

I/163004/2024

Deccan Chronicle- 13- February-2024

BRS sacrificed TS waters to AP: Uttam

KCR actions could even result in Nagarjunasagar going dry, alleges irrigation minister

BALU PULIPAKA | DC
HYDERABAD, FEB. 12

The Telangana government on Monday slammed the opposition BRS, accusing the previous BRS government of "permanently damaging" Telangana's prospects on claims to Krishna River water by repeatedly agreeing to not only hand over projects to KRMB, but also by letting Andhra Pradesh drain the river and watch silently, in 10 years of its rule.

Irrigation minister N. Uttam Kumar Reddy — who gave a digital presentation in the Assembly on how the BRS government was responsible for the current situation on the Krishna River Management Board (KRMB) handling the river projects issue — showed how former chief minister K. Chandrashekar Rao and his BRS government never fought for the rightful share of Telangana in Krishna River. Of the 811 tmc ft (thousand million cubic feet of water) of 'en bloc' allotment to erstwhile unified AP, after Telangana was formed, the Chandrashekar Rao government agreed to just 299 tmc ft for the state, allowing AP to get 512 tmc ft, completely ignoring the rightful claims of Telangana based on the fact that much of the Krishna River basin is in Telangana, he said.

"Not just that, the BRS government agreed year after year to continue the same arrangement and even went to the extent of saying let this arrangement be permanent until the final water share is decided for the two states by the Krishna Water Disputes Tribunal," Uttam Kumar said.

The AP government, Uttam Kumar Reddy said, has been "relying heavily on the documents that show Telangana agreeing to allow it to use 512 tmc ft a year, and is seeking to make this allocation permanent. Using this claim that the bulk of the river water belongs to it, AP has been going about building projects draining the river and denying Telangana its rightful share."

"The impact of AP's projects, including Pothireddy Padu, Rayalaseema lift irrigation scheme (RLIS) and Muchumarri project" drawing water from the Srisaillam reservoir is such that if this situation continues, then "Nagarjunasagar will go dry. This will be thanks to the BRS government's actions," Uttam Kumar Reddy said.

Against the minimum drawdown level at the Srisaillam reservoir of 834

CONDITIONS FOR HANDING OVER PROJECTS TO KRMB



WATER SHARING between AP and Telangana state shall be on the basis of catchment area, drought-prone area, river basin population, cultivable area.

IN-BASIN NEEDS shall be met first on priority as per Krishna Waters Disputes Tribunal (KWDT)-I.

THE USE TOWARDS DRINKING WATER shall be reckoned as 20 per cent of drawal towards consumptive use as stipulated by KWDT-I.

STATES SHALL be permitted to carry-over water to the next year as per KWDT-I and shall not be accounted as use in the next year account.

SRI SAILLAM PROJECT was sanctioned as a hydro-electric project by the Planning Commission in 1962 for supplying 264 tmc ft of water to Nagarjunasagar. Accordingly, minimum draw down level of Srisaillam shall be

+830 ft as per KWDT-I award.

DIVERSIONS FROM SRI SAILLAM reservoir to areas outside Krishna basin to be limited to 34 tmc ft (15 tmc ft for Chennai water supply and 19 tmc ft for Srisaillam Right Bank Canal, which were approved by Central Water Commission (CWC)).

UNAUTHORISED CONSTRUCTION of projects, expansion, building new components to divert Krishna water to outside its basin shall not be permitted strictly unless approved by CWC or the Union Jal shakti ministry.

INTER-STATE RIVER ISSUES

Both the states have agreed in principle to hand over the control of common projects i.e. Srisaillam and NSP in terms of Gazette Notification dated 15.07.2021. But for want of finalisation of operation protocol of both the dams handing over process is being delayed. It is the democratic responsibility of both the governments to maintain status quo, till handing over process is completed.

Letter from Smita Sabharwal, secretary, dated Dec. 1, 2023, to the Centre following AP's occupation of Nagarjunasagar dam.

feet above mean sea level, for the RLIS scheme, AP has set the MDDL (minimum drawdown level) at 797 feet.

"This will leave nothing for Telangana from Srisaillam as RLIS is designed to take all the initial monsoon flows into the river," he said. "The way KCR allowed AP CM Jagan Mohan Reddy — after long personal meetings with him at what was then called Pragati Bhavan — has done the most serious damage to Telangana's interests," he added.

