

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:149

ANSWERED ON:30.07.2015

Inter-Linking of Rivers

Gavit Dr. Heena Vijaykumar;Radhakrishnan Shri T.

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

- (a) the details of the rivers proposed to be inter-linked and the status thereof;
- (b) whether the Government proposes to link the Manas-Sankosh-Teesta-Ganga rivers of Assam, West Bengal and Bihar;
- (c) if so, the details thereof along with action taken thereon;
- (d) whether a meeting of the Special Committee on Inter-Linking of Rivers (ILR) was held recently; and
- (e) if so, the issues discussed along with follow up action taken thereon?

**Answer**

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION

(SUSHRI UMA BHARTI)

(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. \*149 TO BE ANSWERED ON 30.07.2015 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 NPP. Details of the river links identified under NPP, River and State-wise, are given at Annexure-I. Out of these 30 links, five Peninsular links namely Ken-Betwa, Parbati-Kalisindh-Chambal, Damanganga-Pinjal, Par-Tapi-Narmada and Godavari (polavaram)- Krishna(Vijayvada) have been identified as priority links for preparation of Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) on the basis of Task-Force report. However, three links namely Ken-Betwa, Damanganga - Pinjal and Par-Tapi-Narmada has been taken up for the preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR) by NWDA based on the concurrence of the concerned States. The status of the various priority river links projects is given in the following Table-I;

Table-I

Status of various Priority River Links Projects

S.No. Priority Links Project Status

1. Ken-Betwa Phase-I & II DPR of Phase-I and Phase-II completed and communicated to the party States. Madhya Pradesh State Pollution Control Board (MPPCB) has conducted the Public Hearing in the project area during December, 2014. Subsequently, revised Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Report has been submitted to the Union Ministry of Environment & Forest and Climate Change in July, 2015. Application for Wildlife Clearance of Ken-Betwa Link Phase (Phase-I) has been submitted to Chief Conservator of Forest and Field Director, Panna Tiger Reserve, Panna. The meeting of the State Wildlife Board, headed by Chief Minister, Madhya Pradesh for considering the Wildlife clearance of the Project is envisaged. Thus, the environmental, forest and wildlife clearance of the Project are in advanced stage of processing. The project is to be taken up for implementation as a National project after all the statutory clearances are available.

2. Damanganga -Pinjal DPR of Damanganga- Pinjal (D-P) Link Project had been submitted to Government of Maharashtra and Gujarat States in April, 2014. The Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai (MCGM) has submitted the DPR of Damanganga- Pinjal Link Project to Central Water Commission (CWC) during January, 2015 for appraisal. The Hon'ble Union Minister (WR, RD & GR) held a meeting with Hon'ble Chief Minister of Maharashtra on 7th January, 2015 to expedite the further course of action

3. Par-Tapi- Narmada The work for preparation of DPR of Par-Tapi-Narmada (P-T-N) Link Project is in final stages. A fresh Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on water sharing between Gujarat and Maharashtra for Damanganga- Pinjal and Par-Tapi-Narmada link Project is envisaged after completion of Detailed Project Report of Par-Tapi-Narmada Link Project which would pave the way for implementation of these two link projects.

4. Parbati - Kalisindh - Chambal Efforts are being made to arrive at a consensus on the link through deliberations with the concerned States of Madhya Pradesh & Rajasthan for preparation of DPR.

5. Godavari (Polavaram)- Krishna (Vijayavada) This link is part of the Polavaram Project of Andhra Pradesh. The then Government of Andhra Pradesh had taken up the above project including link component as per their own planning. Now the Government of India has

constituted Polavaram Project Authority (PPA) for the execution of the Polavaram Project in accordance with the Section 90 of Andhra Pradesh re-organisation Act, 2014.

Further, the Special Committee for Interlinking of Rivers (ILR), chaired by Hon'ble Union Minister of Water resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation is also reviewing the progress of river linking proposals since September, 2014 in consultation with the stakeholders for expediting river linking projects. In order to address various issues concerning the Inter-Linking of River Programme and to arrive at a consensus on ILR proposals between the States, recently three Sub-Committees and "Task Force for Interlinking of Rivers" have also been constituted. In accordance with the direction given by the Special Committee for Interlinking of Rivers which have already met five times so far during last 10 months, efforts are on to build consensus on Mahanadi – Godavari Link, which is a first and critical link of nine link system of Mahanadi-Godavari-Krishna-Pennar-Cauvery-Vaigai-Gundar under Peninsular Component of NPP. The Government of Odisha was not agreeable for the Mahanadi (Manibhadra) - Godavari (Dowlaiswaram) link due to large submergence involved in Manibhadra dam proposed under the link project. Based on the suggestions of Water Resources Department, Govt. of Odisha, NWDA has prepared a revised preliminary proposal of Mahanadi- Godavari Link Project with reduced submergence. A presentation on the revised proposal of Mahanadi-Godavari Link Project has been made to the Hon'ble Chief Minister, Govt. of Odisha on 29.05.2015 by the senior officers of MoWR, RD & GR. Based on response from Government of Odisha, Feasibility Report to establish techno-economic feasibility of the revised proposal of Mahanadi- Godavari Link Project is envisaged by the NWDA.

