

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2070

ANSWERED ON:11.08.2011

INTERLINKING OF RIVERS

Agarwal Shri Jai Prakash; Gandhi Shri Dilip Kumar Mansukhlal; Kumar Shri P.; Lal Shri Kirodi ; Mandal Shri Mangani Lal; Singh Shri Jagada Nand; Sivasami Shri C.; Veljibhai Jat Poonamben; Venugopal Shri P.; Verma Shri Sajjan Singh

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government had constituted a task force on interlinking of rivers;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the works undertaken by the task force so far on interlinking of rivers;
- (d) the progress achieved so far in the matter, State-wise and at national level;
- (e) the reasons for the delay; and
- (f) the steps being taken by the Government to expedite necessary action in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) Yes Madam.

(b) A Task Force under the Chairmanship of Shri Suresh. P. Prabhu, the then Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha) was constituted during December, 2002 on Inter Linking of Rivers (ILR).

(c) The Task Force completed its work and submitted Action Plan – I during April, 2003 giving outline of time schedule for completion of Feasibility Reports, Detailed Project Reports, Estimated Cost, Implementation Schedule, concrete benefits and Advantages of the project. Action plan – II giving alternative options for funding and execution of the projects and suggestion on methods for cost recovery etc. was also submitted during April, 2004. Task Force on Interlinking of Rivers (TF – ILR) was wound up w. e. f. 31.12.2004 on completion of its mandated task. A Special Cell has been constituted to look after the residual routine work of the TF – ILR and for taking follow up action on the Interlinking of rivers Programme under the Ministry of Water Resources (MOWR).

(d) The 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 National Perspective Plan (NPP) and to give concrete shape to them. 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 2 links (Indian Portion) under Himalayan Component have been completed. The present status of links identified for preparation of FRs is given at Annexure-I.

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 Detailed Project Reports (DPRs). DPR of one priority link namely, Ken – Betwa (Phase-I) has been completed. 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. A tripartite MOU for preparation of DPRs of both these links was signed by the Chief Ministers of Gujarat, Maharashtra and the Union Minister for Water Resources on 3.05.2010. Efforts are being made to arrive at consensus on the other priority link viz Parbati – Kalisindh – Chambal through deliberations with the concerned States of Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan for preparation of DPR. 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.

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 15 intra-state links have been completed by NWDA. The details of intra-state link proposals received from the State Governments along with their status and target for completion of their PFRs is given at Annexure-II. NWDA has taken up works for preparation of DPR of 2 intra state links namely Kosi-Mechi Link and Burhi-Gandak - None-Baya- Ganga link of Bihar,

(e) The completion of the Inter-linking of Rivers proposals depends on the consensus and cooperation of the concerned States and agreements with neighbouring countries (in case of link proposals under the Himalayan Component).

(f) The Government has constituted a Consensus Group headed by Chairman, Central Water Commission (CWC) and consisting of Secretaries of Irrigation/ Water Resources Departments of the concerned States for arriving at consensus regarding sharing of surplus waters and to discuss issues of preparation of Detailed Project Reports by NWDA. So far ten meetings of the consensus group have been held. The consensus building for eight more links under Mahanadi- Godavari-Krishna-Pennar-Cauvery-Vaigai-Gundar linkage system for taking up their DPRs with concerned states has been initiated.

The issues related with the inter-basin water transfer proposals under NPP are regularly discussed with the officials of State Governments at the meeting of the Governing Body (GB) and Society of NWDA. So far 56 meetings of GB and 26 meetings of Society have been held.