

Tapi Irrigation Development Corporation, Jalgaon.

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Date:- 15/7/2014

To,
The Member Secretary
River Valley & Hydroelectric Project
Ministry of Environment & Forest
Paryavaran Bhavan
CGO Complex, Lodi Road
New Delhi -11053

(Attention:- Shri. Bolvik, Director)

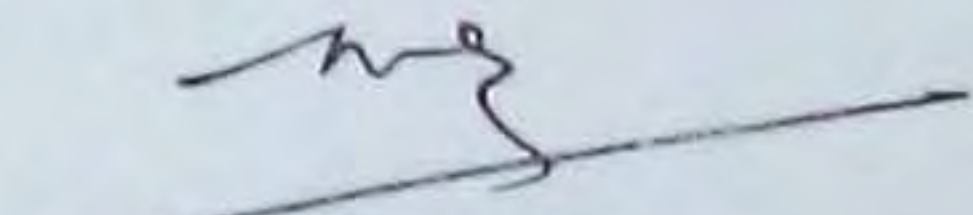
Sub :- Lower Tapi Project in Jalgaon District of Maharashtra
Regarding Environmental Clearance.

Ref :- 1. MoEF, GoI's letter No. J-12011/42/2009 - IA-I Dated 11/04/2014.
2. SE.JIPC,Jalgaon Letter No.PB/T.5/LTP/33 Dt..10/7/2014

Proposal of Environmental clearance of Lower Tapi Project, Tal. Amalner, Dist. Jalgaon is submitted to MoEF, GoI. The Project is discussed in 63th meeting of Expert Appraisal Committee on 26/12/2012 held @ MoEF New Dehli. The Points raised in the meeting are complied vide Executive Engineer, Hatnur Canal Division, Chopda's letter No. PB/28 Dt.14/2/2014.

In the meanwhile, the EAC received a representation from SANDRP, the copy of which is received vide letter under reference. The Point wise reply on representation is submitted here with the for information & further disposal please.

Enclosure - Point wise answer



(H.M.Shinde)
Chief Engineer,

Tapi Irrigation Development Corporation,
Jalgaon.

Copy :- Forwarded for Information & necessary action

The Superintending Engineer, Jalgaon Irrigation Project Circle, Jalgaon

✓ The Executive Engineer, Hatnur Canal Division, Chopda

1. **The Project work of lower tapi project started on ground as early as April 1999.** This has been corroborated from the field, after taking with WRD engineers and most importantly, this has been stated in the **white Paper on irrigation Projects brought out by the Maharashtra Government in December 2012.**

Reply 1:

The Lower Tapi is a Irrigation project on Tapi River at Padalse Village Tal. Amalner Dist. Jalgaon. The project lies in drought prone area & beneficial to 6 tahsils of Jalgaon and Dhule District. Also to ensured water to D/S projects like Sulwade Barrage in Dhule District and Sarangkhedda & Prakasha Barrages in Nandurbar District which are Severly in drought prone and tribal area.

Tapi River has history of sever mansoon Floods which affect the 30 to 40 villages on the banks of the river. This project will help to reduces severity of floods and protection of the villages which are affected by natural floods of the river.

Investigations of this project started in 1966. Preliminary Investigation (P.I.) note for Padalse site was submitted to Govt. being more ideal same was approved vide Investigation & Planning (I.P.) department in 1976 subject to some remarks. Accordingly Preliminary Investigation Report (P.I.R.) was submitted to the Chief engineer, Irrigation Department Aurangabad vide S.E. I.P.I. Circle, Aurangabad in 1985. The site was inspected by the Chief engineer, Irrigation Department aurangabad in 1986 and some modifications in the design were suggested. Also Project has been study in various angles for rehabilitation point of view. Finally Government of Maharashtra accorded administrative approval in 1997. The project started in April, 1999. It has been held up from 2001 to 2010 for wants of sufficient funds.

According to Ministry of environment and Forest Notification (MoEF) 1994 only Major Irrigation Project was included for obtaining environmental clearance. But as per amended notification in 2006 of River Valley Projects culturable command area of the project more than ten thousands hectares, such project requires Environmental clearance and public hearing. Though the project authority has been carried out work on environmental aspects. The project has got ToR (Terms of Reference) in year July 2010. After that the public hearing was conducted in two districts. (i.e. Dhule & Jalgaon) because the command of project lies in both the districts. Then final EIA was submitted to MoEF for Environmental clearance and on the same 63rd EAC meeting was conducted in 26 December, 2012 in New Delhi. In that meeting EAC raised some remarks. The compliance of the remarks with SIA report was submitted to MoEF in February, 2014. Finally EC clearance is awaited.

2. As per the Engineers who have worked on the project and the white paper worked completed currently is:
 - **60% earthen work for the dam completed**
 - **35% spillway work completed**
 - **Saddle dam completed**
 - **Gates under implementation**
 - **Of the 51 villages to be affected, rehabilitation work only for one village near completion.**

Reply 2:

The Lower Tapi Project is under construction project started in April 1999.

The status of project is as above, except there are 17 villages are affected instead of 51. As Per availability of water entire project is considered in two stages. The first stage of project is consist of 11 villages to be affected. The project is held up since 2001 to 2010 due to want of fund. At present total 04 No of villages rehabilitation work is in progress and will be completed upto December 2014. As per the construction stages of dam, remaining Villages rehabilitation will be completed step by step before completion of the project.

