

**SUMMARY RECORD OF DISCUSSIONS OF THE SECOND MEETING OF THE
GODAVARI RIVER MANAGEMENT BOARD HELD AT HYDERABAD ON 30TH DECEMBER 2014**

The second meeting of the Godavari River Management Board (GRMB) was held under the Chairmanship of Shri M.S. Agrawal, Chairman, Godavari River Management Board in Jalasoudha, Hyderabad on 30th December 2014. The list of the participants in the meeting is at ***Annexure-I***.

At the outset, Chairman of the Board welcomed the members and other participants from the Government of Andhra Pradesh (GoAP), Government of Telangana (GoT) and from the Central Water Commission. He initiated the discussions stating that many developments have taken place since the last meeting of the Board and moved forward in strength and stature, with the support of the Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation; State Governments of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana and Central Water Commission. Full time Chairman and Member (Power) have taken over their charges in the Board during this period. Few officers and staff have also been posted to the Board informally by the State Governments. He further stated that the task envisaged for the Board is outlined in the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2014. The mandate given to the Board on the largest South Indian River is indeed challenging for which the Board has to grow fast. At present, the Board is in its infancy, taking baby steps inching forward. This is the time, when the cooperation and whole hearted support of both the State Governments was vital/paramount. The broader function of the Board is holistic water resources development and management of Godavari Basin in the two States for which the Board has to mature fast into a fully functional body, technically, administratively as well as financially. The meeting has been convened to take stock of the developments and to address the technical, administrative and financial issues of the Board in order to make the Board fully functional. Thanking the State Governments for their cooperation, he urged for faster pace of decisions by the States on issues related to strengthening of the Board. He, thereafter, requested the Member Secretary to take up the agenda items one by one for discussions. The Agenda Note circulated to all the members are appended as ***Annexure-II***.

The Member Secretary stated that Board Secretariat had requested both the State Governments to submit their agenda items vide letter dated 28th November 2014. The response received from both the States is appended as ***Annexure – III***.

Item No.2.1: Confirmation of the Summary Record of Discussions of the first meeting of the Board

As no comment was received from any of the Board members, the Board confirmed the Summary Record of Discussions of the first meeting.

Item No.2.2: Follow-up actions on the decisions taken during the first meeting of the Board

Member Secretary presented briefly the follow-up action on the decisions taken during the first meeting of the Board, which is as under:

Office space: Temporary space has been provided by Government of Telangana for seating the Chairman and his Personal Secretary at the first floor in Jalsoudha, Errum Manzil, Hyderabad. Recently, in December 2014, two small rooms have been temporarily provided for the Member Secretary and Member (Power) at the second floor of the same building. All other senior officers and staff posted by the State Governments are seated in one small common room.

Human Resources: An interim working arrangement was decided in the first meeting of the Board to start its activities. Government of Telangana has posted informally one SE, one EE, one DEE, one AEE, one Senior Assistant, one PS and one T.M. Grade II (Attender). Government of Andhra Pradesh has so far posted only one DEE informally to the Board. The remaining officers and staff including Ministerial and Multitasking staff are yet to be posted to the Board.

Funds: Government of Telangana has conveyed budget allocation of Rs. 5.0 crore each to GRMB and KRMB vide letter dated 20th November, 2014. It is learnt that Government of Andhra Pradesh has also allocated budget of Rs. 5.0 crore each to the two Boards. However, a formal communication is awaited from Government of Andhra Pradesh. These funds have yet not been placed at the disposal of GRMB. As a result, the Board is not able to function smoothly.

Data Inputs from State Governments: No technical inputs have been received from the State Governments except some information regarding Polavaram and Dowlaiswaram projects from Government of Andhra Pradesh.

Two Working Group Meetings were held jointly for both the Boards i.e. GRMB and KRMB as most of the initial establishing issues are common, first during 20th-22nd September, 2014 and the next on 29th October, 2014, both at Hyderabad.

The follow-up action on the issue regarding interpretation of sub-section (1) and sub-section (8)(b) of Section 85 of the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2014 for jurisdiction of the Board in respect of hydroelectric projects and the issue regarding power scheduling would be presented while taking up Agenda items 2.4 and 2.8 respectively.

Item No.2.3: Office Accommodation, Infrastructure and Human Resources for the Board

Member Secretary stated that due to slow pace in providing office space, human resources and funds by the State Governments, the Board is not able to function effectively and smoothly.

