

Status Note on the Puthimari Medium Irrigation Project, Assam

Introduction & Background:

The Puthimari Medium Irrigation project is an Irrigation-cum-Micro Hydel project with an irrigable cultural command area of 9610 Ha and Gross Command area of 20395 Ha in Baksa District, Assam. The Puthimari Medium Irrigation Project is proposed to be located across the river Puthimari, a north bank tributary of the Brahmaputra basin at village Guabari/Okaldonga, District Baksa in Assam with the dispersal of the command area in Tamulpur and Nagarijuli Blocks of the Baksa District of Assam. The Head work of the scheme is proposed at the Guabari village in the north eastern part of the Baksa District about 96 km away from Guwahati. The district shared the privilege of being the International Boundary with Bhutan in the north.

Earlier, the Puthimari (major) Irrigation Project having CCA of 13800 Ha was formulated long back in the 6th Five Year Plan and was also accepted in-Principle by the Planning Commission in April, 1981. However, due to various reasons mainly Assam agitation, insurgent activities in the command area and fund constraints etc, the project could not be taken up and the project was not conceived. Further, considering the requirement of the irrigation facilities and also to utilize the water resources, the Puthimari (medium) irrigation project has been proposed. As stated by the Project authority, there is no change in the scope of the work of the project from earlier and the project was also cleared by MoEF in December, 1983.

The project envisages:

- a. 218 m concrete low crested weir/barrage across Puthimari river.
- b. 35.52 km Main Canal (M1) with varying discharge capacity from 15.15 cumec to 0.03 cumec and 26.71 km Main Canal (M2) and their branch and Distributaries.
- c. 3 MW Micro-Hydel and 4 MW Solar Power Plant

Timeline:

- i. The PPR of the Puthimari Medium irrigation Project was received at CWC, Guwahati from the Irrigation Dept, Govt of Assam in November, 2017 against which CWC has issued certain observations/comments in January, 2018. However, in lack of submission of compliance by the state govt of Assam in the stipulated time-frame, the project was *deleted* from the projects under appraisal in May, 2018. Further, the state Govt of Assam submitted the revised PPR in **August, 2018**. The same was examined by CWC, Guwahati and recommended and submitted to PAO, CWC in January, 2019, along with certain observations (**copy enclosed**), for seeking the In-Principle Clearance from the Screening Committee for the preparation of the DPR.
- ii. After examination of the above in PAO, CWC it was noted that the correspondances have been made with the Royal Govt. of Bhutan (RGoB) long back. However, the clearance from Royal Govt. of Bhutan (RGoB) in respect of Puthimari Medium Irrigation Project Assam has not been received yet. Since the above project is located very close to international boarder, the clearance from Royal Govt. of Bhutan (RGoB) in respect of the project is required. Thus, CWC, Guwahati was requested, vide letter dated 18/02/2019 (**copy enclosed**), to submit the same.
- iii. The above observation was also communicated to the State Govt of Assam vide letter dated 11/03/2019 (**copy enclosed**), along with the request for the submission of the clearance from the Royal Govt. of Bhutan (RGoB) in respect of Puthimari Medium Irrigation Project Assam.

Contact details:

Name: Mr. Brajen Malakar

Designation: Chief Engineer, Irrigation, Chandmari, Assam

Email: b.malakar-irrig@assam.gov.in

Phone: 9435083786; 8402050719; 0361 223 7021;