3. **Amount spent:** 226.44 Crores have been spent already till 31st March 2012, of which 138.81 Crores have been spent on Construction activities.

Reply 3:

The Project is originally administrative approval of Rs. 142.64 crores (as per DSR 95-96). The latest (third revised) administrative approval is accorded of Rs. 1127.74 crores in September 2009. (As per DSR 2008-09).

As per availability of funds above mentioned expenditure incurred upto 31st March, 2012 is Rs. 138.81 crores on construction of dam out of 226.44 crores. As per the availability of funds the above expenditure is on Construction work, Rehabilitation work, land acquisition & other allied works as per the completion of different activities at different stages.

4. **Reason for delay in work:** The Government of Maharashtra thinks that the only reason for delay in work on this project is "**Lack of Funds**". It does not even site environmental Clearance as one of the reasons, understanding the ZERO importance of environmental governance for this project and its officials.

Reply 4:

The Project may be delay due to land acquisition, Rehabilitation & lack of Sufficient funds. The Construction work is almost held up in between 2001 to 2010 for wants of funds only.

This project has got in principle clearance of Central Water Commission (CWC) in year 2011, before that TOR (Terms of Reference) for the same is granted by Expert Appraisal Committee of Ministry of Environment & Forest (MoEF) in year June 2010. Accordingly as per the condition of Central Water Commission (CWC), for TAC clearance of any project, environmental clearance is required. At present project was proposed for EAC meeting in 2012 for environmental clearance which is in progress. The project authority which is all ready involved in the activity of getting ToR in year June, 2010 and submitted final EIA report to and final EC meeting was conducted in December, 2012. So there is no any delay for environmental clearance.

5. **White Paper says 51 villages will be affected**, whereas, even the MODIFIED Form I on the MoEF website says that only **17 villages will be affected!**

Reply 5:

As per Administrative Approval of Project there are total 17 villages affected instead of 51. As per availability of water, project is constructed in two stages. Fore stage-1 total 11 villages are affected (6 fully & 5 partially). The list is attached in SIA Report pg no. 61 Table 6.3.

6. **The project does not even have clearance from the TAC.**

Reply 6:

The project has accorded in principle clearance by Central Water Commission (CWC) in year Oct, 2011. At presents for Technically Advisory Committee (TAC) clearance. From CWC New Delhi, the Detailed Project Report (DPR) was submitted in Feb, 2012 as per CWC guide lines 2010. Finally the TAC Clearance work is in progress under compliances.

7. **63rd EAC directed to carry out SIA. No SIA is a part if uploaded documents.**

Reply 7:

As per the 63rd EAC meeting, Project Authority is carried out the SIA (Social Impact Assessment) as per NRRP 2007 guidelines by School of Environmental & Earth Science North Maharashtra University, Jalgaon. Same was submitted to MoEF by Letter No. 28/2014 dated 14.02.2014. For final EC clearance.

8. **Vijay Pandhare, Recently retired chief engineers and Whistle blower from water resources Department** (Design, Training, Research and Quality Control), Maharashtra Engineering Training Academy (META), has raised serious issues about the safety aspects of Lower Tapi Dam and Construcion work. Shri Pandhare was Executive Engineer, Quality Control in Dhule on Lower Tapi Irrigation Project in 2001. He has sent a report about extremely bad quality of work on Lower Tapi Irrigation Project, but the report was stifled through corrupt officials. In his letter to Water Resource Engineers on 21.09.12 (attached, it is in Marathi and this is a literal translation), he writes:

“if the dam breaks, there are 3 dams below it which will also break and 25-30 villages downstream these will be washed away. Who will be responsible for this? Irrigation Department not concerned about this. When I submitted the report, I was transferred 400 kms away from Tapi Project by Secretary, Water Resource Department.”

Reply 8:

The construction of dam was started in April, 1999. During the year 2001 at the initial construction stage of dam Shri. Vijay Pandhare as Executive Engineer, Quality control division (WRD) Government of Maharashtra has raised quality control remarks regarding the colgrout masonry. The detailed enquiry in respect of quality of construction of this dam is made by Govt. of Maharashtra by appointing Superintending Engineer, Quality Control Circle, Pune in 2001. This enquiry is completed and the report is submitted to Govt. of Maharashtra. As per the report of inquiry, it is revealed that there are no any findings seen in complaint about quality of work. Superintending Engineer, Quality Control wing has already issued Green Card & O.K. Card for the further construction of dam. The quality control tests are taken periodically during construction, and the work was found as per requisite quality. The floods near about 3000 TMC was passed over the constructed portion of dam from 2001 to up till now. In of dam year 2006 near about eleven lakh cusecs huge flood passed away over the constructed portion. But there is no any damages are seen and the structure is safely with stand.

Chief Engineer, Tapi Irrigation Development Corporation, Jalgaon has already published the notice in Year 2001, about the safety of dam. Hence there is no question regarding the Safety of dam.

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Hatnur Canal Sub-Division No.1
Hated

Executive Engineer
Hatnur Canal Division ,
Chopda

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Chief Engineer,
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