

THE CAUVERY RIVER WATER DISPUTE IN PRE –INDEPENDENCE SOUTH INDIA: A HISTORICAL VIEW

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Abstract— River' are the Major resources of water in India, among them 'Cauvery' is the third largest river rising in Karnataka's Coorg district flows through Tamilnadu and join Bay of Bengal in East over a distance of 805 k.m. According to the Hindu Mythology Cauvery is believed to be sprang by Saint 'Agasthya'. It is considered as 'Dakshina Ganga' respected as mother by both state people. The Holy River has not only given chance of life existence in both state but also there are main issues in sharing the water of Cauvery. The issues quarrels led to 1892 Madras- Mysore Agreement, 1924 Agreement and Cauvery Tribunals. Even though agreement signed there is no solution for the problems till the date.

Keywords— Cauvery River, 1892 Madras – Mysore Agreement, Water Dispute, Tribunal

I. INTRODUCTION

**When water fails, functions of nature cease, you say;
Thus when rain fails, no men can walk in 'duty's ordered way'.
- Thirukural**

The above line from Thirukural States that without water and rain no life can exist. In India many rivers exist for survival of living creatures among them 'Cauvery' is one of the most important river, worshipped as mother goddess who provide water for agriculture and drinking water. It is third largest river rising in Talakaveri on Brahmagiri hills near bhagamandala in Coorg district. Its important tributaries are Shimsha, Hemavati, Kabini, Arkavathy, Lakshmantheertham, Honnuhole, KilBhavani, Amaravati and Noyil.

II. FIRST CONTROVERSY

This river is blood nerve and backbone of the people of Tamilnadu and Karnataka. As much as its importance privilege, there are much more problems prevailing on Cauvery between the people of Karnataka and Tamilnadu. The holy river with ancient background has many problems arising from two and half centuries.

ChokkanathNaik of Madurai kingdom and ChikkadevaWodeyar of Mysore have wage numerous wars for purpose of sharing the Cauvery water, the negotiations has also took place through letters as it is now done in modern times. During the war course many lakes, Ponds, tanks were destroyed, to re built these the first step was taken by Mysore DiwanPoornaiya and began to renovate in 1807. The water resources in Mysore were dug deeper and elaboration of the lakes, ponds and canal took place, check dam were built, these news feared the people in Tanjore, because they thought that the renovation might slow down the flow of Cauvery water to their region as it is only source for their life existing, so they opposed the work and raged complaint in Government the Collector of Mysore had survey and cleared that no such dam are built only reconstruction canals and tanks was done, Tanjore people relieved from fear

1831 Mysore kingdom was handover to East India Company. In 1856 Mysore Public work department was formed, after ten years Cornell R.J. Sunkey become the chair person Mysore Public work department he decided to improve the public department by many measures, among them one was water. He wanted to utilize all the rain water without wasting a drop so he. Renovated many water resources so that there will be no scarcity of water during dry seasons. His measure was surveyed and approval was given by British India in 1872. Separate Mysore water board department was formed. The welfare measure of Mysore water board favored. Mysore people and development was welcomed on other hand these measures were indirectly affecting the Chennai provincial states and Tanjore people. Strongly opposed as it would affect the paddy cultivation. Even though the renovation measures took place ultimately it stopped in 1877 due to severe famine and poor economic condition. This effected in beginning of new project, so eventually the welfare measure stopped. After regaining Mysore from British India, Mysore Diwan K. Sheshadri 1 year began the renovation of water board these was opposed by Chennai provinces king and negotiation took place. By letters, which worsened the condition, so they decided to negotiation directly.

Finally the first negotiation between Mysore Dominion and Chennai provincial took place on May 10 1890 headed by British collector Oliver Saint John, Diwan Sheshadri 1 year, Chairperson Cornell on behalf of Mysore Dominion.

Among Chennai provincial. Governor committee members H.E Scooter, Chief of water board engineer G.T. Walk participated in meeting. Two important decision were to be taken such as freedom in renovation of welfare measures without affecting the life style of Chennai people. Mysore Dominion argued that Cauvery water belong to us, so we can take the irrigation measures with full freedom without affecting agriculture of Chennai provinces. These proposal was rejected by Chennai provincial.

Both side members adamant decision. Led to failure of the committee meeting of 1891. In 1892 on request on committee. British decided to resolve the problem. In ooty both participated and signed the agreement. This was the first Cauvery committee agreement signed.

III.MADRAS – MYSORE AGREEMENT - 1892

In 1892 Chennai Mysore Agreement was signed between Mysore Dominion and Chennai provincial after long discussion. According to the agreement the Mysore Dominion should produce information regarding the new projects in written statement and seek permission. The Mysore Dominion had no right to construct any new check Dam or Dam. In case if it desire to construct water reservoir or Dam, It should produce project plan and details to Chennai Provincial before the commencement of project.

The water resources which flow in Mysore Dominion was categorized into “A”, “B” and “C” list. The main perennial rivers were listed in A Category the tributaries and Tanks, canals, ponds were listed into ‘B’ and ‘C’ list respectively. As per the above list the main rivers like Tungabhadra, Arkavathy, Harangi, Hemavathi, Pilakini, Lakshmana Theertham, Kabini Sharavathi comes under ‘A’ category.

According to the agreement the Mysore Dominion had no rights to take renovation work or built dam across these river without permission of Chennai provincial, on other hand there was no such restriction for the ‘B’ and ‘C’ list water resources.

According to the Agreement Chennai should not sit idle without giving permission after analyzing the details. Project documents. Over all the Madras Mysore Agreement of 1892 was felt as great burden on Mysore Dominion as the land and water resources belong to their territory, It was in critical condition, such that it has to seek the permission of Madras Provincial. This was possible only because of the high authority of madras provincial than Mysore Dominion.

