

Proceedings of the 31st Meeting of the Cauvery Monitoring Committee (CMC)

7th December, 2012

The list of officials who attended the meeting is at Annexure 'A'.

In the 30th meeting of the Cauvery Monitoring Committee (CMC) held on 15th November, 2012, it had been decided to have the next meeting of the CMC on 28th November, 2012 to determine Tamil Nadu's requirements for the month of December.

Tamil Nadu, however, requested that the meeting of the CMC be postponed as the Supreme Court was to hear the matter on 30th November, 2012. Tamil Nadu indicated that Karnataka was also in agreement with this course of action. Accordingly, the meeting was postponed.

The Supreme Court in its hearing on 5th December, 2012 directed that a meeting of the CMC be held *"to determine the requirement of water for the standing crops in the States of Tamil Nadu and Karnataka, and take a decision on that very day"*.

Accordingly, the 31st meeting of the CMC is being held on 7th December, 2012.

The Central Water Commission (CWC) made a brief presentation on the present situation in the Cauvery basin.

1. With regards to the rainfall and performance of the Northeast Monsoon, it was observed that while normal rainfall in south interior Karnataka for a period from 1st October to 5th December is 200.2 mm, the actual rainfall during this period was 160.6 mm i.e. a deficit of 20%. The Northeast Monsoon has not been good to Karnataka. However, if rainfall is considered from 1st June to 30th November, taking both monsoons, the deficit is 22%.
2. In Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry for a period from 1st October to 5th December, the normal rainfall is 372 mm, the actual rainfall during this period in 2012 was 351.9 mm i.e. a deficit of 6%. Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry are having rains during the Northeast Monsoon which are just about normal. However, for rainfall from 1st June to 30th November, taking both monsoons, the deficit is 12.4%.

3. With regards to the inflows in the four reservoirs in Karnataka, which are relevant to the CWDT Award, the normal inflows for a period from 1st June to 30th November is 301 TMC. However, during the year 2012, the inflows from 1st June to 30th November have only been 179.42 TMC which is 59.6% of the normal flow. The deficit due to deficient rain is, therefore, 40.4%.
4. Both States have less water in their reservoirs. Karnataka has 36.30 TMC against the 10 year average of 53.70 in its four reservoirs, while Tamil Nadu has 17.04 TMC against a 10 year average of 59.30 TMC.

The Chief Secretary of Tamil Nadu said that Karnataka had not released water as per the Cauvery Interim Award and that it should immediately release 36.0 TMC to save the standing crop. The kuruwai crop had been totally destroyed and the samba crop would only survive if this water is released. He pressed the CMC to pass orders so that Karnataka would release the water.

The Chief Secretary of Karnataka reiterated that it did not have sufficient water to meet its own requirements and it is not in a position to release any further water to Tamil Nadu. He stated that any order which would seek to release water from its reservoirs would create serious problems for Karnataka.

Kerala had no comments to offer on this issue.

The representative of Pondicherry asked that the requirement of water for the Karaikkal region be considered and released on a prorata basis through Tamil Nadu.

The views of the States were considered. In case the CMC is to stay within the confines of the Interim Award of the CWDT under whose umbrella the CMC was created, then the Award determined that Tamil Nadu shall receive 10.37 TMC of water during the month of December when there is normal rainfall. If we go by the Interim Award's prescription that distress needed to be shared between the two States on a prorata basis, then the amount of water which Tamil Nadu would need to receive during the month of December would be 59.6% of 10.37 TMC i.e. 6.2 TMC. The Interim Award is silent on the requirement of water for Karnataka for the month of December.

Tamil Nadu has made the issue of shortfall of releases during the months of June, July, August and September by Karnataka. The normal inflow into Tamil Nadu up to 30th November, 2012 as per the Interim Award should have been 183 TMC. If this is reduced, because of the 40.4% distress, the actual amount which Tamil Nadu should have received during this period would be 109 TMC. Against

this, the actual inflows into Tamil Nadu as observed at the Biligundlu G&D site were only 73 TMC. This would mean that there was a shortfall of 36 TMC in the water Tamil Nadu was to receive as per the Interim Award. Tamil Nadu says that this shortfall should be made up by releasing this water during December.

The utilizable water stored in Karnataka as on 30.11.2012 is 36.2 TMC. In case Karnataka has to release the 36 TMC of water, it would be left with no water till the next rainy season for either drinking or irrigation. An entire population would be put to peril.