Also, the preparation of Pre Feasibility/ Feasibility reports of intra-state links proposed by States were included to the functions of NWDA in November, 2006 in consultation with the State Governments. NWDA has requested all the States / Union Territories to inform the details of intra – state links for further studies by NWDA. NWDA has received 46 proposals of intra-state links from 9 States viz. Maharashtra, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Odisha, Bihar, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Chhattisgarh. Pre-Feasibility Reports (PFRs) of 35 intra-state links have been completed by NWDA so far. Some of the proposals have not been found technically feasible at the preliminary stage. The present status of intra-state river link proposals received from the State Governments is given at Annexure – II.

Out of 46 proposals of intra-state links, the DPRs for two intra-state links of Bihar i.e. BurhiGandak-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 and preparation of DPRs of Ponnair-Palar Link of Tamil Nadu, Wainganga-Nalganga Link of Maharashtra, Barakar-Damodar-Subernarekha Link of Jharkhand and Vamsadhara – Rushikulya (Nandini Nalla project) of Odisha have been taken up by the NWDA on the request made by the concerned States.

(b) & (c) Yes, Madam. A link namely Manas-Sankosh-Teesta-Ganga (MSTG) link is proposed under the Himalayan Component of NPP. Manas-Sankosh-Teesta-Ganga link canal envisages diversion of the surplus waters of Manas and Sankosh rivers with supplementation from the intermediate major streams for the benefit of augmenting the flows of Ganga at Farakka and further transfer to water short areas of Krishna, Pennar and Cauvery basins and providing irrigation facilities to the enroute command areas. This link comprises of two dams on rivers Manas & Sankosh inside Bhutan territory, and a gravity flow canal for diverting substantial quantum of water to river Ganga upstream of Farakka barrage. The Pre Feasibility Report of the link has already been prepared. The Feasibility Report could not be prepared as the canal is passing through the Manas-Tiger Reserve and Buxa Tiger Reserve and other forests. Considering practical difficulties for surveys and investigation in Manas-Sankosh and Sankosh-Teesta reaches, NWDA has carried out alternate alignment studies for Manas-Sankosh-Teesta-Ganga Link avoiding Manas Tiger Reserve and Buxa Tiger Reserves and other forests. As an alternative option, almost forest free Manas-Sankosh-Teesta Ganga link is under study. Preparation of Feasibility Report of the link is under progress.

(d) & (e) Yes, Madam. recently, the fifth meeting of the Special Committee for Inter-linking of River (ILR) was held on July 13, 2015. The issues discussed during the meeting include follow up action on the decision taken during previous meeting, extension of tenure of Sub-committee I & II constituted by Special Committee, Ken-Betwa Link Project, Status of Damanganga-Pinjal and Par-Tapi-Narmada Link Projects and Revised proposal of Mahanadi-Godavari Link Project.

It was informed during the meeting that the DPR of Damanganga- Pinjal Link Project had been submitted to Government of Maharashtra and Gujarat States in April, 2014. The Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai (MCGM) has submitted the DPR of Damanganga- Pinjal Link Project to CWC during January, 2015 for appraisal. The report is under appraisal by CWC. The Hon'ble Union Minister (WR, RD & GR) held a meeting with Hon'ble Chief Minister of Maharashtra on 7th January, 2015 to expedite the further course of action.

The work for preparation of DPR of Par-Tapi-Narmada Link Project is in final stages and the DPR of this link project is expected to be completed by the end of July, 2015.

A fresh Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on water sharing between Gujarat and Maharashtra for Damanganga- Pinjal and Par-Tapi-Narmada link Project is proposed to be signed after completion of Detailed Project Report of Par-Tapi-Narmada Link Project which would pave the way for implementation of these link projects.

\*\*\*\*\*