

Memorandum submitted to the Prime Minister of India by Mr. Saryu Roy, General Secretary of Bihar State Janata Party on 06 January, 1982.

Sub:- Violation of Ban Sagar agreement by U.P. & M.P. governments and utilization of rihand reservoir in singrauli super thermal power projects.

Dear Pardhan Mantri Ji,

You are aware that the sone canals are the backbone of the irrigation in south Bihar and at least five districts i.e. Bhojpur, Rohtas, Aurangabad, Gata and Patna are totally dependent on water from sone river for irrigation, since last 100 years and thus its their perennial and natural right to use this water in future too. It may be recalled that at the time of construction of rihand reservoir in 1962 the government of Bihar agreed to withdraw its objection only at least 6000 cusec water will be released regularly and continuously for the affective functioning or irrigation system in Bihar. Again in 1973 when U.P. government started constructing reservoir at Obra an agreement between the government of U.P., M.P. and Bihar popularly know as Ban Sagar agreement for the distribution of the sone water among three states was signed on 16th September 1973. According to this agreement Bihar, U.P. and M.P. were allotted 77.5 lakh acre feet, 12.5 lakh acre and 52.5 lakh acre feet water respectively.

But it is unfortunate that both the U.P. & M.P. governments have been violating this agreement since very beginning. As per rules the transfer of water from one river valley to another river valley is illegal but contrary to the rules the M.P. government is transferring the water from sone river valley to the tons river valley to generate hydel power at chechai fall. The U.P. government is not only obstructing the normal release of water to Bihar but also forcibly and illegal utilizing much more quantity of water than it is allotted in Ban Sagar agreement. In the previous year also water was released by U.P. government on july 25th 1982 instead of june 15th 1982 thus damaged 20% of the khariff crop worth Rs. 36 to 42 crores. At its different projects though it has been allotted only 12.5 lakh acre feet only.

I, here, allege that at the time of signing of Ban Sagar agreement the then Government of Bihar betrayed the people of the state. The expert team of the central Government assessed that the minimum amount of water needed for the proper irrigation of the area under sone canals in Bihar was at least 105.8 lakh acre ft. but the then Bihar government agreed to have only 77.9 lakh acre feet water only as a result nearly 15 lakh acre land in this area is unirrigated even today i.e. after the 100 years of the sone canal in the region.

The violation of the agreement does not stop here. Now it has taken a serious turn and has created the life and death problem for this region. It is well known that NTPC (National Thermal Power Commission), and governments of U.P. & M.P. are jointly establishing a super thermal power project of 22000 MW known as integrated thermal power development at singrauli in U.P. & M.P. Under this project four power stations at Singrauli, Obra, Anapara and Vaidhan are under construction for which the 30 to 35 lakh acre feet water will be taken from sone river through rihand reservoir. It may be recall that full capacity of rihand reservoir is 80 lakh acre feet and average available of water in this reservoir is 35 to 40 lakh acre feet. According to the Ban sagar agreement Bihar is to take 30 to 35 lakh acre feet water out of its total share of 77.5 lakh acre feet from the rihand reservoir is consumed by the singrauli power project it means no water for Bihar from there. It will result in collapse of 100 years old sone canal system in Bihar rendering 22 lakh

acre of fertile land into desert and a loss of near about 297 mounds of foodgrain worth Rs. 230 crores per year besides loss of 15 lakh mandays and 5.50 crores of revenue to the state per annum. This will also create the condition of unemployment and destitution in this region. It is a matter of regret that U.P. & M.P. did not even inform the Bihar government about this what to tell of taking its permission.

Hence we demand that:-

1. Some other source of water should be created to fulfil the requirement of water for Singrauli Power Project and supply of rihand water for the irrigation in Bihar should be assured.
2. Ban Sagar agreement should be reviewed and a joint central board should be constituted to look after the proper distribution of water and to check the violation by U.P. and M.P. governments.
3. The irrigation system in some command region of Bihar should be developed to bring the remaining 15 lakh acre irrigable land under irrigation too.
4. To utilize the free zone water of some a dam at kadhwan in Bihar should be constructed.

Since above demands in general and required some water for the canals in particular are related with the future of 50 lakh people of Bihar and also with the 100 years old irrigation system in Bihar it is really a subject of life and death for the people in this region. People of this region may go to any extent to get their perennial right to use the some water and even resort to struggle and mass movement if their demands are not conceded.

Hence, I request you to kindly concede our demands and protect the right of the people in this region.

With regards,

Yours sincerely,



(Saryu Roy)
General Secretary
Bihar State Janata
Party