

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:141

ANSWERED ON:07.03.2013

INTERLINKING OF RIVERS

Rama Devi Smt. ;Singh Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of works under progress for interlinking of rivers in the country including the details of surveys conducted and the Detailed Project Reports prepared so far, river and State-wise;
- (b) the funds allocated for the purpose and spent therefor including the time-schedule for their completion, river and State/UT-wise;
- (c) the reasons for the slow progress in the completion of the interlinking of river project;
- (d) whether any special committee has been constituted for the project as per the directions of the Supreme Court and if so, the terms of reference of the committee; and
- (e) the estimated cost of the project along with the concrete steps taken/ proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI HARISH RAWAT)

(a) to (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (e) OF THE STARRED QUESTION NO. 141 TO BE ANSWERED ON 07.03.2013 IN LOK SABHA REGARDING INTERLINKING OF RIVERS

a) The details of works under progress for interlinking of rivers in the country including the details of surveys conducted and the Detailed Project Reports in the country are as follows:

National Water Development Agency (NWDA) was originally entrusted with establishment of feasibility of the proposals of Peninsular Component of National Perspective Plan (NPP) in 1982. The mandate has been extended to cover Himalayan Component in 1990, taking up of Detailed Project Reports of Priority links and Pre-feasibility reports of Intra State links in 2006 and finally DPR of Intra State links in 2011. While most of the works mandated up to 1990 have been completed, the fresh works under new mandates are in progress. Details are given in succeeding paragraphs.

a.1) Links as Identified under National Perspective Plan (NPP) of 1980

Table-1

1. No.	Item	Quantity
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	Completed	Ongoing
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A Proposals under National Perspective Plan

1	Water balance studies of basins / sub-basins	137	0
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2	Water balance studies of diversion	71	0
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points

3 Prefeasibility reports of links 32 0

4 Toposheet studies of link alignments 37 0

5 Toposheet and storage capacity studies of reservoirs 74 0

6 Surveys and Investigations and Preparation of Feasibility reports of specific links(#) 16 14

7 Surveys and Investigations and Preparation of Detailed Project Report of specific links() 1 2

Link wise details at Annexure-I)

Details as per Table -2

Under Inter Basin Water Transfer Links under National Perspective Plan, 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 preparation of Detailed Project Reports (DPRs on the basis of Task Force report. Status of the preparations of DPR are furnished at Table -2 below:

Table -2

Status of various Detailed Project Reports for Inter Basin Water Transfer Links of NPP

S. No. Name of link Rivers States concerned Completion year

A Proposals under National Perspective Plan

1 Ken-Betwa Ken & Betwa Uttar Pradesh, DPR completed.
Madhya Pradesh Declared as National Project for funding under the scheme of National Projects.

2 Par-Tapi- Par, Tapi & Gujarat & 2013
Narmada Narmada Maharashtra

3 Damanganga- Damanganga & Gujarat & 2013
Pinjal Pinjal Maharashtra

4 Polavaram- Godavari & Andhra Pradesh Project already taken up by Govt.
Vijayawada Krishna of AP under AIBP funding

5 Parbati - Parbati , Madhya Pradesh No date finalized.
Kalisindh - Kalisindh and Rajasthan
Chambal & Chambal

a.2) Intra-State Links identified by States from 2006 onwards

To find out conceptual feasibility, certain States have entrusted preparation of Pre Feasibility/ Feasibility reports of intra-state links to National Water Development Agency (NWDA) in November, 2006. So far, NWDA has received 36 proposals of intra-state links from 7 States viz. Maharashtra, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Orissa, Bihar, Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu. Out of these, Pre-Feasibility Reports (PFRs) of 24 intra-state links have been completed by NWDA up to January, 2013. Detailed status is given at Annexure-II.

Preparation of Detailed Project Report of Intra State links proposed by States was included in the functions of National Water Development Agency in 2011. Status of Preparation of Detailed Project Reports of Intra-State Water Transfer Links in Consultation with State Governments are given below at Table-3

Table-3

S. No. Name of link Rivers States concerned Completion year

1 Burhi Gandak- Burhi Bihar 2013
None-Baya - Gandak
Ganga link & Ganga

2 Kosi-Mechi Kosi & Mechi Bihar 2013
Link

3 Bagmati-Burhi Bagmati- Bihar 2015
Gandak link Burhi Gandak

4 Wainganga Wainganga & Maharastra 2015
(Gosikurd) - Purna Tapi
Nalganga
(Purna Tapi) link

Additional proposals as and when made by the respective State Governments are examined by NWDA.

b) Funds Allocated to NWDA for the purpose and spent there for including the time-schedule for their completion, river and State/UT-wise.

The budgetary provision for preparation of Feasibility Reports (FRs) and Detailed Project Report (DPR) for the present financial year 2012-13 is Rs. 43.40 crore. The amount spent on water balance studies of basins/sub-basins and catchments up to diversion points, toposheet studies of reservoirs and link alignments, storage capacity studies of reservoirs, pre-feasibility studies, feasibility studies and Detailed Project Report (DPR) of Interlinking of Rivers programme from inception of NWDA till 31st January, 2013 is Rs 394.99 crore. The expenditure has been incurred for studies for establishing viability of the proposals from hydrological and technical angles. Since the studies are connected with each other, study wise expenditure has not been maintained. The specific time frame for completion of the individual link project can be identified only after the DPR is techno-economically approved.

(c) The reason for slow progress

Preparation of PFR, FR and finally DPR is a time consuming process. Finalisation of proposed water utilisations and required structures encompasses complex social, political and technical issues. Therefore, consensus building amongst States involves long time and multiple studies. Preparation of Detailed Project Report of a link require about 3-4 years time and also need the concurrence of concerned State Government and various Nodal Ministries including Ministry of Environment and Forests. Often, concurrence of neighbouring Countries is also involved.

As per above the progress is optimum.

(d) Constitution of Special Committee under Directions of Hon'ble Supreme Court

Hon'ble Supreme Court while delivering judgement in respect of Writ Petition (CIVIL) No.512 of 2002 IN RE: NETWORKING OF RIVERS WITH WRIT PETITION (CIVIL) NO. 668 OF 2002, have directed the Union of India and particularly the Ministry of Water Resources, Government of India, to forthwith constitute a Committee to be called a 'Special Committee for Inter-linking of Rivers' headed by the Union Minister for Water Resurces and comprising of members from States and also representatives of other associated Union Ministries as well as experts nominated by them, including Amicus Curiae According to the terms of reference of the Committee as per directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court,

the High Powered Committee has to look into all aspects of implementation of ILR project and get the project implemented.

The MoWR is in the process of constituting the High Power Committee on interlinking of rivers as per the direction of the Supreme Court. For that purpose, nomination from the states involved in the Inter-linking of rivers have been called for as per the direction of the Supreme Court. Out of 20 States involved, response of 8 States received.

(e) Cost estimates for the Interlinking of Rivers Project as per NPP

The initial cost of the Inter Linking projects as estimated in Preliminary Studies at Pre-feasibility/ Feasibility stage is Rs 5.60 Lakh crore at 2002 Price Level. The firm cost can be estimated only after the completion of Detailed Project Reports (DPR) of individual links. However, Govt. of India is making continuous efforts to bring consensus amongst party States for early completion of DPRs.