

Sushri Uma Bharti, Hon'ble Minister for WR,RD&GR released a book titled "Optimal Utilization of Godavari Waters - National & Telangana Perspectives" written by Shri Sriram Vedire, Adviser to Hon'ble Minister (WR,RD&GR) in New Delhi on February 08, 2017.



Brief Note

'Optimal Utilization of Godavari Waters - National & Telangana Perspectives'

- **Written by**

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This book discusses about the overall development of the Godavari River Basin not only ensuring water to all its riparian states but also promoting inland river transportation of sea going vessels on Godavari and its tributaries and also interlinking of Godavari Basin with deficit basins of South India (through Krishna Basin). This book encompasses two perspectives, National as well as Telangana, regarding the optimal utilization of Godavari River Basin waters.

National perspective for optimal utilization of Godavari waters include

- a. Utilization of water by all the basin states as per their respective allocations
- b. Honoring the tribunal allocations to the respective basin states
- c. Ensuring surplus waters of Godavari basin to be taken to deficit basins
- d. Mitigating floods and drought issues at the same time and
- e. Promoting inland river navigation for sea going vessels etc.

Telangana perspective for optimal utilization of Godavari waters include

- a. Utilization of its assured waters as per the tribunal awards
- b. Taking these assured waters to the nooks and corners of the State by well-planned contour canals (300 meters and 400 meters contour canals etc.)
- c. Using the tributaries of Godavari as carriers of water thus avoiding construction of new canals and their corresponding land acquisition
- d. With less power cost and lift more water as lifting is a must
- e. Ensuring that in its planning on utilization of their waters, the national perspective is respected to the core.

Whole basin should be taken as a unit of planning:

Judicious water management in the country would be thorough only if the water resources planning happen with taking the river basin as a unit. Since most of the major river basins in India cover more than one state, and river waters management being a state subject, river basin approach has seldom been practiced in our country. The result is apparent with floods seen in one part of a given river basin while drought is seen in some other part. Balancing both extremes is possible only with **basin level holistic planning**. Each basin state should talk to the other and respect each other's planning and at the same time ensure that the national interests are also met. In this book, utilization planning for Telangana State is discussed at the same time ensuring the national interests of inland river navigation and interlinking of rivers.

Godavari Basin has enough waters:

It is shown in the book with all necessary numbers that there are enough surplus waters in Godavari (after ensuring the utilization of their allocated waters by the respective riparian states) that can be utilized by other South Indian states through Interlinking River Godavari with River Krishna.

Interlinking of Rivers (ILR):

Under the national perspective plan of interlinking of rivers, linking Godavari to Krishna is the important element in the peninsular component of interlinking of rivers as envisaged by NWDA (National Water Development Agency), Government of India. The book discusses all aspects of implementing interlinking of Godavari and Krishna rivers covering the national interests. Especially this book identifies the alternate source (of two NWDA links from Godavari to Krishna) from earlier Inchampalli Project (almost shelved project) which is after the confluence of River Indravathi into Godavari to that of Kaleswaram Project which is after the confluence of River Pranahitha into Godavari. Also stressed is the fact that suitable R&R package should be implemented first before even starting the construction of this major dam.

Inland river navigation of sea going vessels on River Godavari and its tributaries etc.:

River Godavari and its tributaries are also very apt for taking up inland river navigation for sea going vessels. River Godavari resembles River Tennessee of

USA whereby series of locks and dams can be built enabling inland river navigation. This would tremendously boost the national economy as transportation costs on water are much cheaper than on road or rail. International examples like 'Three Gorges Dam' of China and 'Mississippi River Basin' of USA are discussed in the book showcasing how inland river navigation can be taken up in the Godavari Basin. Sea Going Vessels can be taken all the way into the inlands of seven riparian states of Godavari Basin through Godavari and its major tributaries.

Storage and distribution of water to cover the entire State of Telangana:

Also discussed are the most cost effective solutions for storing of water at various locations suitable for one major dam and series of barrages (with locks and gates to allow navigation) on River Godavari in Telangana state and carriage of this stored water through appropriate contour canals (newly planned 300 meters and 400 meters canals, existing other canals etc.) and also through the existing streams and tributaries to the nook and corners of the State. Extensively discussed is the aspect of **making the tributaries and streams of River Godavari as the carriers of water** rather than coming up with separate canals so as to contain cost of constructing such canals and also the underlying land acquisition. Since lifting of water from Godavari is a must to take the waters to all the areas of Telangana, lifting more water with less power is suitably discussed. In fact, **the overall plan is presented in such a way that the whole plan is power neutral.** That is the power needed to lift waters from Godavari and its tributaries can be generated when the water is carried over to the Krishna basin after crossing the Godavari-Krishna ridge line. **On barrages and check dams on streams and tributaries of both Godavari and Krishna rivers, every foot head of water can be utilized to generate power.** Public exchequer being limited should be very sensibly used by any State Government to build the most cost effective structures so that maximum benefit is accrued with minimal cost.

It is hoped that the ideas and contemplations made in this book will be earnestly considered by both the Central and Telangana State Governments.