

PROCEEDINGS OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE PROPOSED IRRIGATION PROJECT TO PROVIDE IRRIGATION FACILITIES IN BHADRADRI KOTHAGUDEM, KHAMMAM AND MAHABUBABAD DISTRICTS BY SITA RAMA LIFT IRRIGATION PROJECT, PHASE-I WAS CONDUCTED IN KHAMMAM DISTRICT ON 29.08.2018 AT 10.30 AM, IN THE PREMISES OF ZILLA PARISHAD HIGH SCHOOL, MANCHUKONDA (V), RAGHUNADHAPALEM (M), KHAMMAM DISTRICT.

The following panel members were present:

S. No.	Name of the Panel Member	
1.	Sri Lokesh Kumar, D.S., J.A.S., Collector & District Magistrate, Bhadradi Kothagudem District	Chairman of the Public hearing Panel.
2.	Sri V. Ravi Shankar, Environmental Engineer, T.S. Pollution Control Board, Regional Office, Kothagudem.	Member of the Public hearing Panel

The following representatives of the project authority were present:

Sl. No.	Name & Designation
1.	Sri T. Nageswara Rao, Superintendent Engineer, Sita Rama Lift Irrigation Project, I & CAD, Khammam.
2.	Sri Srinivasa chary, Executive Engineer, Sita Rama Lift Irrigation Project, I & CAD, Khammam.

At the outset, the Environmental Engineer, TSPCB, Regional Office, Kothagudem, while welcoming the District Collector of Khammam District, Public representatives, farmers and public, explained about the EIA Notification 2006 vide Notification No. S.O. 1533 (E) dated 14th September 2006 issued by the Ministry of Environment & Forests and Climate Change, Government of India. The Environmental Public hearing is made mandatory for certain category of projects to obtain prior Environmental Clearance. He stated that Sita Rama Lift Irrigation Project has proposed Irrigation Project to provide Irrigation facilities in Bhadradi Kothagudem, Khammam and Mahabubabad Districts which is categorized as Irrigation projects as per EIA Notification.

The Sita Rama Lift Irrigation Project obtained TOR (Terms of Reference) from the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Government of India, New Delhi vide order dated 04.08.2017 and submitted draft EIA report to the Pollution Control Board and requested to conduct public hearing.

Accordingly, a press notification was published in Telugu and English daily news papers on 26.07.2018 i.e., Andhra Jyothi Telugu Daily News paper and The Hans India English Daily News paper.

The said notification has invited from the public and others for their suggestions, concerns, comments and objections, if any, on the proposed project. He added that the copies of Draft Environment Impact Assessment/Environmental Management Plan (EIA/EMP) report and the executive summary in Telugu & English were made available to the people as mentioned in the press notification.

He further informed that the hearing is intended only to record the views, opinions, objections and suggestions of the participants and same will be conducted in a transparent manner and the proceedings will be video recorded. The minutes of the hearing along with the representations will be forwarded to the Ministry of Environment Forests and Climate Change, Government of India, New Delhi for further course of action. He informed that no representation was received by the TSPCB, Regional office, Kothagudem. He also informed that the representations will be received during this public hearing who want to submit the same. He requested the officials of the project authority to explain in detail, the salient features of the proposed project.

Sri T. Nageswarao Rao, Superintendent Engineer, Sita Rama Lift Irrigation Project, I & CAD, Khammam has welcomed the dignitaries and the public and expressed the following:

