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DEVELOPMENT OF IRRIGATION FACILITIES IN TELANGANA STATE THROUGH THE AGES

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Abstract: In the whole Indian sub continent Telangana State has the highest tanks. There is no village in Telangana which does not have tanks. There are some villages existing which have more than one tank in Telangana state. Here peasants and landlords, feudatories were shown great skill and interest in developing irrigation facilities. They thought donating water is a great religious and moral act. There is evidence of tanks construction prior to the Satavahana period also. During the Kakatiya period there was immense development in irrigation. They followed very scientific methods and very good building materials were used. When the rule of Asaf Jahis was started Telangana possessed a highest income generating state because of development of irrigation facilities only. Salar Jung took the inspiration of Sir Arthor cotton and made plans to develop water sources. Irrigation branch occupied a high place in the public works department. Ghanpur, Osman sagar, Himayat sagar projects were meant to protect cities from floods and save rain water also. Twin cities Hyderabad and Secunderabad both enjoyed 24 hours water facilities from nallas. There is a bonded link between development of irrigation facilities and employment. Working labor got employment through food for work. Nizam sagar, Alisagar projects played a very important key role in development of Southern Telangana region. Apart from all these Pranahita, Kaleshwaram projects were completed after new state emergence. Telangana state acts as a growth engine in water irrigation development through mission Bhagiratha and mission Kakatiya. Its aim is to make Telangana as one crore acres of Magani.

Key words: Chain linked tanks, Deccan plateau, Construction skills, Food for work, Irrigation, PWD, Major irrigation projects, streams teeming, godavari valley development plan, prosperity, growth engine, one crore acres of Magani, Achukattu lands.

Introduction

Telangana state agriculture sector has its own unique quality of irrigation facility. In the form of chain linking tanks and streams teeming its all are served a lot to prosperity of Telangana. Since the age of Satavahanas to Asaf Jahis all dynasties have put a good effort to improve water services. After Independence there is some lesser importance given in united Andhra Pradesh state. After the state formation Telangana government took initiation to build big water projects to serve future generations. These projects aimed to achieve one crore acres in nearby future only.

Aims and Objectives:

- ❖ To understand the importance of irrigation development in regional prosperity.
- ❖ To know the role of the Kakatiya dynasty in development of irrigation facilities in rural areas.
- ❖ We can understand how Asaf Jahi rulers played an important role in the development of water projects.
- ❖ We can know how the Telangana region is put beneath the United Andhra Pradesh state.
- ❖ We can understand why newly emerged states take special emphasis on new big projects.

Methodology:

The research is based on secondary data. It's exploratory and descriptive in nature given the nature of the present study. It was required to collect information from the secondary sources. This information was collected from research journals, books, newspapers and related websites. To fulfill the information collection I interviewed some people also. I collected some information from real Telangana agitators. Case study method also followed in some areas.

Importance of tanks in Telangana state:

In the whole Indian sub continent Telangana state has the highest number of tanks. Most of the villages have more than one tank. But why is this type of tank construction possible in Telangana state? For the development of agriculture this type of tank construction was necessary. Geographical structure of Telangana state is also like that. Agriculture under tanks and a cultural, social life system around tanks are different phenomena. All important incidents in human life from birth to death are linked with tanks only. Telangana is located in Deccan Plateau. Plateau is a structure with hills, up and downs, streams teeming generated in hills and flows to downward areas changed as rivers and at end of the point its all are joined in seas. Telangana state's northern part has Godavari and Southern part has Krishna river. Feudatories of Godavari river were Penganga, Kadem, Swarna, Maneru, Pranahita, Vaira, Kinnerasani and Feudatories of Krishna river were Moosi, Paleru, Munneru, Aakaeru, Dindi all are flowing. But all these are flowing at a low height level and agricultural land height is almost 200 to 650 m. high sea level. Therefore it is not possible to use Krishna and Godavari water in Agriculture. When Godavari and Krishna rivers reached the plains region they became vast and useful to coastal area districts.

