

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6090
ANSWERED ON:06.05.2002
COMMITTEE ON LINKING OF RIVERS
RAMDAS ATHAWALE

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have any proposal to set up expert committee including a panel of engineers to formulate a plan for connecting all the rivers in the country for optimum utilisation of water and averting the recurring floods in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the panel has been constituted;
- (d) whether this panel has submitted its recommendations to the Government; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SMT. BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY)

(a) to (e) In 1980, the Ministry of Water Resources, then known as the Ministry of Irrigation, formulated a National Perspective Plan for integrated water resources development through inter-linkages of several southern based Peninsular rivers and the Himalayan rivers which inter alia envisages flood control benefit. Through this programme it is intended to assess the surplus basins as of now for possible transfer of water from surplus to deficit basins in order to optimally utilise the water resources of the country. With this purpose in mind the Government of India has established the National Water Development Agency (NWDA) in 1982 as an autonomous society to carry out water balance and feasibility studies of the Peninsular and Himalayan rivers. NWDA has identified 30 links under the National Perspective Plan for preparation of Feasibility Reports. NWDA has completed Feasibility Report of six links. Implementation of the water transfer links would only be possible if the concerned basin States agree to the water linkage proposals, provide other logistical support necessary for project implementation and availability of funds is ensured.