In addition to allowing AP to do as it pleases, Uttam Kumar Reddy said beginning in 2015, the BRS government had repeatedly okayed not just excess water share to AP,

but also never opposed the proposal for handing over the river projects to KRMB.

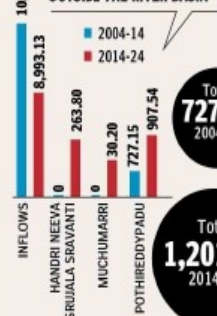
Pointing to these instances, with details of meetings and dates, Uttam Kumar Reddy said that Chandrashekar Rao, along with the then irrigation minister T. Harish Rao, had explicitly agreed to the handing over the projects to KRMB in a September 2016 meeting of the apex council that was also attended by then AP chief minister N. Chandrababu Naidu.

"The decision to maintain the status quo had significant implications. Telangana state could have used this opportunity to raise concerns and seek a revision of water-sharing agreements".

WHY CONG SAYS TS GOT LESS WATER UNDER BRS

OF THIS, an interim ad-hoc arrangement was made between the two Telugu states after bifurcation, with Telangana state agreeing to 299 tmc ft, and AP getting 512 tmc ft during the tenure of the BRS government in 2015.

DIVERSION BY AP FROM ITS PROJECTS ON KRISHNA TO AREAS OUTSIDE THE RIVER BASIN



Total 727.15
2004-14

Total 1,201.54
2014-24

KRISHNA WATER DISPUTES TRIBUNAL (KWDT)-I MADE AN EN BLOC ALLOCATION OF 811 TMC FT OF WATER FROM THE KRISHNA RIVER TO THE ERSTWHILE UNDIVIDED ANDHRA PRADESH.



THIS ARRANGEMENT CONTINUES AS ON DATE.

Congress government says the previous BRS allowed AP to draw more water after it came to power, than before the formation of Telangana state.

KRISHNA WATER REQUIREMENT IN TELANGANA STATE FOR ONGOING AND CONTEMPLATED PROJECTS

- Srisaillam Left Bank Canal: 40*
- Kalwakurthy lift irrigation scheme (LIS): 40
- Nettempadu LIS: 25.4
- Palamuru-Rangareddy LIS: 90
- Dindi LIS: 30

Total 225.4

CONTEMPLATED PROJECTS

- Munneru (Khammam): 4*
- Munneru (Warangal): 2
- Barrages on Munneru: 5
- Koilkonda-Gandee LIS: 50
- Relampadu LIS: 10.5
- Extension of SLBC: 35
- Jurala Flood Flow Canal: 100

Total 206.5

*All figures in TMCFT



The BRS wanted to make a Powerpoint presentation to counter the one by the government on the Krishna River Management Board, with BRS leader and former irrigation and finance minister T. Harish Rao urging Speaker Gaddam Prasad Kumar that his party be given the opportunity. The Speaker said a decision taken based on past practices. In March 2016, when the BRS government gave a presentation on the Kaleshwaram project, the Congress, then in opposition, did not get permission to do so.

A video clip of AP Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy's praise of the chief minister K. Chandrashekar Rao over the BRS government allowing AP to draw water within Telangana was played in the House. The clip was from a 2019 session of the AP Assembly. The BRS countered this with another portion of the video and claiming that the AP CM was speaking about how Rao agreed to allow AP to draw water from the Godavari, not from Krishna, and allowed AP to augment flows into Krishna from Godavari which help states.



The BRS government never took the initiative to stop AP government from constructing the Rayalaseema lift project that can carry 3 tmc ft water a day from +797 feet at Srisaillam. This meant that even when water is at the bottom of Srisaillam, AP can still draw the water. The BRS sought postponement of a meeting till 10 days after the RLIS tenders were floated. A Mahabubnagar had moved the NGT against it. The BRS government did not initiate any action but implemented in these proceedings.

— N. UTTAM KUMAR REDDY, irrigation minister

Deccan Chronicle- 13- February-2024

House sets terms for Krishna board; limits on water diversion

TS not to hand over dams

L. VENKAT RAM
REDDY | DC
HYDERABAD, FEB. 12

The Telangana State Legislative Assembly on Monday passed a unanimous resolution affirming the Congress government's commitment not to hand over control of common projects of Srisaillam and Nagarjunasagar to the Krishna River Management Board (KRMB), until conditions put forth by the state are adhered to.

The resolution was passed after a five-hour debate in the House, of accusations and counters between the Congress and BRS on the issue of who agreed to hand over projects to the KRMB. The Congress and BRS held each other responsible for facilitating the KRMB to take over the projects.