- Earlier, Rajiv Sagar Lift Irrigation project at Dummugudem was proposed and constructed anicut and proposed to irrigate an extent of 2 Lakhs acres of land. And also proposed another Irrigation project by name Indira Sagar at Rudrammakota (V), Velerupadu (M) and proposed to irrigate an extent of 1.25 Lakhs acres of land.
- After state bifurcation, seven mandals which includes Velerupadu mandal was merged with Andhra Pradesh state and the head works of Indira Sagar Project was fall in erstwhile Andhra Pradesh state.
- Another project, Kinnerasani Reservoir and its surroundings falls in Wild Life Sanctuary and Rajiv Sagar canal distributaries with stretch of 19 Kms is falls in Kinnerasani Wild Life Sanctuary and obtaining permissions for this canal distribution are difficult.
- Earlier proposals of Rajiv Sagar Lift Irrigation project and Indira Sagar Lift Irrigation project are re-engineered and proposed as Sita Rama Lift Irrigation Project.
- The proposed project area is a arid area and required water to meet the cultivation. Nagarjuna sagar canal water is not fulfilling the requirement of this area.
- In Godavari lot of water is available which is to be utilized to fill the Wyra tank, Lanka sagar, Bethupalli, Paiair so as to supply water to this arid area.
- About 4500 tanks were existing in Khammam District and presently, water is available for about 2500 tanks.
- In the proposed project, proposed to irrigate an extent of 6,74,387 Acres in which new ayacut of 3,28,853 Acres of land and stabilisation of existing ayacut of 3,45,534 Acres. And in Khammam district, proposed to irrigate an extent of 1,62,083 Acres as new ayacut and stabilization of 2,96,925 Acres of existing ayacut i.e. total ayacut of 4,59,008 Acres.
- The proposed project cost is Rs.13,384 Crores.
- 70.40 TMC of river Godavari water is proposed to lift through pumping from Dummugudem Anicut. 2000 to 2500 TMC of water of River Godavari is being finally joining into sea and after re-designing, 9000 Cusecs of water is the proposed canal discharge under phase - I.
- From this project, upstream of Dummugudem anicut, from river Godavari level +45.00, 9000 Cusecs of water is to be brought through approach canal and gravity canal upto 10.5 km i.e. BG Kothur, Aswapuram mandal and pumping of water at pump house -1 to level +67 and brought the water upto 33.10 km through gravity canal i.e. at Ramavaram village, Mulakapalli mandal and again pumping at pump house -2 to level +110 and brought the water upto 12.2 km through gravity canal i.e. at Kamalapuram village, Mulakapalli mandal and again pumping at pump house -3 to level +160 and +200 as two canals. One canal passes at level +160 upto Gandhi nagar and to Paiair through 18 L distributory system and again these 18 L distributory system is divided as sub canal and connected to main Nagarjuna Sagar canal at Enkoor and Venkatayapalem thereby utilized for irrigation in Khammam district ayacut.
- Second canal passes at level +200 to supply water to irrigate ayacut in Sathupalli, Aswaraopet and Dammapeta mandals.
- The canal from Mulakapalli passes through Annapureddyipalli and Chandragonda mandals and enters into Khammam district. Sathupalli trunk with 1500 Cusecs water will be connected to Lankasagar tank as proposed earlier.
- In Khammam District, most of the mandals such as Thirumalayapalem, Mudigonda, Kusumanchi and Nelakondapalli etc. are in drought and proposed to irrigate these areas through proposed project as there is no sufficient water from Sriram Sagar Project, Phase - I.

- They entrusted work to M/s WAPCOS Ltd which is a Central Government Organization to prepare Environmental Impact Assessment study report and he requested the officials of the WAPCOS to explain about the project pertaining to Environmental Management.

Dr. R.V. Ramana, Chief, WAPCOS Ltd, Hyderabad has explained the environmental impacts and on their study and details are as follows:

- He informed that they conducted Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) study.
- The study was carried as per the EIA Notification 2016 and they have covered three seasons i.e. in September 2017, January 2018 and April 2018.
- They conducted base line study on Air, Water, Noise and land usage, Impact Assessment study and Environmental Management study in 10 km radius. We conducted Ambient Air Quality monitoring for the parameters of NO_x, SO₂, SPM includes PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5}. They also conducted water monitoring in the project area.
- Base line data for air, water and noise are within the standards of CPCB.
- Environmental Impact Assessment was carried through modelling for different issues viz., soil, water, aquatic, noise and air for construction & operation phases.
- In construction phase, land excavation will be carried for the period of 1 to 2 years and water sprinkling system is proposed for dust control. Top soil segregation, implementation of Solid waste management, Sewage treatment through septic tanks.
- DG sets will be provided with acoustic enclosures and silencers to vehicles to avoid noise nuisance.
- In Environmental Management Plan, they suggested plantation in double the forest area acquired to maintain Bio diversity. They also suggested to develop the greenbelt in 50 Acres of land,
- They suggested to provide first aid and medical camps.