Clearly, Tamil Nadu's demand, though in line with the Interim Award, cannot be met in its entirety.

The Supreme Court in its order has directed that the CMC "to determine the requirement of water for the standing crop in the States". Accordingly, the CWC has made estimates based on the data available with them and the data provided by the Central Teams which visited both the States in October, 2012.

Tamil Nadu

The area sown in the State of Tamil Nadu is estimated to be 14.93 lakh acres. This crop would require water to be made available at least twice during the month. On this basis, the CWC has calculated that Tamil Nadu would require 29.6 TMC during the month of December to sustain its standing crop. Further, the CWC has estimated that it would require 76.7 TMC of water for irrigation purposes in January and February. However, the Principal Secretary (PWD & Irrigation), Government of Tamil Nadu has put the requirement at 85 TMC till February, 2013. No water is required after February till May for irrigation. Besides this, there would be a requirement of 4 TMC for drinking water purposes for the next six months. It may be more appropriate to go by the data provided by the State Government.

The availability of water in Tamil Nadu is as follows:

1	Storage at Mettur	17 TMC
2	Interim catchment below Biligundlu and above Mettur for the next six months	12.5 TMC
		(25 TMC for the whole year)
	Total	29.5 TMC

The total requirement, therefore, works out to be $85 + 4 = 89$ TMC.

The availability of water is 29.5 TMC.

The shortfall faced by Tamil Nadu is, therefore, 59.5 TMC.

Karnataka

The area under sowing in Karnataka is taken as per the Interim Award is 10.17 lakh acres. However, the actual area sown is much more. Considering that the standing crop would again require water twice in the month, the CWC has worked out the requirement of water to be 20.1 TMC during December. Further, the CWC has calculated that Karnataka would require 40.2 TMC for irrigation in January and February. Besides this, the Interim Award has mentioned that Karnataka would require 18 TMC of drinking water for the whole year, which would mean that its requirement for the next six months would be 9 TMC. The Principal Secretary (Irrigation), Government of Karnataka, however, has stated that the requirement from December to the end of February would be 61.8 TMC for irrigation purposes. No further water would be required for irrigation till May. We may accept the data of the State Government.

The availability of water with Karnataka in the four reservoirs is 36 TMC. The total requirement of water by Karnataka is $61.8 + 9 = 70.8$ TMC. As such, the shortage in requirement of water for Karnataka is 34.8 TMC.

It is evident from the above that over the next six months, Tamil Nadu would face a shortage of 59.5 TMC approximately while Karnataka would face a shortage of 34.8 TMC approximately. The solution to such a problem is difficult but if one has to be guided by the principle laid down in the Interim Award, the distress needs to be equally shared.

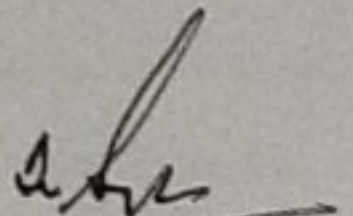
It would seem equitable if Karnataka should manage water in such a way that Tamil Nadu receives 12 TMC during the month of December, 2012. This would not be enough to save all the standing crop in Tamil Nadu but would also adversely affect Karnataka. Both the States would, after this release, have a shortage of approximately 47 TMC against their requirements in December. This shortage can partially be overcome by increased exploitation of ground water resources. Tamil Nadu says that at present 50% of its drinking water and 5% of irrigation is met from ground water. Similarly, Karnataka has stated that about 10% of its requirement of drinking water is met from ground water while use of ground water in irrigation is negligible. There is ample scope for increase to overcome shortages.

This is not an elegant solution, as both the States would be dissatisfied, but in the circumstances mentioned above, this seems the only pragmatic solution, the best that can be done. It is sincerely hoped that this shortage would motivate the States to be more efficient in the usage of available water.

The M/o Water Resources shall take steps to notify the final Award of the CWDT at the earliest but not later than the end of this month. Once the Award is notified, the institutions like CMC and CRA shall cease to exist.

New organizations like the Cauvery Management Board and the Cauvery Water Regulation Committee will be constituted which will have representatives from all the co-basin States, experts in hydrology and agriculture, and be headed by an officer of the Central Government and be under the control of the Central Government. It is hoped that with this organization in place, the difficulties in sharing of water in the Cauvery basin would be sorted out without any outside influence. Similar Boards like the Bhakra Beas Management Board and the Tungabhadra Board are working quite well in sharing of water between co-basin States.

