

Hindustan Times- 04- November-2023

{ REPORT ON ₹1L-CR T'GANA PROJECT }

Kaleshwaram barrage 'useless': Central team

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HYDERABAD: A technical experts committee, constituted by the National Dam Safety Authority (NDSA) to inspect damaged portions of the Medigadda barrage of the Kaleshwaram lift irrigation project on the Godavari river in Telangana, has declared the barrage "completely useless" in the present condition, unless it is fully rehabilitated.

The panel pointed out lapses in the operation and maintenance of the ₹1 lakh crore Kaleshwaram project, and sounded a note of caution for the other two barrages – Annaram and Sundilla – saying it may also have to be rehabilitated. The panel, comprising six members and headed by Central Water Commission (CWC) chief engineer Anil Jain, made the recommendations in a report submitted to NDSA on November 1. HT has seen a copy of the report.

The engineering lapses in the project has triggered a political controversy in the poll-bound state, with the Congress and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) accusing the ruling Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) of corruption.

While there was no immediate



Panel pointed out lapses in the operation and maintenance of the Kaleshwaram project.

reaction from the state government or the BRS on the report, party working president and state minister K T Rama Rao on Thursday said the barrage withstood the last five flood seasons. "The contracted agency will bear the cost of any repair," he said.

The sinking of six out of 86 pillars – from the 15th to the 20th – and suspected weakening of the gates of the barrage came to light on October 21, prompting irrigation authorities to empty the reservoir and ban traffic on the road constructed over the barrage. "The barrage under the present condition is rendered useless until fully rehabilitated," the report said.

State Congress chief A Revanth Reddy said half of the barrage is now facing a threat of being demolished because of CM K Chandrashekar Rao's "greed".

The Hindu- 04- November-2023

Cauvery Authority ratifies CWRC's decision on release of water to Tamil Nadu

T. Ramakrishnan
CHENNAI

The Cauvery Water Management Authority (CWMA) on Friday approved the decision of the Cauvery Water Regulation Committee (CWRC) to ask Karnataka to release 2,600 cubic feet per second (cusecs) to Tamil Nadu till November 23.

The ratification meant that the upper riparian State would have to release 5.17 thousand million cubic feet (tmc ft) in the next three weeks. When the CWRC took the decision earlier this week, Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister

D.K. Shivakumar, also in charge of the Water Resources portfolio, said the State did not have any water to release. As on date, the four reservoirs of Karnataka had a combined storage of 56 tmc ft, according to a post on the social media handle of the Karnataka State Natural Disaster Monitoring Centre.

Friday's meeting, held in New Delhi and attended physically by representatives of the two principal riparian States, lasted two hours, CWMA chairman Saumitra Kumar Haldar told *The Hindu*. Officials of the Kerala and Puducherry

governments were present virtually. Tamil Nadu had sought the release of 13,000 cusecs, factoring in the backlog.

Mekedatu project

Karnataka wanted the CWMA to discuss and clear its ₹ 9,000-crore Mekedatu Balancing Reservoir-cum-Drinking Water Project. But "this was opposed by us," said an official of the Tamil Nadu government.

Mr. Haldar said that as it was an emergency meeting, "there was no discussion" on the Mekedatu project. However, the subject would be taken up at a regular meeting, he added.

The Hindu- 04- November-2023

National dam safety team faults planning, design of Kaleshwaram project's barrage in Telangana

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

The six-member expert team of the National Dam Safety Authority (NDSA) that examined the sinking of piers in the Block-7 of Medigadda (Laxmi) Barrage of the Kaleshwaram irrigation project in Telangana has faulted the planning and design of the project and stated that a combination of issues involving planning, design, quality control and operation and maintenance have led to the damage.

The NDSA committee visited the barrage site on Oc-

tober 23 and 24 after the drift of some piers was noticed on the October 21 evening and it also held a meeting with the authorities of the Irrigation Department on October 24.

‘Serious remarks’

While making serious remarks on the project, the 43-page report has mentioned that the panel was given information on only 11 of the 20 aspects (data/inputs) sought from the State government. “The main reason for the failure is the settlement of the barrage raft. The piers, being monolith with it, have also set-

tled, moved and cracked,” the report said.