The Environmental Engineer has requested the farmers and public to express their views.

Sri M. Sudhakar, District Farmer Federation member, Manchukonda (V), Raghunadhapalem (M) has expressed the following:

- He told that Sita Rama Lift Irrigation project is a good project.
- In Country, about 40,96,00,000 Acres of land is existing and not irrigating maximum extent due to not available of water resources. Thereby farmers are committing suicides.
- The proposed project is a Lift Irrigation Project and requires less land compare to reservoir construction and there is no chance of seismicity.
- About 6 Lakhs acres of land will be irrigated in this arid area and Horticulture is to be developed thereby there is no impact on the environment.
- Water resources will raise the human development index which give importance of water.
- Famous civil engineers have designed good irrigation projects earlier to develop the areas and Nizam engineers also developed the tanks and reservoirs in Telangana area to provide irrigation facilities.
- 80% of lands in Khammam district can be brought into cultivation from this proposed project and cultivate different types of commercial crops and spices. These crops can be exported thereby this area farmers will get more income.
- He welcomed the project whole heartedly.

Sri Thatha Raghuram, Chairman PACS, Farmer, Raghunadhapalem has expressed the following:

- The Bhadradi Kothagudem, Khammam and Mahabubabad districts will be benefited from the proposed project.

- In combined AP, Indira Sagar and Rajiv sagar irrigation projects were proposed in which Indira sagar project is falling in residual Andhra Pradesh.
- The proposed project is proposed by redesigning the Rajiv sagar project originated at Dummugudem through Lift irrigation with project cost of Rs.13384 Crores.
- Government is bringing irrigation projects to bring the agricultural land into cultivation in Telangana state.
- He requested to complete the project in time.
- He requested to issue the necessary permissions from MoEF immediately for the proposed project.

Sri Ch. Satyanarayana, Chairman, Neeladri Temple, Old Karaigudem(V), Penuballi (M) while welcoming the project, he requested to issue the necessary permissions from concerned department for the proposed project.

Sri Pasumarti Venkateswara Rao, Kuppenakuntla, Penuballi (M) has expressed the following:

- The Bhadradri Kothagudem, Khammam and Mahabubabad districts will be benefited from the proposed project.
- There is no problem with the proposed project.
- This area will flourish with the existing Nagarjuna Sagar canal project and proposed project.
- No affect on the environment due to proposed project.
- He welcomed the project.

Sri M. Narasimha Rao, Ex. Vice President, Market committee, Manchukonda, Ragiunadhapalem (M) has expressed the following:

- This proposed project is essential for this area as there is no irrigation facilities and we are requesting to provide irrigation facilities for long period.
- Old Sujathanagar, Wyr, Yellandu and Burgampahad constituency areas are more affected even though river Godavari is flowing nearby.
- Dummugudem anicut was constructed very long back later no project was established so far.
- In combined AP, Indira Sagar and Rajiv sagar irrigation projects were proposed in which Indira sagar project is falling in residual Andhra Pradesh.
- Farmers are unable to cultivate and thereby falling in debt trap due lack of irrigation facilities.
- About 12 mandals which are arid will transform into ever green due to the proposed project.
- He welcomed the project.

Sri S. Shivaram Prasad, Farmer, Farmer Federation member, Penuballi (M) has expressed the following:

- The proposed project is God gift to them.
- There is no impact on the environment due to proposed project.
- The project study indicates that there is no pollution problems and noise impact due to blasting operations where ever required.
- The proposed project gives water for an extent of 6 Lakh acres land which leads to recharge of ground water.
- Kothagudem, old Sujathanagar and Wyr constituencies and Burgampahad & Palair areas are with arid and having drought conditions.
- Telangana state was farmed on the basis of water and employment.

