

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2774
ANSWERED ON:19.03.2007
INTER LINKING OF RIVERS
Verma Shri Ravi Prakash

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the work of inter-linking of rivers in the Himalayan sphere of the country is in a unnaturally slow pace;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether population projection to touch 1.6 billion people by 2050 and the food grain requirement was expected to touch 400 million tonnes;
- (d) if so, the steps taken by the Union Government to give priorities to irrigation and agriculture to meet the future requirement; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to inter-link rivers to increase the irrigation capacity and the stage at which the matter of inter-linking rivers stands at present alongwith the progress made so far in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV)

(a) & (b) Out of the 14 links identified for preparation of feasibility reports (FRs) under Himalayan Component of National Perspective Plan (NPP) for Water Resources Development FRs of two links viz Sarda - Yamuna and Ghagra - Yamuna have been completed for Indian Portion. Field surveys & Investigations for the remaining links in Indian portion are in advanced stage of completion.

(c) A study carried out by the United Nations (1994) has indicated that population of India by 2050 AD using medium projection would be about 1.60 billion. Further, the National Commission for Integrated Water Resources Development (1999) has estimated the food requirement for the country by 2050 AD as 494 million tonnes (high demand) and 420 million tonnes (low demand).

(d) & (e) The Ministry of Water Resources (MOWR) (erstwhile Ministry of Irrigation) and Central Water Commission CWC) formulated a National Perspective Plan (NPP) for Water Resources Development in 1980 envisaging inter-basin transfer of water from surplus basins to deficit basins/areas for optimum utilization of water Resources. The NPP comprises two components, namely, Himalayan Rivers Development Component and Peninsular Rivers Development Component. National Water Development Agency (NWDA) was set up under the MOWR in 1982 for carrying out various technical studies to establish the feasibility of the proposals of NPP. Based on various studies conducted, NWDA has identified 30 links (16 under Peninsular Component & 14 under Himalayan Component) for preparation of Feasibility Report (FRs). Out of these, FRs of 14 links under Peninsular Component and 2 links (Indian Portion) under Himalayan Component have already been completed.

Further, a Memorandum of Understanding for preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR) of one of the links in Peninsular Component Namely Ken-Betwa link was signed among the Central Government and State Governments of Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh on 25th August, 2005. Subsequently, the Central Government entrusted the preparation of the DPR of the aforesaid link to NWDA.