The agreement was fully in favor of Madras Provincial, The Mysore Dominion was dishearten and they were greatly disappointed even though they agreed to this agreement.

After Eight years in order to generate electricity to Kolar Gold Field, there was need for construction of hydro power station which was to build across Cauvery. The permission letter was submitted by Mysore Dominion and got permission to build the hydro power station in shivanasamudra. By this the first agreement worked smoothly and lasted for few years.

IV. FIRST TRIBUNAL

With smooth dealing and measures the agreement of 1892 went on till the proposal for construction Kannambadikattai or Krishnarajasagar dam was sent to Madras Provinces.

After signing the agreement there was no new project and development measures taken, in order to improve the irrigation Mysore Dominion decided to construct a dam below the dam of Ramswamyanaicut 13 km away from Srirangapatnam.

The first plan was to build 800 ft. height dam capacity of 11 TMC water reservoir. The main aim was to flow continues water supply to Shivanasamudra hydropower station. This was the first ever plan in Asian designed by the great engineer sir M. Visweshwariya step plan was to increase the dam's height with capacity of 41.5 TMC water reserve, with plan of continuous generation of electricity to Kolar Gold Field and water supply for irrigation purpose.

The proposal was sent to both Madras Provincial and British Indian Government. Meanwhile even Madras provincial seemed permission to construct Mettur Dam which was planned since 1856 in order to benefit the delta region of Tanjore.

In 1906 plan was drawn and to dig canal for water supply for dry areas in Southern Tanjore in 1910. Madras provinces gave permission for Mysore dominion for first plan where as it rejected the second plan by indicating that most of the plan area cover's Madras region. Madras insisted to give permission for construction of Mettur dam.

British India Government analyzed the critical condition and Mettur project until the problem of sharing river water is solved and gave permission for construction of Krishnarajasagar dam by considering economic loss of Mysore dominion.

Madras provincial insisted the British Government to resolve the problem the organizing the water tribunals on this basis. The British Government in 1913 arranged. The tribunals of committee head by justice sir AlderinGriffen, British India water management board chief inspector General. Neither son as advisor. This was the first Tribunal on water dispute problems.

From 1913 16 July the tribunal started inquiry for about 3 months the Griffen committee gave permission for Mysore Dominion to build Krishnarajasagar in 1914, these judgment was so called as Griffin Award, According to this dam could be constructed of height of 124 feet and 41.5 TMC water reserve. It fulfill the water necessity of 22,750 TMC by not violation the agreement of 1892.

This was not accepted the Madras provinces it want to stop the construction of Krishnagasagardam and in justification judgment of the tribunal. It argued that the land measure 1,15,000 acres of Mysore Dominion whereas the Madras Provincial land consist of 2,25,500 acres, so most of the area belong to Madras provinces. But in 1916 the British India rejected the proposal of Madras Provinces, This engrossed the Tanjore land lords, they all appealed against the judgment of Griffen.

Finally Madras provincial was success in stopping construction of dam by taking stay order on the judgment of griffen, by giving three option to Mysore dominion that to appeal against advisor committee, proposal for new tribunal or to solve by smooth negotiation Mysore dominion opted for third option to solve problem by negotiation first sitting of negotiation between Mysore Dominion and Madras presidency took plan in April 120 between Chief Engineer of Mysore Dominion and Chief engineer of Madras Presidency. S. Kadambiyam and S.S. Halvi respectively also presided by British India water board inspector JRJ Wadrome. The rules and regulation of constructing Krishnarajasagar Dam was signed by Chief Engineer A.H. Mariyan of Madras Previsency and S. Kadambiyam of Mysore Dominion.

Accordingly Mysore dominion can make any alter of necessary for its convenience, but Mysore Dominion was dissatisfied because no decision was taken on water distribution of dam.

The another negotiation took place again between Chief Engineer A.H. Mariyan, A.V. RamlingaIyer, P. Hawkins and Head Chief Engineer Kadambiyar, meanwhile Tanjore land lords and French province farmer joined together and emphasized on water sharing from Krishnarajasagar dam. In 1921 – 24 many letter negotiation took place on view, discussion, suggestion, finally on 18 February 1924 and agreement was signed after 32 years.

V. MADRAS – MYSORE AGREEMENT- 1924

- Mysore Dominion can construct dam of 124 ft. with capacity of 44.827 TMC water reserve.
- Madras Presidency can construct Mettur dam of 93.5 TMC water reserve and can extend 3.01 land hectare of delta region.
- Mutual discussion on dam mettur to be exchanged every year by both of them.
- In case Madras Presidency construct dam across Bhavani, Amaravathi, NovyalRiver, Mysore Dominion can also construct dam across its river with 60% water reserve, not morethan Madras presidency.
- This agreement should be inspected after five year, submit the progress gain, future plan to be disused and can be executed.
- In case problem prevails in agreement, they can solve with acceptance of both party with help of Indian Government.
- The 1924 agreement dissatisfied again by Mysore Dominion whereas Madras Presidency was quite happy.

VI. CONCLUSION

‘Water’ is the life matter of living creature. It flows through all the region of its own way, No one can claim the right to own the water or no one can withhold it by agreement. When mutually understanding, respect towards natural resource is given ultimately all problems get solved. The drawback of all agreement and negotiation are they themselves fought for egoness and to show the power on each other. This is the reason analyzed for unsolved situation on Cauvery issue till the date. We should know that nature gift is to everyone sharing and humanity idea’s to be prevailed.

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