

### **Kanhar Barrage Project, Jharkhand:**

Kanhar barrage project envisages construction of a barrage on river Kanhar near village Khuri under Ranka Block of Garhwa district in Jharkhand, around 12 km downstream of proposed dam site at Baradih. River Kanhar is one of the major right bank tributary of river Sone. The total catchment area up to its confluence with river Sone is 5903 km<sup>2</sup>, and total length is 218 km. It originates from the northern slopes of Vindhya Ranges at Gidha-Dhoda on the Khudia plateau in Jashpur district of Chhattisgarh at an altitude of EL. 990m. It initially flows north forming the boundary with Garhwa district in Palamu division of Jharkhand and Surguja district of Chhattisgarh. Subsequently, it runs parallel to river Sone in Garhwa and turns north-west and flowing through Sonbhadra district of Uttar Pradesh. It confluences with river Sone near village Kota in Dudhi Tehsil. The catchment area upto proposed barrage at village Khuri is 3375 sq-km. The project envisages irrigating the area of Garhwa district and some villages of Palamu district in chainpur block only. It is to be noted that Garhwa is a draught prone zone and deprived of assured irrigation in the area. The existing reservoirs in the district are mostly water deficit being fed by limited catchment.

The Kanhar Barrage Project, Jharkhand was considered by the Advisory Committee of MoWR, RD&GR on Irrigation, Multipurpose and Flood Control Projects in its 135<sup>th</sup> Meeting held at New Delhi on 12<sup>th</sup> March, 2018. The project was accepted by the Advisory Committee of MoWR, RD&GR for an estimated cost of Rs. 1908.84 crore @ 2016-17 price level, subject to the following conditions:

- i. Submission of the concurrence of the State Finance Department for the finalized cost.
- ii. Submission of the Environment Clearance and the Forest Clearance from MoEF&CC.
- iii. Submission of the Tribal Clearance on R&R of the tribal population from the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.
- iv. The project is accepted without any commitment of funding from the Central Government.

Subsequent to this, the Kanhar Barrage Project was accorded clearance for Resettlement Action Plan and Tribal Development Plan by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs in June, 2018 and the concurrence of the State Finance Department for the Kanhar Barrage Project for an amount of Rs 1908.84 Crore was communicated by Govt of Jharkhand in October, 2018. Further, the State Govt of Jharkhand, in October, 2018, submitted the Investment Clearance proposal with respect to the Kanhar Barrage Project, Jharkhand to the MoWR, RD&GR for the grant of investment clearance.

The Investment Clearance Proposal was examined in CWC and was found to be in order and complete except the submission of the *Environment Clearance and the Forest Clearance* for the Project by the State Govt of Jharkhand. In November 2018, CWC communicated these observations to MoWR, RD&GR for taking a decision on the granting of investment clearance to the Project. Subsequently, vide letter dated 14<sup>th</sup> Dec, 2018, MoWR, RD&GR observed that the Environment Clearance and the Forest Clearance is a prerequisite condition for the investment clearance and the same is required to be submitted. In view of this, the State Govt of Jharkhand was requested, vide letter dated 18<sup>th</sup> Dec, 2018, to submit the Environment Clearance and the Forest Clearance for further processing of the investment clearance.

Recently, vide letter dated 20/02/2019, the Water Resources Department, Govt of Jharkhand has observed that since the Kanhar Barrage Project is 100% State funded and the financial concurrence from the Jharkhand State Finance Department for 100% state funding has already

been accorded to the project, the project qualified for exemption from obtaining investment clearance from the Central Govt. The same is currently under processing in the concerned wing of MoWR,RD&GR.

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