

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
WATER RESOURCES  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2214

ANSWERED ON:02.12.2009

RIVER LINKING PROJECTS

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**Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Union Government fails to run the river-linking Project smoothly inspite of incurring expenditure of Rs.20 to 30 crore per year;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) the annual budget of National water Development Agency formed to link rivers;
- (d) the amount incurred on this project and the details of work undertaken and its present status;
- (e) whether any time limit has been set to complete this project;
- (f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (g) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

**Answer**

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

(a) to (d) 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 priority links namely Par – Tapi – Narmada & Damanganga – Pinjal after concurrence of the concerned states, which are planned to be completed by December, 2011. Fifth priority link namely Godavari (Polavaram)-Krishna (Vijawada) 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.

A provision of Rs. 32.44 crore has been kept for the year 2009-10 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, 2009 for carrying out above works.

(e) to (g) The completion of link proposals under NPP depends upon consensus and cooperation of concerned states and agreement with neighbouring countries. The policy of the Government is to implement the scheme by consensus. The Government has constituted a group headed by Chairman, Central Water Commission (CWC) and consisting of other officers of CWC, NWDA and Secretaries of Irrigation/Water Resources Departments of the concerned states in June, 2002 to discuss with the states the issues for arriving at a consensus regarding sharing of surplus water and preparation of DPRs by NWDA.