

Wednesday, June 28, 2006

Ministry of Water Resources

PROF. SOZ STRESSES NEED FOR CONSENSUS IN WATER SHARING

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The Union Minister for Water Resources, Prof. Saifuddin Soz has stressed the need for resolving the issues of water sharing among the states by consensus. It should be our endeavour to implement such projects/schemes expeditiously which makes this gift of nature available to all in the country, he said.

Addressing the "Special General Meeting of the National Water Development Agency (NWDA) Society" here today, Prof. Soz said that the tripartite Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for preparation of the Detailed Project Report (DPR) of Ken-Betwa Link, signed in August 2005 was a historic step in this direction. NWDA has started preliminary survey and investigation works and have initiated other actions for the works of preparation of its DPR.

He further said that efforts are being made by this Ministry, Central Water Commission(CWC) and NWDA to arrive at consensus for taking up the work of DPR for Par-Tapi-Narmada and Damanganga-Pinjal Links involving states of Maharashtra & Gujarat and also for Godavari (Polavaram)-Krishna (Vijayawada) link involving Orissa, Chattisgarh, MP, AP, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry.

Accordingly, the proposal for modifications of the functions of NWDA to include the works to identify and prepare pre-feasibility/feasibility reports of intra-State links, as proposed by States, and for preparation of DPR of river link proposals was evolved and the Special General Meeting of NWDA Society today unanimously approved the modification in objectives of NWDA to include (i) preparation of detailed project reports of river link proposals under National Perspective Plan for Water Resources Development after concurrence of the concerned States and (ii) to prepare pre-feasibility/feasibility reports of the intra-state links as may be proposed by the States.

Ministers of Irrigation/Water Resources from Assam, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal were present in the meeting. The meeting was also attended by Senior Central and State Governments officials from Water Resources and related departments.

SK/RKB