INTER-LINKING OF RIVERS- MOST NEEDED AND IMPORTANCE FOR DEVELOPMENT OF INDIA

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Abstract

As throughout the world many countries are interlinking their rivers for many benefits, India must also implement in this manner inter linking of rivers with reasonable land and water resources. Our country mainly depend on a monsoon rainfall and it is erratic, very much unevenly distributed is the main cause for water scarcity in some parts and floods in other parts frequently occur. The interlinking of rivers involving transfer of water that has caught the in the one basin and transferring to other basin.It involves many of common people and the political parties . The concept includes canals ,tunnels and water lifts, that are of excess. It can be execute like the project such as golden quadrilateral in the Highway project and implemented in a phased manner

The Supreme Court of India has already instructed Government of India in the year way back 2002 and again in the year 2012 to take up the interlinking of rivers in a time bound manner. Our country population is expected to be 165 cores by the year 2050.We have to feed the population and present our irrigation is about 100 M Ha and it as to increase for about 150 M Ha. Now more than 60% of water is going to sea which is not utilized every year. By interlinking of river projects agriculture production will boost from 250MT to 450MTand power generation will add another approximately 34,000 successful and to control water sharing and its needs, Government must have separate National Water Development

Keywords: Agricultural production, Interlinking of rivers, common people & political parties, plan, water resources

I. INTRODUCTION

The principle element for any development of the country requires water. Without water any development is not possible. Water plays important role in influences economic, industrial and agricultural growth of mankind or country. The standard of living directly related to available of water per capita. India is fully depend on monsoon rain, except for a small coastal area in the South,. Our monsoon will last 4 months .India is one of the few countries in this world to have reasonable to good rainfall every year with fertile land and water. Due to erratic rainfall is within 3 or 4 months and continuous rain with weeks many times and not uniform throughout the country.

At present Bhramaputra basin is having approximately 18,450 cubic meter, In west approximately 3640 cubic meter water flowing in rivers ,from Mahanadhi river about 2,550 cubic meter and lastly south Indian states Cauvery basin is having 660 cubic meter to as low as 380 cubic meter

By study it as been found out that 33% of our country is in drought in that for example Karnataka 79%, Tamil Nadu 64%, Andhra Pradesh 45%, Maharastra 40% though availability of water in India is 2000 cubic meter /person/year .But when come to Karanataka and Tamil Naidu it is reduced to less than 650 cubic meter /person/year and will keep on reducing further in the coming years as the population is

increasing at the rate of all most 2% per annum. It clearly shows water for human consumption will increase industrial use and semantically water for irrigation will come down from 85% to 70%.The food grain demand will be increase from 240MT to 460MT by year 2050. As per ,UN if water is less than 1000 M3/ p/year then that state will be declared as water scarcity,(South India)

India is having nearly 70200 TMC of surface or River water flow in a year and only approximately 24,840 TMC is being utilized , that is only 35% is usable quantity of water and the remaining water will be flowing into the sea every year as per information from Water Resources Development Plan of India, 1999.By utilizing 65% of water going to sea by interlinking of river, all the water problems, draughts, drinking water to all population ,for industrial growth and finally for irrigation it can be utilized and can make water rich countr

II **NATIONAL WATER DEVELOPMENT AGENCY (NWDA)**

Inter transfer of water from one basin to another basin can be a very good tool to reduce the scarcity of water and regional imbalance. The demand for water is in maximum rise and for number of constitutional issues, the good solution will be inter basin water transfer will help in carrying the surplus water from one river basin to the another water scarce area of other basin

THE PROJECTS

Peninsular River Development

a) The feasibility studies conducted NWDA has shown that it is possible to inter link the six rivers namely - The Mahanadhi, the Godavari, the Krishna, the Cauvery and Vaigai to provide a permanent solutions to the South Indian problems of water scarcity being faced by the farmers