The members were unanimous that it is essential to strengthen the Board and make it fully operational at the earliest at Hyderabad for smoothly carrying out all the mandated functions and to take full control to ensure implementation of the directions given by the Board. The members from both the State Governments assured full cooperation in this regard and assured expediting the pending decisions.

Office Accommodation: Member Secretary stated that the temporary office space presently provided to the Board was not adequate for the Members, officers and staff of the Board. Engineer-in-Chief, I&CAD, Government of Telangana stated that they are facing acute space shortage in their building for their own officers. Anyhow, he assured that more space would be identified and provided for the Board officers to function properly.

Infrastructure: Engineer-in-Chief, I&CAD, Government of Telangana informed that entire fifth floor of Jalasoudha is being provided for permanently accommodating both the Boards and the infrastructure and partitioning work was under process, which would be completed by the end of February, 2015. The officials could gradually shift to the permanent location latest by March, 2015. It was decided that the expenditure for infrastructure development at 5th floor would be incurred by Government of Telangana initially and 50% of the expenditure incurred would be shared by Government of Andhra Pradesh.

Vehicles: It was mentioned that in the absence of vehicles the movement of Board officers for even day to day works was badly affected. Moreover, the Board officers have to carry out lot of field activities. The Board unanimously decided that vehicles were basic requirement for functioning of the Board and Chairman was vested with full powers to procure vehicles as per the requirement following due procedures, rules and norms of Government of India in force from time to time. It was further decided that till such time new vehicles were procured, the vehicles may be hired. It was decided that the category of vehicles, terms and conditions and hire rates being followed by the Department of Protocol, State Government of Telangana may, as of now, be adopted immediately for hiring vehicles for the Board. I&CAD Department, Government of Telangana shall facilitate the Board in hiring the vehicles through their empanelled agencies already providing vehicles to I&CAD Department, Government of Telangana. It was also decided that the expenditure incurred on this account may be appraised to the Board in its next meeting.

Human Resources: The members from Government of Andhra Pradesh and Government of Telangana assured to post remaining officers/staff to the Board at the earliest as per the working interim arrangement decided during the first meeting of the Board. It was assured by the member from Government of Telangana that the State Government would immediately assign the additional charge of Accounts Officer of GRMB to an officer belonging to Accounts Service to handle the Accounts and Financial matters of the Board till such time a regular incumbent was posted.

Regarding **further postings of officers/staff** to the Board to make it fully functional, members from both the States stated that they do not have the adequate strength themselves to spare officers/staff for the Board. Both the States were unanimous that Central Government should provide adequate number of officers and staff to the Board. The members from both the States stated that they would submit a note to the Board in this regard expressing their limitations in providing technical/administrative officers and staff to the Board.

As regards the Ministerial and Multi Tasking staff, the members from the State Governments conveyed severe shortage of such staff within their States and expressed their inability to spare them. The Board decided to vest the Chairman with full powers to appoint such staff required on contract basis/ through outsourcing following due procedures/norms.

The Board further empowered the Chairman with full powers to hire the services of Professional Experts/Consultants to assist the Board in its studies and other technical activities. These can be short-term experts and/or long-term experts. Engineer-in-Chief, I&CAD, Government of Telangana stated that he would make available the remuneration rates being adopted by CADA in their State for experts being hired for professional services.

Funds: The member from Government of Andhra Pradesh, during the meeting, handed over the Government Order dated 21st October, 2014 conveying budget allocation of Rs. 5.0 crore each to GRMB and KRMB. He mentioned that a formal communication informing the same would be sent to the Board.

The annual estimates presented by the Member Secretary for the remaining duration of F.Y. 2014-15 and F.Y. 2015-16 for a total amount of Rs. 2,28,22,000/- (Rupees two crore twenty eight lakh and twenty two thousand only) were approved by the Board. General Abstract of the Estimates is appended as **Annexure- IV**. Further, the Chairman was vested with full powers to procure office equipments & machinery, telephones, FAX machines, T&P articles, etc. as per the requirement following due procedures, rules and norms of Government of India in force from time to time.

