

# SONE ANCHAL VIKAS SAMITI

P.O.-Box No.-32, Namkum Post Office

Sidroul, Ranchi-834010 (Jharkhand)

Phone : 0651-6003372, Fax : 0651-2260787

RefNo.: .....

Date :.....

To

**The Minister,**

Ministry of Water Resources,

Govt. of India,

New Delhi.

**Sub. : Request to constitute a tribunal regarding "Sone River Water Dispute" as directed by the Patna High Court, Patna in the matter of "Civil Writ Jurisdiction Case No. 3521 of 1993" on 21st September 2011.**

Dear Sir,

With reference to the subject above we, the farmers of Sone River Basin area, desire to place the following submission before you:-

1. That the Sone River emanates from Amarkantak in Madhya Pradesh and after traversing the territories of Chhatisgarh, Uttar Pradesh and Jharkhand merges into river Ganga at Maner near Patna in Bihar.
2. That an agreement among the erstwhile states of Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh was signed at the behest of the Union of India and allocation for use of Sone River Water was made to the respective cobasin states.
3. That the allocation of Sone River Water was made to the cobasin states on the basis of the culturable and irrigable areas in the respective states and the existing as well as projected cropping pattern and crop density in the concerned states in the same basin.

4. That the share of water given to the cobasin states as per the Bansagar agreement signed among them on September 16, 1973 was meant for agricultural and domestic uses and no water was allotted to any state for consumptive use other than agricultural.
5. That after few years of the agreement the Central Electricity Authority, Govt. of India prepared a plan to establish Thermal Power Stations of about 33,000 megawatt out of which power projects worth 25,000 megawatt were planned in the vicinity of Rihand Dam in Uttar Pradesh. The power plants were also envisaged in territory of Bihar and Madhya Pradesh.
6. That since 1980 mega thermal power plant complex started coming up in Sone Basin resulting into transfer of farmer's share of Sone River Water to the thermal power plants for consumptive uses resulting into scarcity of water for use in agriculture and irrigation in the respective states.
7. That the century old Sone Conal system of Bihar is the worst sufferer because the Bihar's share of water in Rihand Resvoirer is being diverted to the adjoining thermal power plants for consumptive uses. Also several old schemes of all the cobasin states such as Madhya Pradesh, Chhatisgarh, Uttar Pradesh and Jharkhand are languishing for want of adequate water and planning. The irrigation potential envisaged in the Rehand Resvoirer Projects (1960) has not come up yet. The same is the case for the small, medium and major irrigation projects in Madhya Pradesh, Chhatishgarh and Jharkhand.
8. That production of foodgrains is in no way less important than production of power. The farmers of all the five cobasin states are concerned about their food production in National interest and urge you to safeguard their interest as well as interest of the nation's food security.
9. That the farmers of the cobasin states of Sone River do not have any dispute or clash of interest amongst themselves as far as the provisions of the Bansagar Agreement and the allocation of water made to respective states in the agreement is concerned. The farmers of each and every cobasin state are facing similar type of problems in its drought prone areas due to scarcity of water available for irrigation.
10. It is amazing and woeful that without taking into confidence of the farmers and the affected states and even without informing them huge quantity of water from their share identified

in the Bansagar Agreement and allocated for agricultural purpose is being diverted to the non-agricultural industrial practices including the Thermal Power Plants.

11. That the huge installation of thermal power plant complex near Singrauli area in Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh are causing acute pollution, environmental degradation and disturbance of eco-system. It is also adversely affecting the human and community health as well as flora, fauna and natural resources therein.
12. In this context a PIL was filed in the Patna High Court, Patna as back as in 1993. In its order dated 21st of September, 2011 the Hon'ble High Court disposed of it and passed an order and issued appropriate direction to the Union of India in this regard. The relevant extract from the judgement is given below:-

**"In the result this writ petition is disposed of with the direction to the Union of India to constitute a tribunal under the provisions of the Inter-state Water Dispute Act 1956. The Union of India shall also keep in mind the provision of the River Boards Act as well as section 79 of the Bihar Reorganization Act and section 76(1) of the Madhya Pradesh Reorganization Act."**

In the light of the direction of the Hon'ble Patna High Court mentioned above we request your goodself to be kind enough to constitute a tribunal so that right of the farmers of cobasin states on the Sone River Water is protected and adequate supply of water is assured to them for their agricultural production on which their very livelihood depends.

With regards,

Yours faithfully

Saryu Roy