

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3500

ANSWERED ON:01.12.2010

RIVER LINKING PROJECTS

Bhagat Shri Sudarshan;Kaswan Shri Ram Singh

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to discontinue/has discontinued the river linking projects;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor alongwith the details thereof; and
- (c) the expenditure incurred on National Water Development Agency looking after the project during each of the last three years and the current year alongwith their viability?

Answer

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

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The expenditure incurred by NWDA in the last three years and during the current year (2010-11) up to September is furnished below:

Year Expenditure incurred
(Rs. in Crore)

2007-08 22.00

2008-09 30.04

2009-10 29.94

2010-11 19.27

up to 30th
September,
2010

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. Five links under Peninsular Component namely (i) Ken-Betwa, (ii)Parbati-Kalisindh-Chambal, (iii) Damanganga-Pinjal, (iv) Par-Tapi-Narmada &(v) Godavari (Polavaram)-Krishna (Vijayawada) were identified as priority links for building consensus among the concerned states for taking up their DPRs. Also, the preparation of Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) of link projects and pre-feasibility/ feasibility reports of intra-state links as proposed by States were included in the functions of NWDA vide resolution dated 30.11.2006.

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 based on which two phases of the project are envisaged. 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.

So far, 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.

The viability of link proposals under National Perspective Plan (NPP) is assessed at every stage of their formulation as is done for any other water resources project. While preparing Pre-feasibility Reports (PFRs) their techno-economic viability is established at the preliminary stage. The Feasibility Reports (FRs) of such link proposals which are found techno-economically viable at PFR stage are taken up. While preparing FRs various studies such as Survey and Investigation, hydrological analysis, rapid socio-economic and environment impact assessment studies, etc. are carried out. Thereafter, DPRs of such link proposals which are found viable at FR stage are taken up with the concurrence of concerned states. At Details Project Report (DPR) stage the detailed studies regarding all the aspects of the link proposal are carried out. Thereafter, such proposals along with requisite statutory clearances from other Ministries/Departments are considered by the Advisory Committee of the MOWR on irrigation, flood control and multipurpose project for approval.