

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
WATER RESOURCES  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:944

ANSWERED ON:25.11.2009

REVIEW OF INTER-LINKING OF RIVERS

Adityanath Shri Yogi; Das Gupta Shri Gurudas; Gandhi Smt. Maneka Sanjay; Lingam Shri P.; Meghe Shri Datta Raghobaji; Rawat Shri Ashok Kumar; Sinha Shri Yashwant

**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 and the reasons therefor;
- (c) the funds spent so far on the projects related to the interlinking of rivers in the country;
- (d) whether Government has constituted any Expert Committee to make a comprehensive assessment of the feasibility of the project;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the progress made by the Government in this regard?

**Answer**

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

(a) to (c) & (f) 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 MOWR in 1982 for carrying out various technical studies to establish the feasibility of the proposals of NPP and to give concrete shape to it. 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 of 2 links (Indian Portion) under Himalayan Component have been completed. Detailed Project Report (DPR) of one priority link namely Ken – Betwa has also been completed. Further, NWDA has taken up the DPRs of another two links after concurrence of the concerned states, namely Par – Tapi – Narmada & Damanganga – Pinjal which are planned to be completed by December, 2011. 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. Further, NWDA has received 31 proposals of intra – state links from 7 States out of which Pre Feasibility Reports (PFRs) of 7 intrastate links have been completed.

The activities of NWDA are reviewed on Plan to Plan basis. The Government has reviewed the activities of NWDA while finalizing its outlay for XI Plan. A provision of Rs. 182.80 crore has been kept in Eleventh Five Year Plan for the preparation of (PFRs) / FRs / DPRs of river link proposals under NPP, preparation of PFRs/ FRs of Intra-state links proposed by states and other studies in this regard by NWDA. NWDA has incurred an expenditure of Rs. 271.44 crore from 1982-83 upto October, 09 for carrying out above works.

(d) & (e) The Government of India has constituted a Committee of Environmentalists, Social Scientists and other Experts on 28th December, 2004, under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Ministry of Water Resources to advise the Government on the environmental and socio-economic issues involved in inter linking of rivers programme. Seven meetings of this Committee have been held so far.