

Kosi –Mechi Link Project, Bihar

The project envisages drawing additional quantity of 148 cumecs of water for irrigating 214812 ha area through Kosi-Mechi Link from the existing Eastern Kosi Head Regulator over and above the requirement of 415 cumecs for existing **Eastern Kosi main canal (EKMC)** system. The additional benefited area lies in Araria, Purnea, Kishanganj & Katihar districts of Bihar State.

The Kosi Mechi Intra-state link project of Bihar envisages remodelling and lining of existing EKMC of Kosi project from 0.0 km to 41.30 km (tail-end) and extended it beyond 41.30 km upto 117.50 km by constructing new canal thereby linking kosi river with Mechi river. The salient feature of the Kosi-Mechi Intra-state Link Project is enclosed. The Kosi Barrage and the head regulator of EKMC have already been constructed and the irrigation is being done in the command area by EKMC upto 41.30 km. It was informed that the Kosi Barrage, the head regulator of EKMC and initial 915 m (approx.) of the EKMC lies in Nepal and are being maintained by WRD, Govt of Bihar. The EKMC beyond 915 m lies completely in India. The head regulator of EKMC is already designed for a discharge of 595 cumecs and at present 425 cumecs of water is being supplied through EKMC which required to be increased to 573 cumecs to carry additional 148 cumecs to serve command area proposed under Kosi-Mechi Intra-state Link Project.

The project was techno-economically cleared for Rs. 4900 crore at 2015-16 PL by the Advisory Committee of DoWR, RD & GR in 129th Meeting held on 08.07.2016. The project has been scheduled to be completed in 5 years time. MoEF & CC accorded the Environmental clearance on 01.08.2019.

The project was considered in the 11th meeting of Investment Clearance Committee of DoWR, RD & GR on 11.10.2019 and investment clearance was not accorded.

A meeting under the chairmanship of Member (WP&P) was held on 04.11.2019. In the meeting it was decided that WRD, govt of Bihar shall get a study done for passing discharge of 573 cumec by way of raising Full supply level (FSL) of EKMC without removing the existing berm, taking into consideration all the technical aspects.

As a follow up Govt of Bihar has submitted the study report. The study Report has been examined in CWC and observations on the study report have been sent to project authorities for necessary compliances.

Subsequently, in the 14th Meeting of ICC held on 22.10.2020 the committee accorded the Investment clearance.