Item No.2.4: Draft “Godavari River Management Board Regulations 2014” and “Draft Working Manual” for the Board

Member Secretary stated that the “Draft Godavari River Management Board Regulations, 2014” and “Draft Working Manual” were sent to both the State Governments in September, 2014. No concurrence or inputs/comments on the same were received even after lapse of three months. The finalized version of the regulations was to be sent to the Ministry of Water Resources, RD & GR for notification. Both the State Governments stated that the Draft Regulations were in the advanced stage of examination/vetting at different levels/ departments of their respective Governments and thereafter, both the States would exchange the same. The members from both the State Governments assured that the concurrence/views of their State Governments on the Draft Regulations shall be

communicated to the Board latest by 10th January, 2015 and on the Working Manual latest by 15th January, 2015.

Member Secretary stated that the detailed deliberations took place in the first meeting of the Board on the issue of jurisdiction of the Board in respect of hydel power projects as laid out in the Principle No.6 under The Eleventh Schedule of the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2014. The discussion mainly focused on the interpretation of sub-section (1) and sub-section (8)(b) of Section 85 of the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2014 by the two States. As decided in the first meeting, the matter was taken up in the Working Group meeting but no consensus could be arrived at. As decided therein, the matter was taken up by the Board with the Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation vide letter dated 11th November, 2014. The Ministry vide letter dated 17th November, 2014 had requested the Board that a self-contained note on the issue along with detailed views of both the State Governments, where they have differences in this regard, may be furnished. It was also stated therein that the exact point which was not clear and for which clarification was required may be clearly elucidated in the note. The Board vide letter dated 9th December, 2014 have requested both the State Governments to furnish their views in the matter, which was awaited. The member from Government of Telangana stated that their views would be submitted shortly. However, the member from Government of Andhra Pradesh desired certain clarification in the matter before submitting their views and therefore, a communication in this regard would be sent in writing by them to the Board.

Item No.2.5: Opening of a Savings Bank Account in the name of Godavari River Management Board in State Bank of India at Hyderabad

Member Secretary stated that the Ministry of Water Resources, RD & GR has conveyed the approval of competent authority for release of Rs. 1.0 crore as Grants-in-aid-General to the Godavari River Management Board as initial contribution, to be reimbursed by the party States, namely Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.

The approval of the competent authority is subject to the following terms and conditions:

- (a) The grants being released would be reimbursed to Government of India on receipt of contribution from the contributing States i.e. Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.
- (b) In absence of any specific dates for such reimbursement in Cabinet Note or otherwise, this may be made on as and when basis on receipt of funds from States and the Ministry may be kept apprised of reimbursement made on quarterly basis.

Member Secretary intimated that in order to receive and operate the amount of Rupees One Crore sanctioned by the Ministry of Water Resources, RD & GR, Government of India, as directed by the Ministry, a Savings Bank Account had been opened in State Bank of India at Hyderabad.

The Board ratified opening of the Savings Bank Account in the name of Godavari River Management Board in State Bank of India at Hyderabad.

The Board also agreed that the Grants-in-aid-General being released by the Government of India, amounting to Rupees one crore to the Godavari River Management Board as initial contribution would be reimbursed by the Governments of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, on as and when basis, on receipt of funds from States and the Ministry would be kept apprised of reimbursement made on quarterly basis.

Item No.2.6: Administrative and Financial matters of the Board

Drawing and Disbursing Officer:

The Board was informed that Shri Ch. Radha Krishna, Executive Engineer has been designated as the Drawing and Disbursing Officer of the Board.

Authorization to use the Budget Head directly by the Board:

Both the State Governments have allocated budget of Rs. 5.0 crore each to GRMB as well as to KRMB. Member Secretary informed that as of now these funds are operable by the respective State Governments only. Since the budget released for Godavari River Management Board (GRMB) is required to be utilised directly by the Board, the authorization to use the Budget Head directly by the Board is required to be made by the State Government on priority. The Drawing and Disbursing Officer (DDO) of the Board should be entrusted with Cheque Drawing power. Till such time the authorization is given, for smooth functioning of the Board, necessary bills for the expenditure towards various requirements would be raised, by the Drawing and Disbursing Officer of the Board duly countersigned by the Member Secretary and present it to the State Government for debiting against the allotted Budget Head of Account to Godavari River Management Board. Member Secretary requested both the State Governments that the action in this regard was required to be expedited on priority.

