

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2479

ANSWERED ON:24.11.2010

LINKING OF RIVERS

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Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Union Government has received proposals from various State Governments for inclusion of certain rivers as part of the proposed inter-linking and intra-linking of the river projects;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and the present status of these proposals;
- (c) the estimated costs of these projects and the funds spent so far;
- (d) the time limit fixed for completion of each of these projects;
- (e) whether the inter-linking of river projects implementation has received road blocks from various States;
- (f) if so, the details thereof; and
- (g) the manner in which the inter-linking river projects is likely to solve the water crises, flood and drought conditions in the country?

Answer

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

(a) to (d): National Water Development Agency (NWDA) has received 36 proposals of intra- state links from 7 States viz. Maharashtra, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Orissa, Bihar, Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu. Out of above, Pre-Feasibility Reports (PFRs) of 12 intra-state links have been completed by NWDA. Details of intra-state link proposals received from the State Governments along with their status, estimated cost and target for completion of their PFRs is given at Annexure-I. At present these intra-state links are at PFR stage and as such no expenditure has been incurred on the implementation of these projects. The concerned State have to get the Feasibility Report/ Detailed Project Report of these projects prepared, which is the next stage toward their implementations. The time schedule for completion of the projects is worked out at DPR stage.

(e) to (g): 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 River Development Component and Peninsular River Development Component. National Water Development agency (NWDA) was set up under MoWR in 1982 for carrying out various technical studies to establish the feasibility of proposals of NPP and to give concrete shape to it. Based upon various studies conducted, NWDA has identified 30 links (16 under Peninsular Component and 14 under Himalayan Component) for preparation of Feasibility Reports (FRs). The list of the identified links is at Annexure-II

Most of the States are supportive of the concept of the interlinking of rivers project; provided the project can some how ensure a "win – win" situation for all States. Various State Govts. have expressed apprehensions on the issues like water availability, power required for pumping, disturbing the existing allocation as per awards. These issues are addressed at appropriate forums of NWDA. The State of Kerala, has passed a resolution in the Kerala Assembly to drop the proposal of Pamba-Achankovil-Vaippar link. The Central Government has taken note of it and has decided not to treat it as a priority link for consensus building purpose at present.

The link proposals firmed up by NWDA under NPP envisage additional irrigation benefits of 25 million hectares of irrigation from surface waters, 10 million hectare by increased use of ground waters and generation of 34000 MW of power apart from the benefits of flood moderation navigation, water supply, fisheries, salinity, pollution control etc.