

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:513

ANSWERED ON:28.07.2010

INTER LINKING OF RIVERS

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Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) the present status of inter-linking of rivers project in the country, link-wise;
- (b) whether the Expert Committee set up by the Government to advise on the issue has submitted its report;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) the action taken by the Government for getting final approval for commencement of work on each of the projects, project-wise; and
- (e) the funds earmarked for implementation of finally approved projects, project wise?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT H. PALA)

(a) The Ministry of Water Resources (MOWR) (erstwhile Ministry of Irrigation) 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 which 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 and to give concrete shape to it. Based on various studies conducted, NWDA has identified 30 links (16 under Peninsular Component & 14 under Himalayan Component) for preparation of Feasibility Reports (FRs). Out of these, FRs of 14 links under Peninsular Component and FRs of 2 links (Indian Portion) under Himalayan Component have been completed. Detailed Project Report (DPR) of one priority link namely, Ken – Betwa was completed and sent to the Governments of Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh for comments. The Government of Madhya Pradesh has suggested an alternative proposal. Now the DPR of the project is to be revised in two phases. The DPR of the phase-I has been completed and sent to the Government of Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh in May 2010 for comments. Further, NWDA has taken up the DPRs of two more priority links after concurrence of the concerned states, namely Par – Tapi – Narmada and Damanganga – Pinjal which are planned to be completed by December, 2011. Another priority link namely, Godavari (Polavaram)- Krishna(Vijawada) link is part of the Polavaram project of the Andhra Pradesh. Planning Commission has given investment clearance to the Polavaram Project and the Government of Andhra Pradesh has taken up the above project including link component as per their proposals. The name and status of link proposals under NPP is given at Annexure-I.

(b) & (c) Ministry of Water Resources constituted a Committee of environmentalists, social scientists and other experts on interlinking of rivers on 28.12.2004 with a view to make the process of proceeding on ILR consultative. The role of Committee is advisory in nature and it is required to render its advice to the government from time to time on its terms of reference (ToR). The Committee has not been given the task of preparation of any report.

(d) The DPR of each link after completion is forwarded to the concerned State Governments. The concerned State Governments submit such proposals along with requisite statutory clearances from other Ministries/ Departments to the Advisory Committee of the MoWR for approval and forwarding the same to Planning Commission for investment clearance. Stage has not yet reached for placing link proposals before Advisory Committee of MoWR for approval.

(e) The stage for earmarking the funds for implementation of finally approved projects has not yet reached.