- If crops are produced by irrigation of 6 Lakhs acres of land which leads to generate more income. There will be socio economical development such as education, medical facilities etc. improved. Fish production will be increased thereby create livelihood.
- About 10,000 people of technical and non technical will be employed during construction of this project.
- Industries will be established due to available of water in this area.
- There will not be any affect on environment.
- He requested to complete the project as early as possible.
- He welcomed the project.

Sri V. Sunandha Reddy, Environmentalist, Nalgonda has expressed the following:

- This project helps these area farmers.
- The project authority has conducted base line survey on air and water. He opined that it is good if they conducted survey on public health status.
- The proposed project helps the cultivation and also ground water recharge.
- No water and air pollution problems from the proposed project.
- He requested to develop the plantation in villages and avenue plantation in addition to proposed 50 acres greenbelt. He also requested to add fruit bearing & medicinal plants in their plantation.
- He requested to provide coordination committee with official and non official members to take-up local development activities under CSR funds.
- He welcomed the project.

Sri Voeru Naik, ZPTC, Raghunadhapalem has expressed the following:

- The proposed project is a good project for farmers.
- ST & BC farmers are small and marginal farmers in this area.
- 8000 bore wells in Raghunadhapalem and 500 bore well in Marichukonda are getting dried in summer due to ground water depletion.
- The proposed project helps in recharge of ground water.
- He welcomed the project.

Sri Maddineni Madhusundhana Rao, Farmer Federation member, Thirumalayapalem has expressed the following:

- Land, Air & Water are very essential for human beings.
- There is only benefit and no harm to the environment due to proposed project.
- This area is lies in Deccan Plateau and only some part of the area is benefited from the Nagarjuna Sagar Canal project.
- More number of dams were constructed on river Krishna in the upstream side. Hence, availability of water in Krishna basin is less and water is abundant in Godavari River.
- This project helps the environment.
- Earlier bore wells were dried up in Thirumalayapalem due to ground water depletion, but, after establishment of Bhaktha Ramadasu Project in which tanks were filled through canals connected to Palair reservoir. Thereby ground water was raised in this area and also birds & animals are appearing in the tank areas.
- Animals are dying due to non availability of water in forest and this project will resolves this problem as the project canals will be passed through forest area.
- The proposed project will gives good crops thereby gives good health in this area.

- Fruit and flower plants are being planted by the people in this area due to filling of water in the tanks.
- He welcomed the project.

Sri Bhukya Sakru Naik, AMC Chairman, Enkoor mandal has expressed the following:

- He has not expected the importance of the Nagarjuna Sagar canal project while its construction and now it is helping to cultivate the lands to produce good crops thereby he is knowing the importance of the water.
- He requested to complete the project at the earliest.
- He welcomed the project.

Sri Kayala Upendar, Farmer Federation member, Kamepalli mandal has expressed the following:

- He has no objection for giving lands to the proposed project.
- He requested to give environmental clearances at the earliest.
- This project helps in uplift of socio-economic status of this area.
- He welcomed the project.

Sri Boda Mangilal Naik, Thirumalayapalem (M) has expressed the following:

- Earlier Thirumalayapalem is in severe drought condition.
- Bhaktha Ramadasu Project was constructed in a stretch of 16 Kms with two lines from Palair reservoir. Farmers have come forward and given 148 acres of land in Kusumanchi & Thirumalayapalem mandals and compensation of Rs.9 lakhs was given.
- He reported that they were surprised by seeing water through pipes under Bhaktha Ramadasu Project in their area.
- Tanks were filled through SRSP canals for last two years, thereby ground water was recharged and ground water levels are raised.
- Earlier, agricultural labour were migrating to other mandals for employment. After Bhaktha Ramadasu Project, other area labour are coming for employment to this area.
- Bhaktha Ramadasu Project, Phase-II is also established in 9 villages by laying 2 Kms pipe line and now farmers are cultivating their lands. Irrigation facilities were provided to an extent of 60,000 to 70,000 acres of land from this said project.
- Godavari water from the proposed project can be utilized in case of non availability from Nagarjuna Sagar canal project due to scarcity in Krishna river.
- He welcomed the project.