The resolution passed by the House read, "In view of the historical injustice and the current situation, the House hereby resolves that the government of Telangana shall not hand over control of common projects to KRMB unless the conditions put forth by the state have been fulfilled, which are as follows. Water sharing between Andhra Pradesh and Telangana shall be on the basis of catchment area, drought-prone area, basin population and cultivable area."

The other conditions put forth by the state government included: "In-basin needs shall be met first on priority as per Krishna Waters Dispute Tribunal-I (KWDT-I). Srisaillam project was sanctioned as a hydroelectric project by the Planning Commission in 1962 for supplying 264 tmc ft to Nagarjunasagar project. Accordingly, MDDL (minimum draw down level) of Srisaillam shall be +830 ft as per KWDT-I award."

As per KRMB operation protocols, the MDDL of Srisaillam is 854 ft for irrigation and 834 ft for power generation.

A tmc ft of water refers to thousand million cubic feet, as much water the Hussainsagar holds when

CONDITIONS LAID DOWN OVER PROJECTS

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SRISAILLAM PROJECT was sanctioned as a hydroelectric project by the Planning Commission in 1962 for supplying **264 tmc ft** to Nagarjunasagar project.

ACCORDINGLY, MDDL (minimum draw down level) of Srisaillam shall be

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it is full. "Outside basin diversions from Srisaillam reservoir shall be limited to 34 tmc ft (15 tmc ft for Chennai water supply and 19 tmc ft for Srisaillam Right Bank Canal) which were approved by the

Central Water Commission. The use towards drinking water shall be reckoned as 20 per cent of withdrawal towards consumptive use as stipulated by KWDT-I."

"States shall be permit-

ted to carryover water to the next year as per KWDT-I and shall not be accounted as use in the next year account."

■ **Page 2: BRS agreed to unfair water sharing: Cong.**

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BRS agreed to unfair water sharing: Cong.

Mahbubnagar, Nalgonda districts worst hit by lack of water

FROM PAGE 1

"Unauthorised construction of projects/expansions/new components diverting Krishna water to outside basin shall not be permitted strictly, unless approved by CWC/Union ministry of water resources," it read.

The resolution, moved by irrigation minister N. Uttam Kumar Reddy, read, "River Krishna is the life line of the regions of southern Telangana state both for irrigation and drinking water purposes. After the formation of the state of Andhra Pradesh through the Bachawath Tribunal Award, 811 tmc ft of water was allocated to the state of Andhra Pradesh. Successive governments have created substantial irrigation potential through construction of major projects."

"After the formation of new state of Telangana in 2014, sufficient attention was not given to the requirements of the Krishna basin and the previous BRS agreed to the grossly unfair ratio of water sharing between the two states, which is 299 ft tmc ft to Telangana state and 512 tmc ft to Andhra Pradesh," it read. "Through the AP Reorganisation Act 2014, a Krishna River Management Board (KRMB) was created for regulating the water sharing between the two states. The previous BRS also proposed to hand over the common projects of the Srisaillam dam and Nagarjunasagar dam to the KRMB, which is detrimental to the interests of Telangana," the resolution said.

The KRMB jurisdiction to that effect has also been notified by the Government of India, which was not objected to by the previous BRS government, Uttam Kumar Reddy said.

"On the night of November 29, 2023, the government of AP, by sending armed police, forcibly took over the control of the right side of Nagarjunasagar dam, which was till then under



RESOLUTION HIGHLIGHTS

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— Uttam Kumar Reddy

Unauthorised construction of projects components diverting Krishna water to outside basin shall not be permitted strictly.

Successive governments have created substantial irrigation potential through construction of major projects.

the control of Telangana state. The Central government stepped in and sent the CRPF to remove the AP police," it read.

Interjecting in the discussion, Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy said, "Water is central to the agitation of Telangana.

Mahbubnagar and Nalgonda districts are the worst hit by lack of water. Around 10 lakh people had emigrated from Mahbubnagar." "KCR, whose political career received a new lease of life with his election as an MP from the district in 2009,

instead of coming to the Assembly and backing the demand for 68 per cent share of Krishna water, chose to skip the debate in the House. This shows his callous attitude towards the burning issue concerning Telangana and its people," Revanth said.

