

Tuesday, April 25, 2006

Ministry of Water Resources

DIVERGENCE TO CONVERGENCE MUST FOR ACHIEVING FRUITFUL RESULTS – PROF. SOZ

22ND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF NWDA HELD

The 22nd Annual General Meeting of National Water Development Agency (NWDA), was held under the Chairmanship of Prof. Saifuddin Soz, the Union, Minister for Water Resources here today. NWDA is a Government of India Society under the Ministry of Water Resources, which entrusted with the studies for Inter Basin Water Transfer proposals in the country.

Speaking on the occasion, the Prof. Soz said that a broad understanding and consensus were required for tackling various water related problems. He said our country is one and the precious natural resources have to be shared for the benefit of all. In this context he referred to the signing of historic tripartite Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) among the Union Minister of Water Resources, Chief Ministers of Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh in the presence of Prime Minister of India in August last year for preparation of a detailed project report on Ken-Betwa link.

The Minister referred to the various actions and efforts of the NWDA for arriving at similar understanding among various states for other identified priorities links. He said that we have to move from divergence to convergence for achieving fruitful results. The Inter-linking of various river projects could be achieved only through this consensus.

Prof. Soz said that web friendly Feasibility Reports of 14 links of Peninsular Component have been placed on the official website of NWDA (www.nwda.gov.in) and efforts will be made to put these reports in regional languages shortly.

Referring to the need for involving NGOs in spreading the message of water conservation, Prof. Soz said that a massive campaign should to be launched in this connection and opinion leaders at village and other levels be involved in creating public awareness. Besides Hindi, which is our national language, other regional and local language should be used to spread the message.

Later, various Agenda items pertaining to progress of works and status of studies, efforts made by NWDA for arriving at consensus among the concerned states etc. were taken up and discussed in the meeting.

Shri J. Harinarayan, Secretary (WR), Shri R.Jeyaseelan, Chairman, CWC, Shri Saleem Romani, Chairman CGWB, Mrs. Sushma Singh, Addl. Secretary(WR), Shri B.S. Ahuja, Member (WP&P), CWC and officers of IMD, CEA, MoEF, Planning Commission etc. attended the meeting. The meeting was also attended by representatives from various states like Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh,

Haryana, Punjab, Orissa, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Karnataka, U.P., Uttaranchal, Tamilnadu etc.