Sri N. Ravi Kumar, Environmentalist, Hyderabad has expressed the following:

- The proposed project is proposed by redesigning the existing project.
- 79 % of the river Godavari flow area is falls in Telangana and proposed project helps to irrigate 6 lakhs acres of land by lifting water from the river Godavari.
- He recommended for the proposed project.

Sri Veeravalli Nageswara Rao, Farmer, Ex Chairman, Market Committee, Kusumanchi has expressed the following:

- More number of dams were constructed on river Krishna in the upstream side. Hence, availability of water in Krishna basin is less which leads to water problem for Palair reservoir.
- About 2500 TMC of water is joining into sea from river Godavari through Dawaleswaram Project without any use.
- He requested to speed-up the proposed project as done in case of Bhaktha Ramadasu Project.

- He welcomed the project.

Sri V. Venkatappaiah, Farmer, Budidampadu has expressed the following:

- He requested to accord the permissions to the proposed project and complete the project in time and give the water to the farmers.
- Drawing of water from bore well will affect the ground water and drinking of bore water will affect the humans due to presence of fluorides.
- No problem from the proposed project.
- He welcomed the project.

Sir Hussain Naidu, NGO, Nalgonda has expressed the following:

- In general, irrigation / industry projects have to obtain EC permissions.
- Conducted study on forest environment, wild life, water environment and bio-sphere and there will not be any adverse impact environment.
- There is no historical monuments / plants conservation center / crocodile conservation center etc., in the proposed project area.
- This project benefits the farmers by irrigating in an extent of 7 lakhs acres of land in Khammam, Bhadradi Kothagudem and Mahabubabad districts.
- He requested to develop the plantation with indigenous species.
- He requested to take-up blasting operations as per mining norms.
- He requested to provide employment to the land losers or else provide skill development programmes to their educated children.
- He requested to provide educational facilities and take-up development activities.
- He requested to take dust control measures such as water sprinkling during construction.
- He welcomed the project.

Sri Y.Chenna Keshava Reddy, Environmentalist, NGO has expressed the following:

- He requested to issue environmental clearance by MoEF&CC as this project helps the farmers and also requested for proper compensation.
- He requested to provide employment to the land losers or else provide skill development programmes to their educated children.
- He requested to develop plantation.
- He requested to deploy the local persons for jobs and contract works during construction.
- He welcomed the project.

Sri Ch. Venkateswar Goud, Farmer, Penuballi has expressed the following:

- He expressed happiness for the proposed project as he is awaiting since long time for this project.
- He requested to issue environmental clearance by MoEF.

Sri Chekkilala Mohan Rao, Penuballi (M) has expressed the following:

- Krishna and Godavari rivers are flowing on either side of the Deccan Plateau.
- About Rs.13,000 crores is proposed to spend for the proposed project.
- This project helps in uplift of living standards of this area people.
- The district administration has given good compensation for recent projects and requested for good compensation for this project also.
- He requested to give the permissions and complete the project at the earliest.
- He welcomed the project.

Smt R. Varalakshmi, MPTC, Nacharam (V), Enkoor (M) has expressed the following:

- She reported that earlier, the project authority will give houses in Rollapadu (V), Yellandu area while construction of this project. She requested to do justice to them.
- About 6 lakhs acres of land is to be irrigated from the proposed project which is redesigned by combining Indira Sagar and Rajeev Sagar Projects.
- She requested to conduct grama sabhas to create awareness and provide information on land acquisition and compensation to the farmers.
- Earlier, some promises regarding employment and compensation were given in land acquisition for KOC project but, not fulfilled the same.
- She requested to provide medical camps.
- She requested to take necessary measures during construction of canals.
- She requested to give compensation before acquiring the lands.
- She welcomed the project.

