

Title: Need to sanction the project for inter-linking of rivers in Dakshina Kannada region of Karnataka.

SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE (UDUPI): For some time, a proposal for inter-linking of national rivers at a cost of nearly Rs.5,50,000 crore is under study of the Government and also of a task force set up for this purpose. Expert bodies including International Water Forum have expressed serious reservations on the viability of this mega project and suggested that we should go for small, localised solutions, closer to user community by attempting regional river water grids.

The proposal for an ideal and workable regional river water grid inter-linking of rivers in Dakshina Kannada and Udupi district was examined and forwarded to the Government of Karnataka for posing it to the Centre for assistance. The project outlay is a mere Rs.5,000 crore, which was reckoned a decade back. But the benefits accruing from the project in terms of generation of hydel power, irrigation potential, drinking water supply and flood control have been assessed to exceed the investment within a span of five years after commissioning of the project.

I urge the Centre to revive this proposal for inter-linking rivers of the district.