Even Though these hurdles also Telangana farmers showed great construction skill to develop tanks. There is evidence of tank construction prior to the Satavahana period also. In Nalgonda district archaeological excavations we find this evidence. During the regime of Kakatiya, a number of tanks were built with great construction skills. They construct big tanks like seas. Ramappa, Pakala, Laknavaram, Ghanapuram, Bayyaram, Ganapa samudram, Udaya samudram, Dharma Sagaram, Thippa samudram, Jagat kesari, Rudra samudram, Chouda Samudram, Sibbi samudram, Kata samudram, Kamalapur all are build with selected building material and selective place also. They followed very scientific and technical methods. All were constructed in 13 c, but now they also serve the common man. Extension of agriculture was undertaken in the period of Kakatiyas only.

The Treasury got an immense surplus and the state became prosperous. With the support of the treasury only rulers constructed big forts and temples.

This system was followed by further dynasties also. The Reddi kingdom, Recherla Velama kings, Kutb shahis, Asaf Jahis and local feudal lords also took keen interest in development of tanks. In Adilabad district Nimma kings who ruled Nirmal as capital constructed 32 tanks with chain link. In Mahabubnagar district also princely state rulers constructed Ranga samudram, Shankara samudram, Bhoopala samudram, Veera samudram, Gopalamudram, Ramasamudram, Raja samudram likewise sapta samudras they were constructed.

Patancheruvu, Hussainsagar, Ibrahimpatnam, Shanigaram, Masab tank, Ravirala cheruvu all are built by Kutb shahis rulers. Telangana state is having a number of tanks in this way. Last and seventh Nizam, who was the richest man in the world, became famous because of these tanks only. These tanks played a key role in making Hyderabad a prosperous city in India. Due to these tanks there is no occurrence of droughts. Tanks played a remarkable role in cultural aspects also. The Telangana floral festival Bathukamma emerged based on tanks only. There is an undividable relationship between tanks and telangana lifestyle.

When Hyderabad merged into the Indian Union Telangana state had more than 40,850 tanks according to revenue records. Among those tanks maximum were built in the medieval period only. During the time of Asaf Jahi period almost 12 lakhs acres is achukattu land under tanks. Ameers, jagirdars, deshmukhs, Inamdars all maintained these tanks and they only collected taxes also. It takes hundreds of years.

Hyderabad state administrative reforms-Irrigation sector-

When Kutb shahi rule was ended and Asaf Jahi regime was started Hyderabad state was an important area in Telangana and that is a prosperous place. Main reason for that is irrigation development only. During the period of IV th Nizam Mir Mahaboob Ali Khan there was rapid growth in irrigation projects. When Salarjung was Diwan of the state he made many plans to develop the state. He established separate departments for every sector. Administration was decentralized and made reforms rapidly.

In Hyderabad state after 1860 the irrigation sector was highly developed. British East India company undertook big projects on Kaveri, Krishna, Godavari rivers. It leads to prosperity in coastal areas. Took the inspiration of Sir Arthur Cotton, Salar Jung also took huge initiation in the irrigation sector. He established the Irrigation board in 1868. After that in 1869 PWD was also established. One chief engineer

was allotted to this department. Funds of the PWD department are most probably used for tank and canal renovation and project construction only. Those engineers were trained in using hydraulics. To prevent draughts under civil engineers one irrigation branch was appointed. They maintained one D Code also. Based on funds and the strength of employees, the irrigation department was very big during that period. Dependent upon demand of farmers, the government allotted more funds on renovation projects. When the 1876-77 big drought occurred, the government realized the importance of irrigation development. To prevent migrations from rural areas, governments have to develop employable opportunities in villages Only. Feeder channels were also renovated at some canals and tanks. One feeder channel was constructed between malkapur bridge and Hussain sagar. For Ibrahimpatnam tank Firangi nala was also excavated. For drinking water facility Mir Alam tank was renovated and widened.

Major and medium irrigation projects in Hyderabad state:

In the end of the 19 c. in all British ruled areas there was construction of big river dams. New engineering technology introduced in Hyderabad by Salarjung. Big irrigation project technology first adopted by Hyderabad princely state only.

Ghanpur Bridge:

In Medak dist On Manjeera river near Kulcharam village this Ghanpur bridge was constructed. In 1896-97 this construction was undertaken by 6th Nizam Mir Mahaboob Ali Khan with investment of 18 lakhs. Through right and left canals almost 24000 acres of land was irrigated.

