

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1560

ANSWERED ON:22.03.2012

INTERLINKING OF RIVERS

Adhalrao Patil Shri Shivaji;Adsul Shri Anandrao Vithoba;Ahir Shri Hansraj Gangaram;Antony Shri Anto;Biju Shri P. K.;Chowdhury Shri Adhir Ranjan;Das Gupta Shri Gurudas;Dharmshi Shri Babar Gajanan;Ganeshamurthi Shri A.;Gowda Shri D.B. Chandre;Jawale Shri Haribhau Madhav;Karwariya Shri Kapil Muni;Kodikunnil Shri Suresh;Kumar Shri Vishwa Mohan;Lingam Shri P.;Mahtab Shri Bhartruhari;Meghwal Shri Arjun Ram ;Nagar Shri Surendra Singh;Owaisi Shri Asaduddin;Pakirappa Shri S.;Panda Shri Prabodh;Patil Shri A.T. Nana;Ram Shri Pummasi;Rama Devi Smt. ;Ramasubbu Shri S.;Ray Shri Rudramadhab ;Reddy Shri Anantha Venkatarami;Saha Shri Anup Kumar;Sardinha Shri Francisco;Shekhar Shri Neeraj;Shivanagouda Shri Shivaramagouda;Singh Shri Brij Bhushan Sharan;Singh Shri Uma Shanaker;Sivasami Shri C.;Sugumar Shri K. ;Tagore Shri Manicka;Tarai Shri Bibhu Prasad;Vardhan Shri Harsh;Vasava Shri Mansukhbhai D.;Vijayan Shri A.K.S.;Yadav Shri Dharmendra

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has constituted a high powered committee to implement the river inter-linking project and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the Government has received any complaints/suggestions/ projects from the State Governments in this regard and if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the measures taken by the Government to resolve the issue of water crisis, flood, drought, paucity of water for irrigation and power projects through the linking of rivers?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES & MINORITY AFFAIRS

(SHRI VINCENT H. PALA)

(a) No, Madam.

(b) The suggestions/views are being received from state governments from time to time on the pre feasibility /feasibility/Detailed Project Reports which are duly taken care of while modifying the reports. Further, 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 20 intra-state links have been completed by NWDA. 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.

(c) The Ministry of Water Resources (MOWR) (erstwhile Ministry of Irrigation) had 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 two components, namely, Himalayan Rivers Development Component and Peninsular Rivers Development Component. 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 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.

Five Peninsular links namely (i) Ken-Betwa, (ii) Parbati -Kalisindh - Chambal, (iii) Damanganga -Pinjal, (iv) Par -Tapi -Narmada & (v) Godavari (Polavaram) - Krishna (Vijayawada) have been identified as priority links for taking up their Detailed Project Reports (DPRs). DPR of one priority link namely Ken-Betwa has been completed and was communicated to the party states. Modifications of the proposals and final Detailed Project Report preparation have been taken up by NWDA in light of observations of the concerned states. The Ken-Betwa link project has been included in the scheme of National Projects.

The link proposals firmed up by NWDA under NPP envisage additional irrigation benefits of 25 million hectares of irrigation from surface waters, 10 million hectare by increased use of ground waters and generation of 34000 MW of power apart from the benefits of flood moderation navigation, water supply, fisheries, salinity, pollution control etc.