

Dr M Channa Reddy Memorial Trust

Round Table on

T. Hanumanth Rao's Four Water Concept - for Ultimate Water Security in Telangana

Concept Note

Krishna and Godavari are the two major river basins of Telangana, with all kinds of waters flowing into these rivers ultimately. But the share of assured water from these rivers is contentious between riparian States, for decades, and now in the recent past between Telangana and Andhra Pradesh.

Krishna water is over utilised, across the States, in general. As a result, the lift irrigation projects in Telangana are mostly dependent on flood waters and not on assured water. Availability of water in Godavari is comparatively more and is also marked by recurrent flooding. But the lift irrigation projects on the anvil on River Godavari have inherent, insurmountable problems and ultimately don't give any confidence of meeting the projected irrigation targets. In general, construction of big reservoirs has been a colossal waste of public money and can well turn the entire irrigation infrastructure into a white elephant. This has become stark due to uneven weather and hugely uncertain climate patterns.

Even as the capital cost of construction of these lift irrigation projects becoming astronomically high, Telangana is now forced to incur further investments for repairs and reconstruction. On the other hand, whenever these repairs and reconstruction is done, Telangana is staring at perpetually high recurrent charges for energy and O&M.

Ten years after the formation of Telangana, we are at a critical juncture in water management. The new Telangana government will have to break away from the routine approach and attempt innovative measures to achieve water security. The only option now will be to implement the T Hanumanth Rao's Four Water Concept of Water Shed

development. This concept can ensure irrigation for three crops in a year, at a fraction of the annual recurring charges for energy and operations and management of the behemoth irrigation projects under implementation. Implemented first in 2001-2002, in some villages of Telangana at a meagre cost of Rs.5,000 per acres, it has provided water for three crops in a year with minimum energy charges and hardly any O&M charges, even after more than two decades.

This Four Water Concept has been successfully implemented in a state like Rajasthan, transforming the rain-fed lands from water deficiency to sufficiency, enough to raise three crops in a year.

Dr. M. Channa Reddy Memorial Trust has been advocating this ever since the state government had unveiled its redesigned Kaleshwaram Project in 2016. This apparently is not popular because there is no money for contractors and apparently did not appeal to politicians. We feel that it is our duty to raise this option for public discussion once again to help people of Telangana and also as a tribute to the visionary leader Late Dr. Marri Channa Reddy garu.

With this objective, we are proposing a Round Table to discuss a whole gamut of issues, on October 3, 2024 (Thursday), at CESS Conference Hall, Ameerpet, Hyderabad. A cross section of eminent people and representatives of political parties are being invited. We will be inviting the beneficiaries of the past Watershed Development programme based on Late Shri T Hanumanth Rao's Four Water Concept in Telangana and recent successful programme from Rajasthan.

Marri Shashidhar Reddy

Secretary