

The Proposed Parbati-Chambal-Kalisindh River link An Update from SANDRP

Reservoir Siltation Based on reports on siltation of reservoirs obtained by SANDRP from the Central Water Commission under the Right to Information Act recently, SANDRP found the following information on the siltation in three of the reservoir in the Parbati-Chambal basin.

Reservoir Capacity Loss in Chmbal-Parbati basin (Live Storage)

Name of reservoir	Year of impounding	Original LS (MCM)	Reassessed LS capacity through SRS/ earlier surveys		Capacity loss (MCM)	Span, years	% Loss	Annual % loss	Siltation rate MCM/yr	Capacity loss anticipated till 2006	
			Year	MCM						MCM	%
Parbati	1963	102.893	2003	86.405	16.488	40	16.02	0.40	0.41	17.72	17.22
Ramsagar	1905	29.397	2003	24.663	4.734	98	16.10	0.165	0.05	04.88	16.60
Ranapratap Sagar	1970	1861.36	2002	1720.13	141.23	26	7.59	0.237	4.41	158.88	8.532

Actual Vs Design Siltation Rates

Reservoir	River	Design rate, mm/year	Actual rate, mm/year	Actual rate as % of design rate
Parbati (Rajasthan)	Parbati (Chambal)	0.157	0.524	333.8
Ramsagar (Rajasthan)	Bamani (Chambal)	0.081	0.274	338.3

Years of Siltation surveys for various Reservoirs

Name of reservoir	Years of survey		Age of reservoir till the last survey	Total Number of survey except present SRS survey
	Original survey	Reassessment		
Parbati	1963	1998, 2003	40	1
Ranapratap Sagar	1970	1996, 2002	32	1
Ramsagar	1905	2003	98	0

Note that Ramsagar reservoir, constructed in 1905, has been assessed for siltation for the first time now.

WRD in Catchment Area of Reservoirs On the issue of Water Resources Development (WRD) upstream of the reservoirs, there has been many instances (e.g. Chambal, Cauvery, among others), where it seemed that following decisions to construct dams on these basins, there was a sort of moratorium on WRD in the catchment areas of the proposed reservoirs. We recently asked CWC as to what is the situation with regard to this. CWC did not give direct reply to this question. The essence of what they said is this:

⇒ "Construction of projects is carried out by State Govts over which CWC has no control. State Govts would be in a better position indicate about the existence of any moratorium on construction of projects... However, in respect of projects referred to CWC for examination and which have inter-state ramifications availability of water for the project is given due consideration."

⇒ "Basin planners do not think in terms of imposing "moratorium on water resources development in the catchment area of a dam". The Approach is that of carrying out hydrological studies or assessment, to estimate the water availability at the proposed site, taking into account commitments upstream and downstream."

⇒ "When abstractions are planned by, or in consultation with the irrigation/ water resources departments, hydrology is examined."

What this reply implies is that since many of the smaller projects are not planned or constructed in consultation with the water resources depts of the state or CWC, such projects may be taken up in violation of the commitments already done in the river basin and had the CWC or the water resources dept known about these before being taken up, they may have asked that such projects should not be taken up in view of the commitments already done by the reservoirs already constructed. Moreover, when CWC or the state water resources depts come to know about such projects at a latter date, they may ask that such projects be demolished (see news report below) or water used in such projects be debited against the state (MP in this case, as proposed in Gandhi Sagar catchment in Rajasthan) or that such tanks not be desilted (as decided in case of Cauvery basin tanks in Karnataka and TN).

This is an important issue in the context of ILR as once a link is planned and constructed, assuming certain water resources development in the catchment of donor basins above the assumptions of WRD made. This could be quite alarming as the implications would go to the root of right to use of water resources or even rainfall and groundwater in a given area.

Chambal basin dispute goes to the centre This year, Gandhi Sagar dam has been filled to the brim for the first time after many years (possibly after nine years). However, water is still not reaching to the tail enders in the command area in MP as Rajasthan has not repaired the canals leading to tail end MP areas. The dispute between the two states has now been referred to centre as reported in *Dainik Bhaskar* on Nov 15, 2006.

Rajasthan threatens MP with legal action The Rajasthan govt has threatened legal action against Madhya Pradesh if MP refuses to immediately dismantle about 1500 check dams in the Malwa region in Chambal basin. Rajasthan feels that due to these dams the inflow of water into Gandhi Sagar Dam has reduced. Rajasthan says it has started debiting such estimated water stopped by the check dams, from MP's share and started releasing water to MP after such deductions. MP has refused to dismantle the check dams, saying they do not reduce inflow into Gandhi Sagar, but has agreed to ban any new check dams in Chambal basin in the state and has said it is ready for a fresh hydrological investigation into the issue by CWC. One result of the dispute is lack of agreement by the two states on the proposed Parbati Kalisindh Chambal River link project under the ILR. (*Dainik Bhaskar* 180606, *Indian Express* 200606)

MWR priorities: PKC does not figure At a "Special General Meeting of the National Water Development Agency (NWDA) Society", Union Ministry of Water Resources said that efforts are being made by this Ministry, Central Water Commission and NWDA to arrive at consensus for taking up the work of DPR for Par-Tapi-Narmada and Damanganga-Pinjal Links involving Maharashtra & Gujarat and also for Godavari (Polavaram)-Krishna (Vijayawada) link involving Orissa, Chattisgarh, MP, AP, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu & Pondicherry. It is interesting to note that Parbati-Kalisindh-Chambal link does not figure in this list.

The meeting decided to 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. This is a big change in the mandate of NWDA, done without any consultation with the people of the country. Shows the total non transparent, non participatory functioning of the Ministry. (PIB, *Indian Express* 280606, *Hindustan* 290606)

Meeting postponed for 3^d time The meeting of irrigation ministers of Rajasthan and MP for finalization of the Memorandum of Understanding for the proposed Parbati Kalisindh River link in the *Hadouti* region has been postponed for the third time in two months. (*Dainik Bhaskar* 210206)

Shipra to be linked with PKC? The officials of Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan have decided that Shipra River (a tributary of the Chambal) will also be linked with Parbati-Kalisindh-Chambal link project. However the Shipra would get water only from Kalisindh River. The water resources dept of Madhya Pradesh had earlier planned a scheme to build 7 small dams to irrigate Malwa region. But due to various problems including submergence from the dams, the govt has now decided to link Kalisindh river to Shipra River to avail water for irrigation in Ujjain and nearby areas. The officials have also in principle agreed for the process of Parbati-Kalisindh-Chambal link project. According to agreement, two link canals will discharge water to Gandhi Sagar dam and Rana Pratap Sagar dam. (*DANIK BHASKAR* 310806)

Water release from dam caused flood in MP Thousands of people of Guna dist of Madhya Pradesh was worst affected due to floods caused by sudden release of water from a dam on the Parbati river this year. The sudden flood came due to massive water release from Ashta dam in Sehore on August 14, 2006. The dam authorities had not given any warning to the downstream people before water release. When the sudden flood occurred, the Sonda village was worst affected and about 200 people were surrounded by floodwater. 8 people and number of cattle died. The Sonda village was completely disconnected from roads and other networks. 179 people were rescued with the help from army helicopter. Other villages including Raghunath, Kitakhedi, Tejakhedi, Banitatodi and Khairad villages also were affected. After the flood havoc, the administration got the downstream villages vacated. (*DANIK BHASKAR* 170806, 190806, *THE HINDU* 190806)

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