The surplus water of 811TMC from the Mahanadhi (280 TMC)and the Godavari (531TMC) is going as waste or allowing the excess water to flow into the Bay of Bengal .It can be possible to transport the water through the canals for irrigation , drinking and for other purposes. The Mahanadhi, the Godavari, the Krishna, the Pennar and the Cauvery, Vaigai and Gundar all can be connected by a canal of almost length of 3716 Km and with an estimated cost of Rs.50,000 crores

b)NWDA has already made a blue-prints to connect the west flowing rivers in the Western coast, to the Pamba and Achankovil Rivers carry about 250 TMC in Kerala This will be diverted to Vaippar river in Tamil Nadu for an approximately to an 22 TMC,This water can be used in the drought prone Tirunelveli, Tuticorin and Virudhunagar Districts to irrigate about 2.26 lakh acres of dry lands (The Hindu of 6th April 1999).

c) Presently the surplus water in Kerala State is going presently as a waste every year to the Arabian Sea. NWDA has estimated about 1000TMC surplus water in Kerala is going as waste to sea every year . This large quantity of water can be diverted for the benefit of drought prone areas in Tamil Nadu to grow food crops and which can feed the growing population. But between Kerala and Tamil Nadu from 1972 onwards but there was no agreement yet and the project has not been taken up

d) The Western Ghats of Karnataka which covers about 13% of the geographical area of the State has nearly more than 60% of the State's water resources mainly due to high intensity of rainfall and every drop of it is running as waste to the Arabian sea. The majour balance 87% of the area of the State comprising the Krishna and the Cauvery basins have only 40% of the waters. This is the main reason for which Karnataka has water disputes with Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh fighting in tribunals.All the West flowing rivers in Uttara Kannada and Dakshin Kannada Districts of Karnataka State rivers like Nethravathi, Kumardhara, Varahi, Aghanashini etc. have an about 2000 TMC annually as against Krishna and Cauvery put together have 1300 TMC

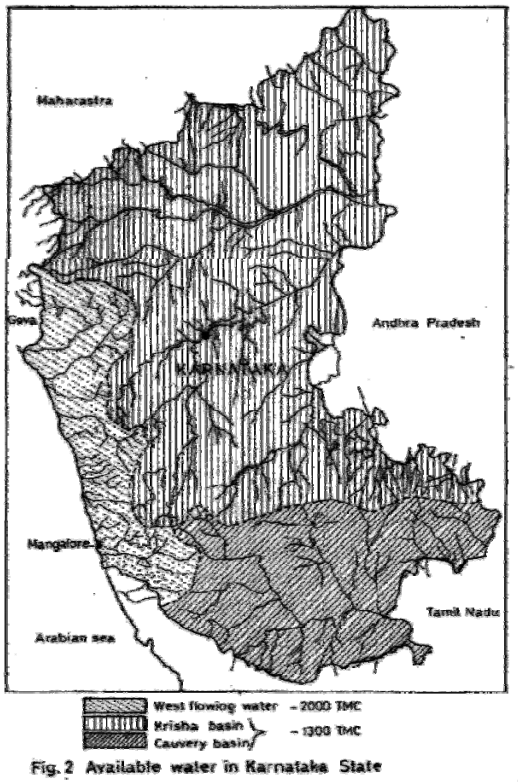


Fig. 2 Available water in Karnataka State

It is possible to divert easily and economically the west flowing water to the east in Karnataka across the Ghats through pumping and storage schemes without disturbing the environment and ecology of the forests and without displacement of people. It can be achieved by utilizing the wasted existing thermal power in the night time and also during monsoons for removing shortage of supplies for irrigation, Industry and drinking water. It will solve the excess water and power with Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh.