I would like to place on record the positive assistance and cooperation of the co-basin States in finding an equitable solution. I am sure Karnataka would find a way to ensure receipt of 12 TMC by Tamil Nadu at Mettur Dam in the month of December.



(Dhruv Vijai Singh)

Secretary, M/o Water Resources &
Chairman, Cauvery Monitoring Committee

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS**Ministry of Water Resources**

1. Shri Dhruv Vijai Singh, Secretary (WR) & Chairman, CMC
2. Shri Rajesh Kumar, Chairman, Central Water Commission
3. Shri Pradeep Kumar, Commissioner (Projects)
4. Shri R.K. Gupta, Chief Engineer (HRM & IM), CWC
5. Shri S.K. Gangwar, Sr. Joint Commissioner (BM)
6. Shri B. Srinivasu, Dy. Director (ISM), CWC
7. Shri V.N. Viswambharan, Asstt. Director (ISM), CWC

Government of Tamil Nadu

8. Shri Debendranath Sarangi, Chief Secretary
9. Dr. M. Sai Kumar, Secretary (PWD)
10. Shri R. Subramanian, Chairman, Cauvery Technical Cell-cum-Inter-State Water Wing, New Delhi
11. Shri S. Dorai, OSD, PWD
12. Shri N. Asokan, Member-Secretary, Cauvery Technical Cell-cum-Inter-State Waters Wing
13. Shri R.D. Singh, Liaison Officer, Cauvery Technical Cell-cum-Inter-State Water Wing

Government of Karnataka

14. Shri S.V. Ranganath, Chief Secretary
15. Shri D. Satya Murty, Principal Secretary (WRD)
16. Smt. Vandana Gurnani, Resident Commissioner
17. Shri M. Bangara Swamy, Chief Engineer (ISW)
18. Shri M. Shivaswamy, Director (Tech), CNNL
19. Shri Sriramaiah, Tech. Advisor, ISWD

Government of Kerala

20. Ms. Lathika. P, Chief Engineer (ISW)
21. Shri Venugopala Pal K.R., Executive Engineer, Cauvery Special Cell, New Delhi
22. Shri Vijayakumar P.G., Asstt. EE, Cauvery Special Cell, New Delhi
23. Ms. Suja Mathew, Asstt. EE, Cauvery Special Cell, New Delhi

Government of Pondicherry

24. Shri P. Swaminathan, SE (PWD)

List of members of the Monitoring Committee (MC) under the Cauvery River Authority

S. No	Members
1	Chief Secretary, Government of Karnataka, Vidhan Soudha, Bangalore-560001
2	Chief Secretary, Government of Kerala, Secretariat, Thiruvananthapuram-695001
3	Chief Secretary, Government of Puducherry, Secretariat, Puducherry-605001
4	Chief Secretary, Government of Tamilnadu, Secretariat, Chennai-600009
5	Chairman, Central Water Commission Sewa Bhawan, R K Puram, New Delhi
6	Secretary, Water Resources Department, Karnataka Govt. Secretariat, ROOM NO 305, 3 RD FLOOR, VIKAS SOUDHA, Bangalore-560001
7	Engineer-in-chief & Chief Engineer (General) Water Resources Organisation, Government of Tamilnadu, Chepauk Chennai-600005
8	Chief Engineer, Irrigation & Administration & ISW Government of Kerala, Public Office Building Thiruvananthapuram -695033
9	Chief Engineer, Public Works Department, No 34, Lal Bahadur Sastri Street, Puducherry-605001

No.6/19/2012-ISM
CENTRAL WATER COMMISSION
IRRIGATION MANAGEMENT ORGANISATION
NEW DELHI.

Dated: 7th December, 2012

To

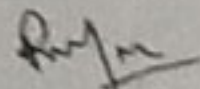
(As per List enclosed)

Subject: Proceedings of 31st Meeting of Cauvery Monitoring Committee (CMC) - reg.

Sir,

The proceedings of the 31st Meeting of Cauvery Monitoring Committee (CMC) held on 7th December 2012 with Secretary (WR), Ministry of Water Resources, in the Chair, is enclosed for further action.

Yours faithfully,



(R.K. Gupta)
Chief Engineer,
CWC, New Delhi
&
Member Secretary, CMC

Copy for kind information to.

1. Principal Secretary to Hon'ble Prime Minister, New Delhi.
2. PS to Minister (WR)
3. Member(WP&P), CWC, New Delhi.