

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4359
ANSWERED ON:16.12.2009
PUBLIC OPINION ON LINKING OF RIVERS
Dharmshi Shri Babar Gajanan;Saroj Smt. Sushila

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has mobilized/proposes to mobilize public opinion in regard to interlinking of rivers;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the methodologies adopted/proposed to be adopted for the same; and
- (c) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) to (c) The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Water Resources (14th Lok Sabha) in its 11th Report on Inter linking of Rivers (ILR) has mentioned that "the Committee invited Memoranda from individuals /Experts/NGOs etc. some of whom were also invited to depose before the Committee and give their views/opinions.After hearing, the views/opinions of the experts on the subject,the Committee have come to the conclusion that a majority of them are in favour of ILR programme."

Further,the Ministry of Water Resources has constituted a committee of environmentalists, social scientists and other experts on Interlinking of Rivers on 28.12.2004 under the Chairmanship of Secretary (WR) with a view to make the process of proceeding on ILR consultative. The committee comprises of members from concerned Government departments, eminent environmentalists, social scientists and NGOs. The committee renders its advice to the Government from time to time on its terms of reference. The committee has held 7 meetings s o far. National Water Development Agency takes appropriate action on the suggestions made by the committee.