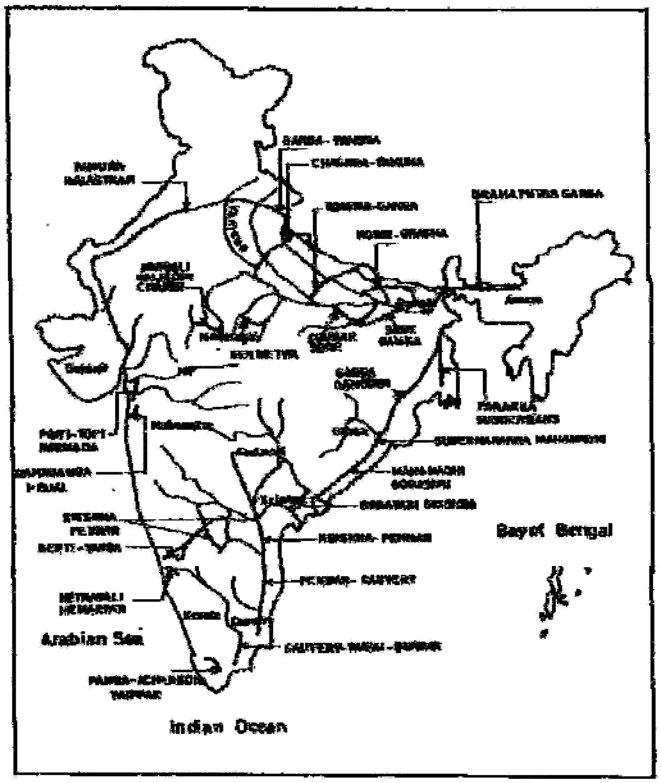
Till date nothing serious thought or plans are made to divert the western flow to the eastern water draughts hit plains of Krishna and Cauvery basins. It is one of the best financially and economically feasible engineering projects. If due to power requirement, pumping and storage schemes are not feasible then it can be planned through for diverting the water through underground tunnels with very small pools seen on the surface It will solve not only the disputes between the southern States but also the water demand and requirement of these State

On 31st Oct. 2002, the Supreme Court of India asked the central government to setup a high level taskforce to work out the modalities for Interlinking of rivers in India within 10 years and the recent judgment (on 27.2.2012) directed to implement the interlinking of rivers in a time-bound manner and constitute a panel of ministers, experts and activists to execute the project as it has been already delayed resulting in the increase in cost.

III **PROPOSALS / ORDERS / VERDICTS FAVOURING IMPLEMENTATION**

In Pre Independent period only it was plan for interlinking of rivers in India.Due to second world war and for other political reasons British government dropped this idea.For more than 50 years since K.L. Rao started and alternate proposal given by D.J. Dastur in 1970's. The Honorable Supreme Court of India has took up the issue twice in the year 2002 and also once again in the year 2012 and directed the Central Government to implement the projects without wastingany more time as it is already made more cost and it will escalate still more if it is postponed. The Govt. of India constituted NWDA in 1982 to plan and investigate the matter and to make a concrete shape to the peninsular rivers development component. The feasibility reports which was prepared in 1999 provide a plan for the peninsular rivers development. Subsequently, The task force created by the Government of India in the beginning of the 21st century has made detailed project proposal and submitted a detailed proposal in 2003-04. But no concrete action was taken on this subject.

The ground level farmers, the water experts and the development- oriented persons of India have been insisting the State and Central governments to take up the interlinking of rivers work as early as possible but not taken up because of some environmental concerns Proposed river linking



IV Conclusion

The water availability in the country is plenty and it is unevenly distributed throughout the country and hence the water scarcity problems are existing in the some parts of the country especially in the southern states, The main unused water which is flowing into the sea in the southern States of India appears to be of the order of about 1000 TMC, i.e. nearly 50% of the water flowing into the Arabian Sea from Karnataka is about 450 TMC, from Kerala the excess going into sea is about 810 TMC from the river Mahanadhi and the Godavari Rivers surplus water (estimated by NWDA) totaling to 2260 TMC

By interlinking of rivers India can become developed country and becomes major exports of food grains many country and lot of foreign exchange can be earned and also it can saved

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