three interstate projects on River Godavari.

1. Lendi project
2. Lower Penganga Project
3. Pranahita Project

Inter State issues relating to Lendi and lower Penganga which are very small projects have been sorted out. Pranahita projects needed further clarification and settlement. There after series of meetings were held between two State Governments. Government of A.P. in the year 2004 decided to take up Pranahita Project and allotted the work of survey and preparation of D.P.R. to WAPCOS. After detailed survey WAPCOS have submitted D.P.R.

### **The salient features of survey reports are**

1. About 160 TMC of water can be lifted during monsoon period of July to September from Pranahita at Tummidihatti village of Adilabad district.
2. There is no need of any dam or barrage construction. From natural water pool at Tummidihatti village 160 TMC of flood water can be lifted during floods - Run of the river scheme (Chapter V, Vol. I of D.P.R.)

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1. The survey report further stated that the upper riparian states like Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra have not fully utilized the potential. Once that is done the availability of water may reduce.
1. The water should be lifted to height of 480 meters to reach Chevella through 20 lift points requiring 2527 M.W. of power.
2. An amount of Rs. 17875 crores are required to compel the project.

Based on the said D.P.R. Government of A.P. gave administrative sanction vide G.O. Ms. No. 124, I & CAD department dated 16-5-2007.

**The salient features of G.O.**

1. To provide irrigation to 12.2 lakh acres.
2. 40 T.M.C. for drinking water and 17 TMC for industrial use around Hyderabad
3. The cost of the project as per 2007 rates was assessed as Rs. 17875 crores.

After about 7 months, the cost of the project was increased to Rs. 38,500 crores, a jump of 220%. Again in the year 2011 the cost has further increased to Rs. 40,300 crores.

For any interstate river project permission from about 18 agencies of Government of India are required. As of now many ministries of Government of India are yet to give clearance. Without clearances from various ministries of G.O.I, the state government has spent about Rs. 6000 crores.

Right from 2005 successive state governments are stating that the project will be taken up as National Project. Government of India, Ministry of water resources has well laid out guidelines to take a project as National project. Pranahita Project doesn't fit into the guideline as such it may not be possible for G.O.I. to accord National project status to Pranahita. Here it is not out of place to mention that since independence A.P. has not got a single project as national project except the Polavaram as a concession for bi-furcating the state.

During the general elections of 2009 ruling party gave good publicity in Telangana area about Pranahita project. Whenever Sri Ponnala Laxmaiah the then minister for major irrigation went to Delhi, after his return he used to call press meet and say that G.O.I. has agreed to give National status to Pranahita. After two three such statements people never took his statements seriously.

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At the height of Telangana movement the then Chief Minister Sri Kiran Kumar Reddy in the year 2013 held meeting with Chief Minister of Maharashtra Sri Pruthvi Raj Chavan on 5-5-2012 and an Interstate Board for investigation, Survey and preparation of project report was constituted. The composition of the Board is : Chairman – Chief Minister of A.P. and Maharashtra (by rotation) and about 15 Prl. Secretaries and H.O.D. s To assist the Board a standing committee of 14 officers and coordinating committees , 8 other officers was constituted. After the constitution of the Board no meetings were held nor were any decisions taken. It just remained on paper.

Again on 17-2-2015 a high level delegation headed by Chief Minister of Telangana State went to Mumbai and held discussions on various issues including Pranahita Project. Common man in Telangana State is very much confused and anxious to know the fate of Pranahita Project

**The following are the issues which needs clarification**

1. The survey report of WAPCOS says that there is no need of a dam. Now the Government of Telangana is planning a dam with 152 meters height which government of Maharashtra has objections.
2. By the time we get clearances from all the ministries of G.O.I. it may take few years and by that time the cost of the project may cross Rs.50 thousand crores.
3. Government of India has certain norms for giving national status to any irrigation project. Pranahita project do not fit into the said norms. Till now A.P. has not got any project a national status. When the Government of T.S knows that it may not be possible to give national status to Pranahita project how the finances will be mobilized.
4. The benefit cost analysis shows it is not a cost effective project. About Rs.4 lakhs are required to irrigate an acre of land.
5. The recurring cost, mostly power bill will be about Rs.15,000/Acres/annum who will bear it
6. About 2525 M.W. of power is required where is the source for such huge requirement
7. Telangana state government has two important projects on hand – Mission Kakatiya and water grid, combined they may require Rs.48,000/- crores or Rs. 12,000/- per annum in coming 4 years.

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8. Unless an annual budget of 5000 crores / annum is earmarked, Pranahita project may not complete by 2025. For a small state like Telangana allocating 5000 crores for a single project may be difficult.
9. Prl. CCF Telangana states that 3331 ha. of land is required for compensatory afforestation but as of now only 2028 ha. is identified and 1303 ha. is still to be identified for C.A. He further stated that G.O.I. has yet to give stage – I clearance, as such there is no clarity on the matter.

Forum for Good Governance is not against the project but the way it is being handled create a doubt that it may become a drain on the state coffers with our any results.

Keeping all these factors in view Forum for Good Governance requests Govt. of Telangana to kindly to publish a white paper covering issues raised by us.

Yours Sincerely

**M. Padmanabha Reddy**  
Secretary  
Forum for Good Governance