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The Morning Standard- 13- February-2024

TN demand on Cauvery water nixed

K'taka must ensure natural flows at Biligundulu by releasing 1,000 cusecs per day for Feb

JITENDRA CHOUBEY @ New Delhi

THE Cauvery Water Regulation Committee (CWRC) on Monday rejected Tamil Nadu's demand to direct the Karnataka government to release 7.6 tmcft of water that is due to the state.

The committee directed Karnataka to ensure the release of Cauvery water to ensure environmental flows of the river as per the final award of the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal (CWDT) modified by the Supreme Court.

As per the CWDT award, Karnataka must ensure the natural environmental flows at Biligundulu on the interstate border by releasing 1,000 cusecs per day (2.5 tmcft) for the whole of February to May period. For this, Karnataka doesn't have to release water from KRS, Kabini, Harini and Hemvathy. The four major Karnataka dams currently have around 37 tmcft of water.

In the 93rd meeting of the CWRC held under its chairman Vineet Gupta, the commission told Tamil Nadu that there is no need to release any additional water for irrigation.



No need to release any additional water

In the 93rd meeting of the CWRC held under its chairman Vineet Gupta, the commission told Tamil Nadu that there is no need to release any additional water for irrigation. "Harvesting of crops has already started in Tamil Nadu and there is no requirement for additional water to irrigate crops," Gupta told this newspaper. Tamil Nadu officials, however, said the state needs water for late sowing of crops.

"Harvesting of crops has already started in Tamil Nadu and there is no requirement for additional water to irrigate crops," Gupta told this newspaper. Tamil Nadu officials, however, said the state needs water for late sowing of crops. The formal irrigation period of Tamil Nadu ended by January 31 and harvesting of crops has already started, sources said.

The commission also said northeast monsoon has reduced the demand for water in Tamil Nadu but Karnataka has been facing drought-like condition in the Cauvery basin. While Karnataka's Cauvery basin is dependent on

southwest monsoon (June-Oct), which witnessed a short-fall, the catchment areas of Mettur reservoir in TN benefited from the northeast monsoon season (Oct-Dec), it said.

"After January 31, there is no need for extra water as harvesting of crops would start in February in TN while Karnataka needs to maintain the environmental flow of river," Gupta said. The next meeting of CWRC is scheduled for March 21.

Coursing through Karnataka and Tamil Nadu before eventually merging into the Bay of Bengal, the Cauvery is a significant river in south-

ern India. The origin of the dispute traces back to the late 1800s, when agreements were reached between the princely state of Mysore (now part of Karnataka) and the Madras Presidency (now Tamil Nadu). Primarily, the dispute pertains to the allocation of water resources during periods of water scarcity, the distribution of water during regular years, and the establishment of reservoirs and dams along the river's course. Both states are vying for a greater portion of the river's water to cater to the needs of their expanding populations and agricultural activities.

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Telangana Today- 13- February

BRS beats back Cong blame game

Launches scathing attack on govt for failing to protect Krishna projects, says TS' riparian right put at stake

STATE BUREAU
HYDERABAD

The Bharat Rashtra Samiti (BRS) on Monday launched a determined onslaught against the government for its failure to safeguard the State's jurisdiction of the Nagarjuna Sagar Project (NSP) and nine of the 15 outlets of joint projects in the Krishna basin that were under its control so far.

Voicing concern over the government's ill-advised moves ever since the Congress came to power, it pointed out that the legitimate riparian right of the State was put at stake.

Welcoming the resolution introduced in the House by the government against handing over the common projects of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh in Krishna basin, BRS leader and former Irrigation Minister T Harish Rao called it the first major victory of the BRS party. The Congress government, within two months of coming to power, conceded the State's jurisdiction of the Krishna projects as well as their outlets to the Krishna River Management Board (KRMB).

He said the resolution was the culmination of the campaign stepped up by the BRS against the government's failure to defend its direct control over the projects and outlets. The government took a U-turn on its stand ahead of the public meeting at Nalgonda scheduled for Tuesday. The government version on Krishna water was replete with lies. The State's riparian rights over Krishna waters were strongly defended during the BRS regime under the leadership of K Chandrashekhara Rao.

The BRS had consistently been making a strong case

for the injustice meted out to the State with the sharing of the river water between TS and AP at a 34:66 ratio. It had been insisting on sharing at least a 50:50 ratio though the State was entitled to a larger share. The State had strongly opposed the allotment of 299 tmc of Krishna water to Telangana as against 512 tmc to AP and mounted pressure for a review. The previous BRS government had made the State's stand on the jurisdiction of the joint projects amply clear at the 16th meeting of the Krishna River Management Board (KRMB).

