

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5860
ANSWERED ON:08.09.2011
REVIEW OF INTERLINKING OF RIVERS PROJECT
Rao Shri Kavuri Samba Siva

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to review the interlinking of rivers project;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has proposed to bring a new Act for the utilization of waters of the inter-State rivers; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) 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 of two components, namely, Himalayan Rivers Development Component and Peninsular Rivers Development Component. National Water Development Agency (NWDA) was set up under the Ministry of Water Resources in 1982 for carrying out various technical studies to establish the feasibility of the inter-linking of the rivers proposals envisaged under 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 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 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 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 present status of links identified for preparation of Feasibility Reports is given at Annexure-I.

The issues related with the inter-basin water transfer proposals under NPP are regularly discussed with the officials of State Governments in the Governing body (GB) and Society of NWDA. So far 56 meetings of GB and 26 meetings of Society have been held. The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Water Resources also examined the subject of Inter Linking of Rivers in its sitting held on 12.4.2008.

The Government has also 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 activities of NWDA are reviewed on Plan to Plan basis. Government has reviewed the activities of NWDA while finalizing its outlay for XI Plan.

(C) No Sir,

(d) Does not arise.