

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANAGA REJUVENATION
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:48

ANSWERED ON:26.02.2015

INTERLINKING OF RIVERS

Choudhary Shri Ram Tahal;Patil Shri A.T. (Nana)

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANAGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the rivers proposed to be interlinked, surveys conducted and the Detailed Project Reports prepared so far, River and State-wise;
- (b) the estimated cost of the projects and the funds allocated and spent for the purpose, River and State- wise;
- (c) the reasons for the slow progress of the projects and the steps taken to expedite them;
- (d) whether some States have raised objections over interlinking of rivers, if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereon; and
- (e) whether the Government proposes to revisit the Interlinking of River project in the light of observations made by certain quarters including the constitution of the Committee as per the direction of Supreme Court and if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION
(PROF.SANWAR LAL JAT)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (e) OF STARRED QUESTION NO. 48 TO BE ANSWERED ON 26.02.2015 REGARDING INTER-LINKING OF RIVERS.

(a) This Ministry has formulated a National Perspective Plan (NPP) for Water Resources Development envisaging inter-basin transfer of water from surplus basins to deficit basins/ areas. Based on surveys, investigations and detailed studies, National Water Development Agency (NWDA) has prepared pre-feasibility reports which facilitated identification of 30 links under the National Perspective Plan (NPP). Details of the river links identified under NPP, River and State-wise, are given at Annexure-I. Based on the concurrence of the concerned States, Detailed Project Reports (DPR) for Ken-Betwa Link, Damanganga - Pinjal links have been completed by NWDA.

In addition, out of 46 proposals of intra-state links received by NWDA from 9 States, the DPRs of two intra- state links i.e. Burhi Gandak- Noon-Baya-Ganga Link Project and Kosi-Mechi Link Project have been completed and sent to Government of Bihar in December, 2013 and March, 2014 respectively. The DPRs for Ponnair-Palar Link of Tamil Nadu, Wainganga-Nalganga Link of Mahara- shtra and Barakar-Damodar-Subernarekha Link of Jharkhand have also been taken up for preparation.

(b) The expenditure on these link projects can be estimated after completion of Detailed Project Report (DPR) of individual link projects. The estimated expenditure of link projects for which Detailed Project Report have been completed is given at Annexure-II. The stage for the allocation of funds to these projects will be reached after the Tecno-economic & investment clearance of these projects.

(c) & (d) The Government is pursuing the Interlinking of River program in a consultative manner. Its implementation is dependent upon the consensus and co-operation of the concerned States and upon obtaining various mandatory clearances from Ministry/ Departments of Central and State Governments including statutory clearances. The details of objections raised by concerned State Governments for taking up Feasibility Report (FR)/DPR of proposed inter-linking of river projects are given at Annexure-III.

The Government has constituted a Consensus Group headed by the Chairman, Central Water Commission and Secretaries of Irrigation/Water Resource Departments of the concerned States for arriving at a consensus on various proposed links for sharing of the surplus water and preparation of DPR by NWDA. In addition, the issues on the inter-State links are also regularly discussed during the meeting of Governing Body and Society of the NWDA. The Special Committee for Inter- linking of Rivers (ILR), chaired by Union Minister of Water resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation is also reviewing the progress of river link proposals in consul- tation with the stakeholders for expediting these projects. In order to address various issues concerning the Inter- Linking of River Programme and to arrive at consensus on the link proposals between the States, various Sub-Commi- ttees have been constituted.

(e) The Ministry of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation organized a three day conference "Jal Manthan" from 20-22 November, 2014 at Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi to take up wide ranging consultations with the States/ Union Territories, Irrigation/Water Resources Ministers, Secretaries, Non-Government Organizations and a range of other stakeholders, to dwell on issues crucial for optimal use of water resources. The focus was on refining policies and schemes of the Ministry to make them more people friendly and responsive to the needs of the States/Union Territories. The second day of the Conference was devoted for deliberations on various aspects of "Interlinking of Rivers (ILR)" Programme wherein views of various State Governments and stakeholders were obtained.

The Special Committee on Interlinking of Rivers, as per the direction of the Hon'ble Supreme Court, has already been constituted by the Ministry of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation vide Gazette Notification dated 23rd September, 2014. Two meetings of the Special Committee for Interlinking of Rivers (ILR) have been held so far, on 17.10.2014 and 06.01.2015 at New Delhi, wherein, State Irrigation/Water Resources Ministers along with the Secretaries of various States attended the meeting. The Committee after considering the views of all the stakeholders is proceeding ahead to expedite the objectives of interlinking rivers as per terms of reference of the Committee.