Even at the second Apex Council, the State could spell out its stand and, as a follow-up, it wrote to the Ministry of Jal Shakti 27 times. The Pothireddypadu head regulator was widened, facilitating enhanced draws from the Srisailem project, during the Congress rule in the undivided State. The Rayalaseema Lift Irrigation project was also opposed strongly by the State during the BRS regime. The previous regime did not yield to the pressure to hand over the operational control of the joint projects. But the Congress government had given its concurrence to hand over them to the KRMB at the meeting convened by the Jal Shakti Secretary on January 17.

In a bid to cover up its mistakes, the government was out to blame former CM and BRS chief K Chandrashekhara Rao for its ill-advised moves. BRS member Kadiam Srihari came down heavily on the Congress government for conceding the projects to the KRMB and retracting its stand in the face of strong opposition from the BRS.



The BRS had consistently been making a strong case with regard to the injustice meted out to the State with the sharing of Krishna river water between TS and AP at a 34:66 ratio.

Resolution on projects our first victory: BRS

HYDERABAD: The Telangana Assembly on Monday passed a resolution that the Srisailem and Nagarjuna Sagar projects on the Krishna river will not be handed over to the Krishna River Management Board (KRMB). "It's the first victory for the BRS as the principal opposition," he declared.

Former Minister T Harish Rao also termed the passage of the resolution as the victory of the BRS and the people of Telangana. He said the Congress government is trying to cover up its mistakes by passing the resolution. "However, it is unfortunate that the BRS was not given an opportunity to make a presentation on the issue in the Assembly. People must know the truth about the prevailing situation," he said.

Taking to X, BRS working president KT Rama Rao said due to the pressure created on the Congress government following the 'Chalo Nalgonda' meeting being organised by the BRS in Nalgonda on Tuesday to protest the handing over of the Krishna river projects to the Centre, the Congress

'Attention not given to Krishna basin'

HYDERABAD: Accusing the past government of failing to protect Telangana's interests in Krishna water sharing, Irrigation Minister N Uttam Kumar Reddy said the Congress has resolved not to hand over the control of the Krishna projects to the Krishna River Management Board (KRMB).

To this effect, the Minister moved a resolution in the Assembly here on Monday and appealed to the members of all parties to extend their support. This was followed by an hour-long PowerPoint presentation by the Minister in the House.

The Minister charged that after Telangana's formation, sufficient attention was not given to the requirements of

the Krishna basin. The past government, through an ad-hoc agreement in 2015, had agreed to 299 tmc of water for Telangana and 512 tmc for Andhra Pradesh, he said amidst objections from BRS members, who said it was false.

BRS members raise objections

Despite being detrimental to Telangana's interests, the past government had also proposed to hand over common projects, including the Srisailem and Nagarjuna Sagar, to the KRMB, he alleged, triggering objections from BRS members.

During the presentation, the Minister said from 2004 to 2014, 10,665 tmc inflows

were registered in Srisailem and diversions of 737 tmc outside the basin. Similarly, after Telangana's formation, 8,993 tmc inflows were registered and diversions of 1,200 tmc, he said, pointing out that this was a gross injustice to Telangana.

"The diversions were more than united Andhra Pradesh due to the incompetent BRS government. Inflows got reduced and diversions increased," Uttam Kumar Reddy slammed.

The Minister also maintained that the past government did not claim 225 tmc of water for ongoing projects, including the Srisailem Left Bank Canal, Kalwakurthy LIS, Nettem-padu LIS, Palamuru-Ran-

garreddy LIS and Dindi LIS, before the Krishna Water Dispute Tribunal. In addition to the existing projects covering 299 tmc, the ongoing projects were earmarked for the utilisation of 225 tmc and contemplated projects for 206 tmc.

Though there was scope for demanding 731 tmc, the past government agreed for only 299 tmc, he said, asking how BRS members would defend this negligence.

KTR seeks opportunity to present facts

In reply, BRS working president KT Rama Rao wanted the ruling party to provide an opportunity to make a presentation to explain all the facts.

Row over Jagan's doctored video

HYDERABAD: The Congress' bid to play an edited version of AP CM YS Jaganmohan Reddy's video on Krishna water sharing in the Assembly and corner the BRS has triggered a controversy.

During the PowerPoint presentation on Krishna river issues in the Assembly, the ruling party played his edited video in which he thanks former Chief Minister K Chandrashekhara Rao's stand on river water sharing.