Sri Malothu Kishore, CPM leader, Cheemalapadu (V), Singareni (M) has expressed the following:

- Water is required for cultivation and land is life for farmer. So he requested to give proper compensation. He came to know that Rs.8 lakhs per acre is to be given and he demanded for Rs.16 lakhs per acre.
- He demanded to give compensation as per Land Acquisition Act, 2013 and the farmers should aware about this act in getting compensation.
- He expressed happiness on the proposed project.

Sri Satyanarayana, Nalgonda has expressed the following:

- He expressed happiness on the proposed project for establishing in this area.
- He recommended the project.

Sri Bachala Venkateswarlu, Tribe, Cheemalapadu (V), Singareni (M) has expressed the following:

- In the proposed project, tunnel is going to provide in place of canal in their village and requested to develop the plantation on the over burden removed from construction of tunnel.
- He requested to provide water sprinklers to control vehicular dust pollution.
- He requested to give compensation for the crops also such as sububulu and other crops in addition to land compensation. He also requested to give compensation for shifting bore well motors and also digging new open wells / bore wells.
- He requested to conduct revenue survey and explain the land details in gram sabhas.
- He requested to take necessary measures during blasting operation to avoid dust pollution and fly rocks on surrounding houses.
- They are not against the project but, they will agree in case of proper compensation is provided.
- He requested to start the works after giving compensation.

Sri Jonnalagadda Ravi Kumar, Kusumanchi (M) has expressed the following:

- He requested to support the land losers.
- He reported that environment will improve due to proposed project.
- The area of Palair constituency was developed due to filling of tanks under Bhaktha Ramadasu Project. 320 tanks were filled with water through Bhaktha Ramadasu Project. This results ground water recharge in this area.

- Nalgonda, Suryapeta, Khammam and part of the Warangal are benefiting from Nagarjuna Sagar canal water to meet drinking water requirements.
- The proposed project will help to meet drinking water requirements by filling Palair and Wyratanks.
- He welcomed the project.

Sri Chidambara Rao, Mucherla (V), Kamepalli (M) has expressed the following:

- He expressed that there are no forest area in Karepalli, Kamepalli and Khammam Urban mandals.
- There will be some extent of loss from the projects but, give good benefits to major people.
- There is no environment damage in our area.
- He requested to give proper compensation.

Sri T Nageswarao Rao, Superintendent Engineer, Sita Rama Lift Irrigation Project, Khammam while giving replies to the issues raised by above speakers has expressed as below:

- He thanked the farmers for expressing that there is no environmental problems due to proposed project.
- They will acquire patta lands and forests for the proposed project.
- Patta lands will be acquired as per Land Acquisition Act, through district administration and we will not do any injustice to the farmers.
- Some farmers are having RoFR patta lands which are existing in forest area and we will do justice for them also.
- In forest area, removed plants will be replanted or else new plants will be planted on canal bunds. They also giving compensation fund to the forest department for development of plantation.
- Blasting operations will be carried after obtaining permissions from Panchayats after making resolutions in grama sabha. They will adopt latest technology in blasting operations and as per norms of the mining department to reduce noise pollution.
- Providing jobs, skill development programmes and compensation to the land losers as per MoEF norms.
- Necessary measures will be taken to control dust and noise pollution.
- Regarding Rollapadu village, the project activity in this village will arise in phase-II project and suggestions made by concerned above speaker will be examined in phase-II project.

The District Collector, Khammam District has expressed that about 30 people are expressed their views on the proposed Sita Rama Lift Irrigation Project. All speakers have requested to complete the project at the earliest and give water to the farmers. The same will be done in short duration. This proposed project is more useful as there is a uncertainty in availability of Nagarjuna Sagar canal water. The land acquisition will be done as per Land Acquisition (Amended) Act, 2017 and we are giving more compensation than as mentioned in the Land Acquisition Act, 2013 and also giving liberally to the farmers. The proceedings of this public hearing is recorded through video and same will be forwarded along with minutes to the MoEF, New Delhi for taking necessary action on Environmental Clearance. He expressed the vote of thanks with positive note.

The representation (1 No.) received and the statement is annexed.


Environmental Engineer,
T.S. Pollution Control Board,
Regional office, Kothagudem


Collector & District Magistrate,
Khammam District