

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2618

ANSWERED ON:06.02.2014

INTERLINKING OF RIVERS

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Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) the present status of interlinking of rivers;
- (b) whether various projects taken up for interlinking of rivers are running behind schedule, if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the details of the meetings held so far by the high-powered Committee set up as per the Supreme Court order, for planning and implementation of interlinking of rivers;
- (d) whether the committee has conducted any study on feasibility of the project and environmental impact assessment, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the action taken by the Government on various Detailed Project Reports prepared on river interlinking projects?

Answer

THE HON'BLE MINISTER OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE AND WATER RESOURCES (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD)

(a) 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. 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. NWDA has identified 30 links (16 under Peninsular Component & 14 under Himalayan Component for preparation of Feasibility Reports (FRs). Out of these, Feasibility Reports (FRs) of 14 links under Peninsular Component and FRs of 2 links (Indian portion) under Himalayan Component has been prepared. The present status State/U-Ts wise of links identified for preparation of feasibility reports is given at Annexure-I

After completion of such feasibility reports, 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. The present status of the preparation of DPR is given at Table-1 below:

Table -1 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
(Phase-I & II) Madhya Pradesh Declared as National Project.

2 Par-Tapi-Narmada Par, Tapi & Gujarat & 2014
Narmada Maharashtra

3 Damanganga-Pinjal Damanganga Gujarat & 2014
& Pinjal Maharashtra

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

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

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, 36 proposals of intra-state links from 7 States viz. Maharashtra, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Orissa, Bihar, Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu received by NWDA. Out of these, Pre-Feasibility Reports

(PFRs) of 27 intra-state links have been completed by NWDA up to March 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-2

Table-2

S. No.	Name of link	Rivers	States concerned	Completion year
1	Burhi Gandak - None-Baya- Ganga link	Burhi Gandak & Ganga	Bihar and submitted to Govt. of Bihar in - December, 2013	DPR completed
2	Kosi-Mechi Link	Kosi & Mechi	Bihar	2014
3	Wainganga (Gosikurd) - Nalganga (Purna Tapi) link	Wainganga & Purna Tapi	Maharashtra	2015
4	Ponnnyar-Palar link	Ponnnyar-Palar	Tamil Nadu	2015

(b) The implementation of Inter linking of Rivers (ILR) projects involves various steps such as preparation of Feasibility Reports (FRs) of links, negotiation and consensus among concerned States, agreement with neighboring countries if link involves area lying in those countries, preparation of DPRs of the projects, clearance from appraisal agencies which includes clearance by Ministry of Environment & Forests (MoEF) and Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA), techno- economic clearance by Technical Advisory Committee of Ministry of Water Resources and investment clearance by Planning Commission and issue of funds for the project.

(c) Supreme Court vide their judgment in a Writ Petition (Civil) on Networking of Rivers (Interlinking of rivers) had directed that the Ken-Betwa inter-linking project be taken up for implementation at the first instance and the progress obtaining be placed bi-annually before the Cabinet. The Supreme Court had also directed constitution of Special Committee under the chairmanship of Hon'ble Minister for Water Resources for carrying forward the inter-linking of rivers programme.

(d) Does not arise in view of (c) above.

(e) The DPR for three projects have been prepared. DPR of Ken Betwa Phase-I is yet to be given the environmental and forest clearance. Two DPRs namely Ken Betwa Phase-II and Burhi Gandak- None-Baya Ganga link has been recently submitted to respective State Governments for further action. The Project can be taken up for execution only after all statutory clearances are given.