

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
WATER RESOURCES  
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:93  
ANSWERED ON:08.12.2003  
35TH MEETING OF JOINT RIVERS COMMISSION  
VINAY KUMAR SORAKE;VUKKALA RAJESWARAMMA

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

- (a) whether Bangladesh has expressed its apprehensions on India's project of inter-linking of rivers during the 35th meeting of Joint Rivers Commission held recently;
- (b) if so, the details of deliberations held alongwith outcome thereof;
- (c) whether Bangladesh has been assured by India that international laws on water sharing would be adhered to in the river-linking project;
- (d) if so, whether Bangladesh Government are considering to appeal to the United Nations to redraft international laws on water sharing by the concerned countries;
- (e) if so, whether it is consequent to India's proposed river- linking project; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI)

(a) to (f) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (f) OF STARRED QUESTION NO. 93 TO BE ANSWERED ON 8.12.2003 IN LOK SABHA REGARDING 35TH MEETING OF JOINT RIVERS COMMISSION.

(a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The issue of India's proposed river- linking project was raised by Bangladesh at the last meeting of the Joint Rivers Commission held at New Delhi from 28th September- 1st October, 2003, in reply to which the Indian side had stated that the proposal was only at a conceptual stage. As regards the international dimensions of the project, the Task Force on Inter- Linking of Rivers is required to consider these issues and give recommendations. Further action will depend on the recommendations of the Task Force and the existing international treaties and laws.

(d) No formal information in this regard has been received by the Government.

(e) & (f) Does not arise.