

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:520
ANSWERED ON:24.11.2011
NATIONAL WATER DEVELOPMENT AGENCY
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Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the prime objectives of the National Water Development Agency (NWDA);
- (b) whether the NWDA has taken any steps to resolve problems of flood and irrigation in the country; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a) The functions of the National Water Development Agency at present are as follows:

(i) To carry out detailed survey and investigations of possible reservoir sites and inter-connecting links in order to establish feasibility of the proposal of Peninsular Rivers Development and Himalayan Rivers Development Components forming part of the National Perspective Plan for Water Resources Development prepared by the then Ministry of Irrigation (now Ministry of Water Resources) and Central Water Commission.

(ii) To carry out detailed studies about the quantum of water in various Peninsular River systems and Himalayan River systems which can be transferred to other basins/States after meeting the reasonable needs of the basin/States in the foreseeable future.

(iii) To prepare feasibility report of the various components of the scheme relating to Peninsular Rivers development and Himalayan Rivers development.

(iv) To prepare detailed project report of river link proposals under National Perspective Plan for Water Resources Development after concurrence of the concerned States.

(v) To prepare pre – feasibility / feasibility / detailed project reports of the intra-state links as may be proposed by the States. The concurrence of the concerned co-basin States for such proposals may be obtained before taking up their FRs / DPRs.

(vi) To do all such other things the Society may consider necessary, incidental, supplementary or conducive to the attainment of above objectives.

(b) & (c) 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) for interlinking of Rivers 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.

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 Memorandum of Understanding for preparation of DPR of Par-Tapi Narmada and Damanganga-Pinjal link was signed by the Chief Ministers of Gujarat, Maharashtra and the Union Minister of Water Resources on 3.5.2010. 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.

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.

The Inter-Linking proposals under NPP envisages additional benefits of 25 million ha. of irrigation from surface waters, 10 million ha, by increased use of ground waters and generation of 34,000 MW of power apart from the incidental benefits of flood moderation, navigation, water supply, salinity & population control etc.