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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT
AND GANGA REJUVENATION

NOTIFICATION

New Delhi, the 23rd September, 2014

Whereas, the Hon'ble Supreme Court, in its judgment dated 27th February, 2012 in W.P (C) No. 512 of 2002 in re: "Networking of Rivers" along with W.P (C) No. 668 of 2002, directed, the Central Government in the Ministry of Water Resources, to constitute a Committee, namely, a 'Special Committee for Inter-linking of Rivers', to perform the functions specified in the said directions;

And whereas, the Cabinet, in its meeting dated 24th July, 2014, has decided to implement the above directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court.

Now, therefore, in compliance with the above directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court, the Central Government hereby constitutes a Committee, namely, a 'Special Committee for Inter-linking of Rivers' (hereinafter referred to as the Committee), consisting of the following members, namely:-

- (a) Hon'ble Union Minister for Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation.
- (b) Hon'ble Minister of State for Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation.
- (c) Secretary, Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation.
- (d) Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change.
- (e) Chairman, Central Water Commission.
- (f) Director General, National Water Development Agency - Member Secretary.

- (g) Four experts, to be nominated, one each from the following Ministries/bodies, namely:-
- (i) One Expert from the Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation
 - (ii) One Expert from the Ministry of Finance,
 - (iii) One Expert from the Planning Commission,
 - (iv) One Expert from the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change.
- (h) Minister for Water and/or Irrigation with the Principal Secretary from each of the following concurring States, namely:-
- (i) Hon'ble Minister for Major and Medium Irrigation with Principal Secretary (P), Irrigation & Command Area Development Department, Government of Andhra Pradesh,
 - (ii) Hon'ble Minister of Water Resources with Secretary (Water Resources), Narmada Water Resources, Water Supply and Kalpsar Department, Government of Gujarat,
 - (iii) Hon'ble Minister for Water Resources with Principal Secretary, Water Resources Department, Government of Karnataka,
 - (iv) Hon'ble Minister, Water Resources Department with Principal Secretary, Water Resources Department, Government of Madhya Pradesh,
 - (v) Hon'ble Minister for Water Resources with Principal Secretary, Water Resources Department, Government of Maharashtra,
 - (vi) Hon'ble Water Resources Minister with Principal Secretary, Water Resources Department, Government of Rajasthan,
 - (vii) Hon'ble Minister (Public Works), Government of Tamil Nadu,
 - (viii) Hon'ble Irrigation Minister with Principal Secretary, Irrigation Department, Government of Uttar Pradesh,
 - (ix) Hon'ble Minister in charge of Water Resources Department, Government of Jharkhand,
 - (x) Hon'ble Minister Water Resources with Principal Secretary, Water Resources Department, Government of Bihar,
 - (xi) Minister for Irrigation with Additional Chief Secretary, Irrigation Department, Government of Haryana,
 - (xii) Hon'ble Chief Minister of Puducherry with Secretary (Public Works) Chief Secretariat, Government of Puducherry.

(i) The Chief Secretary or his nominee not below the rank of the Principal Secretary of the concerned Department of any other State involved directly or indirectly in the water linking river project as specified below, namely:-

- (i) Principal Secretary (N) nominee of the Chief Secretary, Government of Gujarat,
- (ii) Principal Secretary, Water Resources Department, Government of Rajasthan,
- (iii) Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, Government of Tamil Nadu as a nominee of the Chief Secretary to Government of Tamil Nadu,
- (iv) Chief Secretary, Government of Odisha,
- (v) Secretary, Irrigation and Waterways Department, Government of West Bengal,
- (vi) Principal Secretary, Water Resources Department, Government of Jharkhand,
- (vii) Principal Secretary/Secretary, Irrigation Department, Government of Uttarakhand,
- (viii) Principal Secretary (Urban Development), Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi,
- (ix) Chief Secretary, Government of Assam,
- (x) Chief Secretary, Government of Bihar,
- (xi) Chief Secretary, Government of Haryana or its nominee not below the rank of Principal Secretary,
- (xii) Principal Secretary, Water Resources Department, Government of Chhattisgarh,
- (xiii) Principal Secretary, Water Resources Department, Government of Kerala,
- (xiv) Chief Secretary, Government of Punjab.

(j) Two social activists to be nominated by each of the concerned Ministries, namely, the Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, Ministry of Finance, Planning Commission, Ministry of Environment Forests and Climate Change.

(k) Mr. Ranjit Kumar (*Amicus Curiae*).

2. *Directions as to functions of the Committee:-*

- I. The Committee shall meet at least once in two months and shall maintain records of its discussion and the Minutes. Hon'ble Union Minister for Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation shall preside over the Meeting.
- II. In the absence of any person from such meeting, irrespective of his status, the meeting shall not be adjourned.
- III. The Committee may constitute such sub-committees, as it may deem necessary for the purposes of carrying on the objects of the inter-linking of river program, on such terms and conditions as it may deem proper.
- IV. The Committee shall submit a bi-annual report to the Cabinet in the Government of India placing before it the status-cum-progress report as well as all the decisions required to be taken in relation to all matters communicated therewith. The Cabinet shall take all final and appropriate decisions, in the interest of the country as expeditiously as possible and preferably within thirty days from the date the matters are first placed before it for consideration.
- V. All the reports of the expert bodies as well as the status reports filed before this Court (the Hon'ble Supreme Court) during the pendency of petition WP (C) No. 512 of 2002 In Re: 'Net Working of Rivers', shall be placed before the Committee for its consideration. Upon due analysis of the Reports and expert opinions, the Committee shall prepare its plans for implementation of the project.
- VI. The plans so prepared shall have different phases, directly relatable to the planning, implementation, construction, execution and completion of the project.
- VII. Committee will ensure the effective executions of the Interlinking of Rivers project in a time based manner. The Committee shall take up Ken-Betwa link project for implementation at the first instance itself and the clarification sought would be discussed by the Committee.
- VIII. The Committee shall take firm steps and fix a definite timeframe to lay down the guidelines for completion of feasibility reports or other reports and shall ensure the completion of projects so that the benefits accrue within reasonable time and cost.
- IX. At the initial stages, this programme may not involve those States which have sufficient water and are not substantially involved in any inter-linking of river programme and the projects can be completed without their effective participation.

However, the Committee may involve any State for effective completion of the programme at any subsequent stage.

- X. The Committee shall ensure that the Central and the State Governments participate in the program and render all financial, administrative and executive help to complete these projects more effectively.
- XI. The Report of the Task Force on Interlinking of Rivers shall also be placed before the Committee which shall, without fail, take due note of the suggestions made therein and take decisions as to how the same are to be implemented for the benefit of the public at large.
- XII. The Committee shall be responsible for carrying out the Inter-linking programme. The decisions of the Committee shall take precedence over all administrative bodies created under the orders of this Court (the Hon'ble Supreme Court) or otherwise.

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AND GANGA REJUVENATION