

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
WATER RESOURCES  
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:143

ANSWERED ON:08.12.1999

LINKING OF RIVERS

CHANDRA NATH SINGH;NAWAL KISHORE RAI

**Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:**

- (a) the details of the findings of the Committee constituted to study the viability of creating Southern Peninsular Water Grid;
- (b) the efforts made by the Government to inter-link the major Southern peninsular rivers with the Himalayan rivers to solve the perennial drought, flood and famine problem in several parts of the country;
- (c) Whether this plan has been included in the Ninth Five Year Plan;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (f) the steps taken by the Government to inter-link Himalayan rivers with the Southern Peninsular rivers ; and g) the time by which the work on this plan is likely to be undertaken?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI C.P. THAKUR)

(a) to (g) : A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (g) OF THE LOKSABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.43 FOR 08.12.99 REGARDING LINKING OF RIVERS. -

a to g) No committee has been constituted to study the viability of the Southern Peninsular Water Grid. However, the erstwhile Ministry of Irrigation (now Ministry of Water Resources) and the Central Water Commission formulated a National Perspective Plan for Water Resources Development in the country which envisages inter linkages among the various Peninsular rivers and Himalayan rivers for transfer of waters from surplus basins to water deficit basins for optimum utilisation of water resources. This perspective plan comprises two main components viz. (a) Himalayan Rivers Development and (b) Peninsular Rivers Development. For firming up the proposals of inter-linking Peninsular as well as the Himalayan rivers, the Government of India have set up the National Water Development Agency (NWDA) in 1982.

The present mandate of NWDA is to prepare feasibility reports of the links. Suitable provision for this purpose has been made in the Ninth Five Year Plan.

Implementation of Water transfer link proposal depends on how soon the detailed project report are prepared, consensus is reached among the concerned States and availability of funds.