

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
WATER RESOURCES  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:517

ANSWERED ON:24.11.2011

RIVER INTER-LINKING PROJECT

Majumdar Shri Prasanta Kumar;Owaisi Shri Asaduddin;Sayeed Muhammed Hamdulla A. B. ;Tirkey Shri Manohar

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

- (a) whether the Hon'ble Supreme Court has made certain observations in respect of the financial viability of inter-linking of rivers project recently;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) the details of the allocation of budget for the project made during the last ten years;
- (d) whether any study has been conducted on the impact of this project on the environment;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the reaction of the Government thereto?

**Answer**

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

(a) The Hon'ble Supreme Court recently heard the matter on 17.10.2011 and ordered for placing the petition in January-2012.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) The National Water Development Agency (NWDA) was setup under Ministry of Water Resources in 1982 for carrying out various technical studies to establish the feasibility of the proposals of National Perspective Plan (NPP) for inter linking of Rivers and to give concrete shape to it. Later preparation of Pre-feasibility Report/ Feasibility Report, Detailed Project Report of intra State links was also added in the functions of NWDA. The details of the grant-in-Aid released to NWDA during last 10 years i.e. from 2001-02 to 2010-11 are given at Annexure-I

(d) to (f) Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) studies are mandatory for all Major & Medium river valley projects including river link projects, at Detailed Project Report (DPR) stage before investment clearance by Planning Commission. EIA studies of one link viz Ken-Betwa has been carried out. Expert Appraisal Committee of Ministry of Environment and Forests has suggested additional studies and revision in EIA studies of Ken-Betwa Link is underway. Stage has not reached for appraisal of EIA studies of Ken Betwa link by Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF).