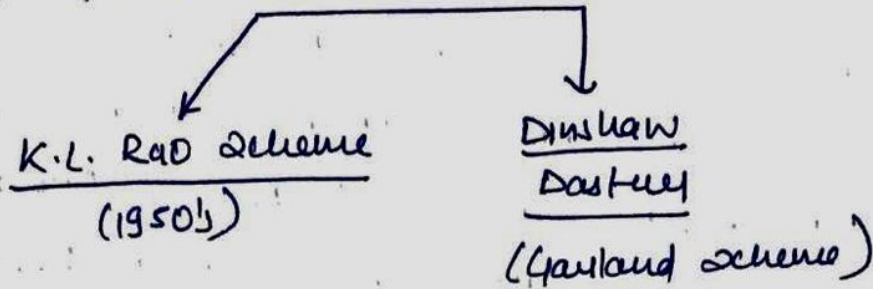


Inter linking of Rivers

- Initiated by Arthur Cotton (British Time)
- They 2 schemes came up by -



• 2002 - National River Linking Project (ordered by govt)

- a] Ken-Betwa Link Canal
- b] Chambal - Panaji Sindh Canal
- c] Narmada - Tapi River Inter linking
- d] Mahanadi - Godavari - Krishna - Pennar system

◦ River Interlinking / Inter basin Transport Programme -

◦ India has dual problems of floods & droughts with Northern Rivers having surplus water with Peninsular rivers have seasonal regime with large tracts of drought region of Plateau.

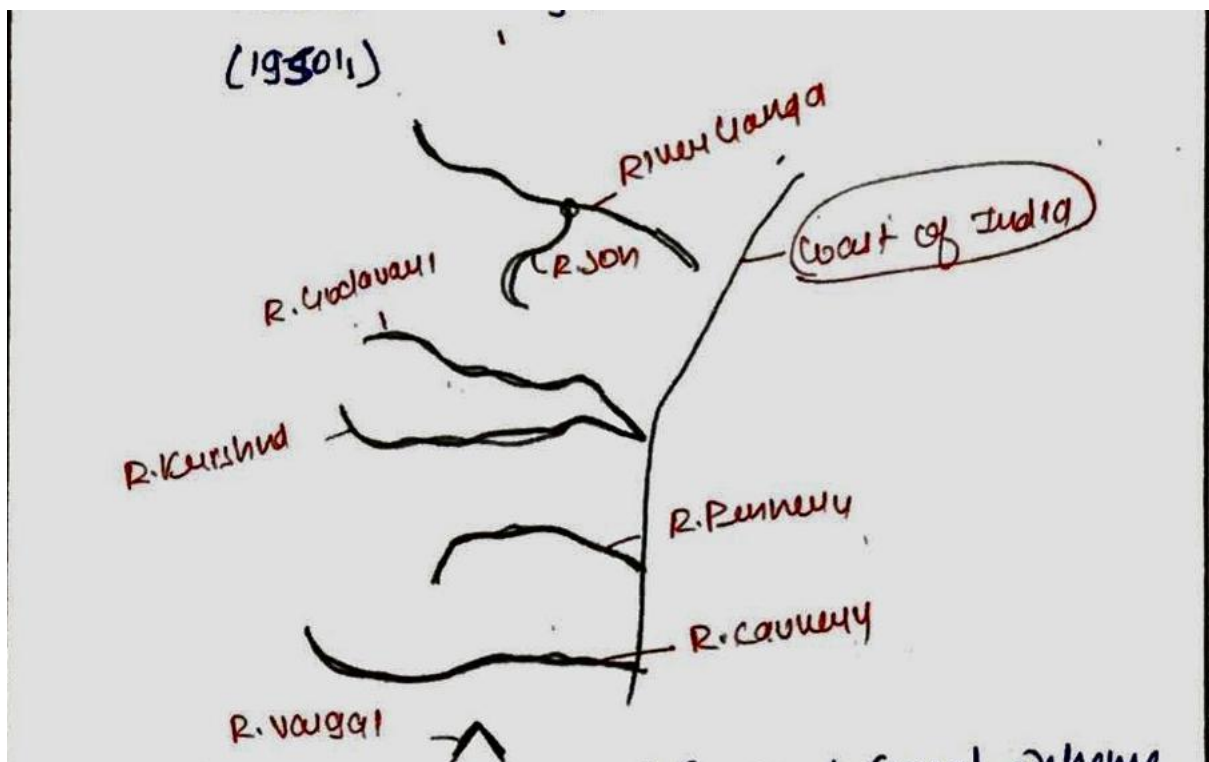
◦ Objective of National scale River Linking Project is to Transport & divert surplus water of N. Rivers to water deficit basins of Peninsular Plateau.

◦ A project that involves such type of water transfer can benefit - Power Generation, Irrigation, water expansion, supporting fisheries, navigation & also drinking water needs of Dry Region

◦ For a long time, these projects are promoted as solution to most of water problems of India

This was 1st suggested by Sir Arthur Cotton
In Pre Independence India and Post Independ
ence 2 schemes have been discussed -

a) K.L. Rao scheme - Transforming Ganga
water through Link Canals upto Cauvery
(1950s)



R. Vaidya

b] Dhulew - Dastur Scheme / Gairland Canal Scheme

o Purpose 2 Canals -

- ① Himalayan Canal
- ② Peninsular Gairland Canal

o Under the direction of Supreme Court in 2002

a new scheme was proposed NRLP [National River Linking Project by SC] that has proposed 30 Canal systems - 14 Himalayan ^{River} Canal systems and another 16 Peninsular Canal systems

o 5 projects are under consideration for detailed project report -

a] Ken - Betwa Canal

b] Parbati - Chambal Link Canal

- b) Parbati-Chambal Link Canal
- c) Narmada-Tapi Link Canal
- d) Godavari-Krishna Link Canal
(Polavaram Project)
- e) Mahanadi-Godavari-Krishna-Pennery-Cauvery Link Canal

Benefits - of Interlinking of Rivers

- It will expand Irrigation Potential of India
Ultimate (130-140 mha)
- India will add 20-30 mha of additional Irrigation Potential over UIIP [Ultimate Irrigation Potential] of 130-140 mha.
- Power generation potential of 30-40 GW

- Additional benefits related to navigation, fishing, drinking water, addressing problem of soil erosion

Challenges of Interlinking of Rivers

- The Physiographic Challenge is immense - Pumping water across hard-resistant rocks of plateau, Pumping water from N. Plains
- Water is a state subject. River water sharing through Interlinking of rivers creates new set of challenges & conflicts

• Diverting water from Ganga can be a conflicting issue b/w India & Bangladesh (Teesta water sharing is already a dispute)

• Water sharing can impact downstream

Ecology

• In general, big dams & canal systems are waste ful, inefficient & have caused large scale deforestation, land submergence & displacement of tribes, the project could be a social disaster.

Water Mgmt. can be

Social Disaster.

• Most of problems of water Mgmt. can be addressed under local solution - Rain water harvesting, Changing crop patterns & with more efficient use of water - it does not need

large scale water transfer projects before approaching Watershed Development, Agro-Climate Planning, Ground water Mgmt., Better Equity in water resource ownership & use & access