Further, there appears to be deficiencies due to lack of stringent quality control during the construction of sub-surface contiguous secant piles and plinth connected between the raft and cut-offs. “Gaps might have been created in the secant pile formation making the barrier permeable, leading to piping and subsequent progressive failure,” the panel observed.

Two other barrages – Annaram and Sundilla barrages – have also similar designs and construction methodologies.

Deccan Chronicle- 04- November-2023

Poor design hits Medigadda: DSA

BJP launches attack on KCR-led govt

BALU PULIPAKA | DC
HYDERABAD, NOV. 3

The BJP on Friday declared that the "much-hyped" Kaleshwaram lift irrigation scheme had proved to be a "dud" and the ₹1.3 lakh crore that the BRS government had spent on it had "gone down the drain."

After the National Dam Safety Authority's (NDSA) report on the condition of the Medigadda 'Lakshmi' barrage became public on Friday, Union minister and BJP state president G. Kishan Reddy launched an attack on the BRS government saying, "The only beneficiaries of the project were members of KCR family and not the people of Telangana. The NDSA has made it clear that Medigadda barrage is in danger and that it would have to be rebuilt. There are serious design flaws and quality of construction is now under question."

He announced that the BJP, if it came to power, would order a comprehensive investigation into the project, its planning and execution and take action against those responsible for its plight. "The self-proclaimed 'super engineer', Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao, must accept the moral responsibility for the sinking of Medigadda barrage and the danger to the project and the losses suffered by the state," he said.

"The Chief Minister must immediately resign owning responsibility. Why was this project built? Was it built for the contractors or commissions," he asked.

Kishan Reddy, who said he would visit the barrage on Saturday, added that the NDSA had sought 20 reports and inputs but the irrigation department had provided only 11, some of them partial.

Earlier in the day, Union jal shakti minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat criticised the government, saying on X (formerly Twitter): "It is appalling to know that the greed and

DAM SAFETY REPORT'S FINDINGS



MEDIGADDA BARRAGE designed as a floating structure but constructed as a rigid structure

Medigadda barrage warrants rehabilitation.

SHIFTING OF SAND UNDER BLOCK NO 7 at Medigadda resulted in sinking, impact also likely on Blocks 6 and 8

BARRAGE DESIGN violates BIS codes, Central Board of Irrigation and Power guidelines

CONSTRUCTION deficiency due to a lack of stringent quality control



DAM SAFETY Act 2021 provisions flouted, a serious matter as the barrage has a high-risk potential for life and the economy.

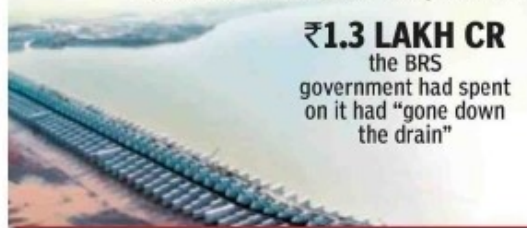


The Chief Minister must immediately resign owning responsibility. Why was this project built? Was it built for the contractors or commissions?<

— G. KISHAN REDDY, BJP state president

₹1.3 LAKH CR

the BRS government had spent on it had "gone down the drain"



corruption of the BRS government has led to risking lives of lakhs of people and loss of crores of rupees of tax payers' money. The K. Chandrashekar Rao-led Telangana govt's corruption stands hopelessly exposed."

In its report, the NDSA said poor design and lack of quality control during construction were responsible for the sinking of a portion of the Medigadda barrage at its seventh block. It cautioned that two other structures of the project - the Sundilla 'Parvati' and Annaram 'Saraswati' barrages upstream of Medigadda - could face the same fate.

In a 43-page report, that included a 11-page letter to Rajat Kumar, special chief secretary, irrigation, the NDSA said that the Medigadda barrage reservoir must not be filled as it "would worsen

the barrage's health." It said, "The distress condition developed in one block of Medigadda barrage is adversely affecting the functionality of the barrage. The barrage under the present condition is rendered useless until fully rehabilitated." The letter, from Sanjay Kumar Sibal, NDSA chairman, along with a long list of annexures detailing every aspect of the inspection by NDSA team, was sent to Rajat Kumar on November 1.

On the documents not being provided, Sibal said the non-submission would be construed that the irrigation department 'has nothing to submit about instrumentation data, pre and post-monsoon inspection reports, completion reports, quality control reports, condition of gates and other inputs that were sought.