The members from both the State Governments stated that the aforesaid arrangement would not be workable as it was being maintained by the Pay and Accounts Office of the State Governments and some times it may even lead to non-payment of urgent bills in time. They suggested that instead of this, both the State Governments should deposit in advance, before beginning of the financial year, their share of the annual estimate in the Savings Bank Account of the Board, which may be operated independently by the Board Secretariat and the unspent amount in the Savings Bank Account at the end of the financial year would also be non-lapsable. This would lead to smooth functioning of the Board. It was mentioned that the Board Secretariat would need to submit the Utilization Certificate and Audited Accounts to the States. Accordingly, a resolution was passed by the Board, which is as under:

“For smooth functioning of the Board, the Governments of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana shall deposit their share of funds in advance, before beginning of the financial year, in the Savings Bank Account of the Board for meeting all expenses (including the salaries and allowances of the staff) required for the discharge of its functions. The Board Secretariat shall intimate to both the State Governments, well in advance, the amount of the fund to be deposited by each State for the next financial year. The Savings Bank Account shall be operated independently by the Board Secretariat and the unspent amount in the Savings Bank Account at the end of the financial year shall be non-lapsable, that is, such funds shall be utilisable for meeting the expenses during subsequent years. The Board Secretariat shall submit the Utilization Certificate and Audited Accounts to the States as well as place before the Board in its meetings every year.”

The members from both the States stated that the respective Finance Department of their States would be approached for implementing the above resolution.

The Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2014 provides that the amounts of the funds provided to the Board shall be apportioned between both the States in such proportion as the Central Government may, having regard to the benefits to each of the States, specify. Regarding proportion of sharing of funds by the States, the Chairman stated that it would be cumbersome to assess the benefits to each of the States and, therefore, suggested that the amount of the funds provided to the Board should be shared between both the States equally. The members from both the States stated that the matter would be taken up for approval of the respective Finance Department accordingly and assured to convey the necessary consent of their Governments in this regard at the earliest for independent and smooth functioning of the Board.

Permanent Imprest from the Funds allocated by the States:

Member Secretary informed that to meet the daily/petty expenses of the office of Godavari River Management Board, an amount of Rs. 10,000 /- (Rupees ten thousand only) as Permanent Imprest shall be operated by the Executive Engineer and Drawing & Disbursing Officer of the Board as per the rules and regulations in force and submit the account for its recoupment timely.

The Board empowered the Chairman with full powers in the financial matters.

Item No.2.7: Making available to the Board authenticated data on all the projects located in Godavari Basin by both the State Governments

For technical strengthening of the Board, it was decided in the last meeting of the Board that both the State Governments shall provide authenticated data on all the projects located in their States in the Godavari basin. The Member Secretary informed that no inputs have so far

been received except some information regarding Polavaram and Dowlaiswaram projects from Government of Andhra Pradesh. The members from both the States agreed to furnish all the requisite information by 10th January, 2015.

Item No.2.8: Power scheduling by APGENCO from Lower and Upper Sileru hydroelectric Projects

Member Secretary informed that the issue of power scheduling by APGENCO from Lower and Upper Sileru hydroelectric projects was taken up by the Board with the Chairperson, Central Electricity Authority (CEA). It was informed by the CEA that the Committee constituted by the Ministry of Power has been given time up to 31st December 2014 for submitting their report. The Board members noted the status.

Item No.2.9: Any other item with permission of the chair

It was decided in the first meeting of the GRMB that for addressing common administrative and financial matters uniformly in both the Boards i.e. GRMB and KRMB, the Member Secretaries of both the Boards would participate in the Board meetings of both the Boards. The Member Secretary, KRMB conveyed his inability to attend the meeting of GRMB due to his preoccupation with certain important assignment. However, for uniformity, the decisions taken in this meeting on common issues/procedures on administrative and financial matters pertaining to functioning of the Board could also be adopted by KRMB, if acceptable by its Chairman.

The members of the Board acknowledged the services of Shri M.S. Agrawal, Chairman, Godavari River Management Board, who would be relinquishing office on 31st December, 2014 on superannuation, and placed on record their gratitude for the services rendered by him in establishing the Board in such a short duration. The members further appreciated and complemented Chairman on his guidance and exemplary manner in which the Board functioned during his tenure and wished him all the best in his future endeavors. The Chairman thanked all the members of the Board as well as all officers from both the States and CWC for their cooperation in discharging his duties in the Board.

There being no other issue, the meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair.
