

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:198

ANSWERED ON:22.11.2012

INTERLINKING OF RIVERS

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Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Supreme Court has directed the Government to implement the river interlinking project in a time bound manner and if so, the reaction of the Union Government thereto;
- (b) whether the Government has constituted any high-powered committee for implementing the interlinking of rivers project and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the interlinking of rivers will help in overcoming the problems of flood, drought, irrigation and shortage of water to power projects and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the details of suggestions and project proposals sent by the State Governments;
- (e) whether any petition has been filed by the Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) seeking review of the interlinking of rivers judgement and if so, the details thereof;
- (f) the details of the cost overrun on account of delay in the said project; and
- (g) the action taken to link the Parvan, Chambal and Kalisindh rivers and the success achieved therein?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI HARISH RAWAT)

(a) & (b) Government is constituting a high Powered Committee to implement the interlinking of rivers as per the direction of the Supreme Court.

(c) Inter-linking proposals under National Perspective Plan(NPP) envisage additional benefits of 25 million ha. of irrigation from surface waters, 10 million ha. by increased use of ground water and generation of 34,000 MW of power apart from the incidental benefits of flood moderation, navigation, water supply, salinity & pollution control etc. Interlinking of rivers will help to a certain extent to overcome drought also.

(d) National Water Development Agency(NWDA) has received 36 proposals of intra-state links from 7 States viz. Maharashtra(20), Gujarat(1), Jharkhand(3), Orissa(3), Bihar(6), Rajasthan(2) and Tamil Nadu(1). Out of these, Pre-Feasibility Reports (PFRs) of 21 intra-state links have been completed by NWDA. Further, recently 10 more proposals of inter-State link (3 from Bihar, 6 from Karnataka & 1 from Chhattisgarh) have also been received in NWDA.

(e) No, Madam

(f) Since projects are in planning and investigation stages, the questions of cost over runs does not arise.

(g) National Water Development Agency(NWDA) has prepared a feasibility report of Parbati-Kalisindh-Chambal link. A consensus, to build this link, between Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh, has yet to be achieved.