

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
WATER RESOURCES  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5796

ANSWERED ON:08.09.2011

ECONOMIC IMPACT OF INTERLINKING OF RIVERS

Majumdar Shri Prasanta Kumar; Tirkey Shri Manohar

**Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) has conducted a study on the economic impact of interlinking of rivers programme;
- (b) if so, whether NCAER has completed the study and submitted its report to the Government;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government on the report submitted by the NCAER?

**Answer**

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

(a) Yes Sir.

(b) Yes Sir.

(c) & (d) The report was submitted by NCAER in April, 2008. The conclusions/ recommendations given by NCAER in its report mentions various benefits of Interlinking of river programme such as additional benefits of irrigation & power, increase in growth rate of agriculture, growth of direct & indirect employment, improvement in the quality of life of people in rural areas and mitigation of floods & drought. The recommendations also include certain action points like setting up National Commission for Basin management, improving cost recovery from irrigation projects & formation of Water Users Association. At present, no interlinking project under National Perspective Plan (NPP) is under implementation. Therefore, the stage has not come for taking decision on the action points suggested in the report.