Osman sagar and Himayat sagar:

In 1908 sep 28 there was a very big flood. During that 32.5 cm. Rain was recorded. Because of this flood almost 19000 houses were damaged and 15000 people died. After the flood, prevalent diseases also took place. Nizam realized with this property and population loss, he approached great engineer Sir Mokshagundam Vishwewaraiah and appointed Engineer Nawab ali nawaz jung as chief superintendent of Irrigation department. 3 major responsibilities were handed over to them.

1. Construction of Hyderabad city plan and policy making
2. To prevent future floods.
3. Make a plan of Hyderabad Drainage system.

According to their plans only Osman sagar dam and Himayat sagar dams were constructed. Under the supervision of Nawab Ali Nawaz jung these two big projects were constructed and Hyderabad permanently prevented from floods. These two projects fulfilled the drinking water necessity of the city also. There is 24 hours water from Nallas. Therefore only Sarkari Nalla bharah ghanta khulla like couplet was there. These two big projects were great gifts to twin cities.

They suggested a good drainage system like the London and America model. But after independence this drainage system was heavily damaged. Lack of renovation work leads to destruction of tanks and nallas. Migrated politicians damaged the good drainage system which was designed by Mokshamgundam Vishweshwaraiah and Nawab ali Jung.

Prior to these two projects there are another two projects that were built on Manjeera river pocharam project and Vaira project in Khammam district.

Nizamsagar project:

Nizam sagar project built on Manjeera river only in Nizamabad district. During that period Karnataka and Maratwada were also parts of Nizam state only. In 1923 the Nizam government approved the Nizamsagar project. Chief engineer of this project was Ali Nawaz Jung. Project canals are also constructed in the same period only. Common people actively participated in this construction with their bullock carts. This is a good replica of the vision of Nawab Ali jung. Main canal of Nizam Sagar was also known as Ali sagar. This is a very beautiful and touristy place.

This Nizam sagar project was connected with the Kaleshwaram project. After the construction of Nizam sagar, the whole Nizamabad district changed extensively. It became prosperous. Sugarcane was grown highly and for the sake of this only Nizam sugar factory the largest sugar factory in Asia was established. Near Bodhan city 15,000 acres of land was allotted to sugar factory. After that this region named as Shakkar nagar. But in the United government Nizam sugars was privatized.

After the merging of Hyderabad state merging into Bharat union Nizam sagar, Pocharam project, Osman sagar, Himayat sagar, Paleru, vaira, Upper Maneru, shanigaram, Dindi, Rayanipalli, Singabhoopalam, Koyilsagar, Tungabhadra, Kadem projects were constructed.

The Pranahita project was totally abandoned by the United Andhra pradesh government. The Godavari valley development plan was made by the Nizam state prior to Independence only. According to that plan, dams, water bodies, canals, Thermal power stations were planned to be constructed to develop Adilabad, Karimnagar, Warangal districts. This is aimed to arrange water facilities to land and industries. In 1951 Hyderabad government published the book 'Projects for Prosperity: The story of Hyderabad's Bid for Self-sufficiency through Irrigation and Power Projects'. In this book they clearly explained about future plans of irrigation projects. But when Telangana under United state government priorities were changed and the total Godavari river valley project was abandoned.

After 70 yrs Kaleshwaram project was introduced to fulfill above godavari valley project aims and objectives. This is like a growth engine to fulfill the aspirations of Telangana people.

Conclusion:

In the United Andhra Pradesh government no doubt Telangana water resources were immensely abandoned and put aside. All funds used for the growth of AP region only. For the movement water was also one important cause. Even though we have Godavari and Krishna rivers, Telangana did not receive enough water. Major population of Telangana supported this issue and rebelled against political leaders ultimately got a separate state. Mission Kakatiya and Mission Bhagiratha were good policies undertaken by the government. Projects which were put aside by the previous government also restarted by this

government. According to the census by this project 89 lakhs acres of land was irrigated. And there is a future plan to irrigate 125 lakhs acres of land. Since 9 years of rule Telangana government emphasis on water development was fruitful. This is a very good visionary activity for the welfare of future generations.

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