

Overview

1.1 Introduction

Andhra Pradesh is primarily an agrarian State with over 70 *per cent* of its population dependent on agriculture. However, the agriculture sector is largely dependent on monsoon with more than 50 *per cent* of the cultivated area being rain-fed, although, over the years, there has been an increase in exploitation of ground water for irrigation purposes in non-command areas. While the State is endowed with a cultivable area of 362.90 lakh acres, the irrigated area was only 125.65 lakh acres as of 2004-05. Further, out of the State's share of 2769 TMC¹ of dependable flows from all the rivers, the water utilized was only 1933 TMC (70 *per cent*). While the entire dependable flow of Krishna and Pennar rivers was harnessed through the construction of several irrigation projects, the water potential of river Godavari was not tapped to its full extent, with only about 720 TMC out of the available 1480 TMC, being utilized. The State Government therefore, decided in mid-2004 to take up the construction of new irrigation projects and completion of the existing projects in a focused manner.

1.2 What is 'Jalayagnam'?

Jalayagnam refers to the programme initiated by the Government of Andhra Pradesh in 2004 to bring vast tracts of land under irrigation and stabilize the existing ayacut in the State. The programme aimed at:

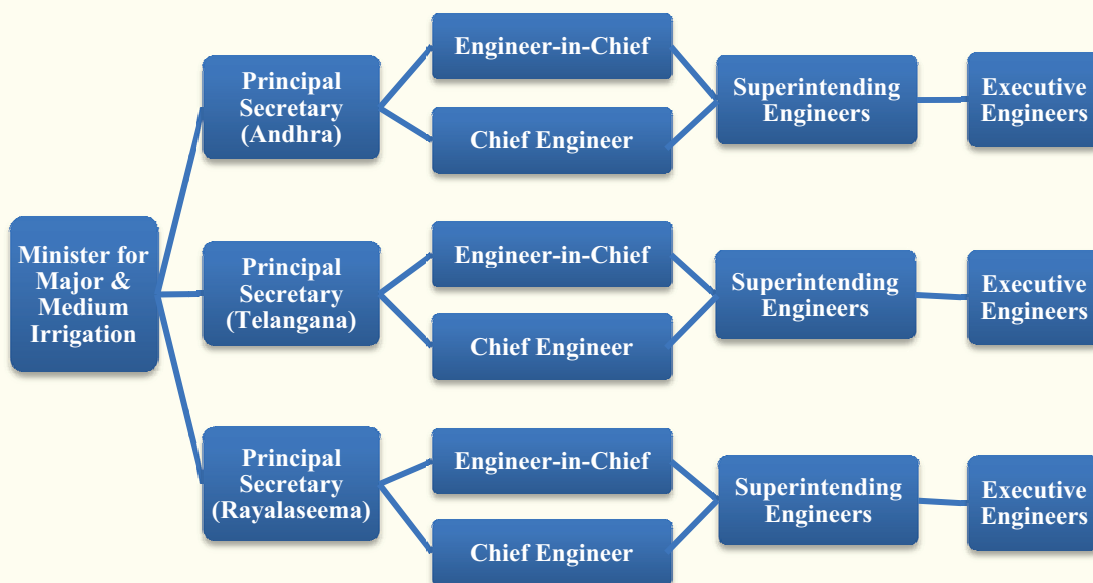
- i. Developing infrastructure for irrigation in backward, tribal and drought prone areas, involving:
 - ◆ construction of reservoirs and lift irrigation schemes, especially on Godavari and Krishna rivers;
 - ◆ creation of 97.46 lakh acres of ayacut and stabilization of the existing ayacut of 22.53 lakh acres;
- ii. Providing drinking water to 2.11 crore people of the State, covering 6310 villages in 425 Mandals, utilizing 65.14 TMC of water; and
- iii. Generating 2700 Megawatt (MW) of power.

The programme comprised 86 projects (44 major, 30 medium, 4 flood banks and 8 modernization works) and was estimated to cost ₹1.86 lakh crore. Twelve of these projects were taken up prior to 2004-05 (approved cost: ₹2,139 crore) and were brought under Jalayagnam to expedite their completion. 74 projects were sanctioned between 2004-05 and 2008-09 (approved cost: ₹1,83,470 crore).

¹Thousand million cubic feet

1.3 Organizational set up for the programme

At the Government level, the policies relating to the Irrigation and Command Area Development (I & CAD) Department, including Jalayagnam programme, are dealt with by the Principal Secretaries/ Secretaries (one each for the three regions² of the State), who are assisted in the discharge of their responsibilities by Joint Secretaries. Project implementation is the responsibility of Engineers-in-chief (5), Chief Engineers (33), Superintending Engineers (88) (at the Circle level), Executive Engineers (447) at the Division level, and other functionaries down the line. The organogram of the I&CAD Department is given below.



²Coastal Andhra, Rayalaseema and Telangana