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Title: Need to start interlinking of Pennar and Palar rivers in Tamil Nadu.

SHRI ABDUL RAHMAN (VELLORE): Under the Peninsula Rivers Development component of the National Perspective Plan (NPP) for interlinking rivers, National Water Development Agency (NWDA) has identified nine links meant for transferring surplus water from bigger rivers to the deficit basins where severe drought conditions are faced every year. Thousands of hectares of cultivable land is lying waste in the states of Orissa, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamilnadu and Pondicherry, Pennar-Palar-Cauvery link project is one among the nine links connecting to the river Palar. This link canal will provide irrigation to the Nellore and Chittoor districts of Andhra Pradesh; Tiruvallur, Kancheepuram, Vellore, Tiruvannamalai, Villupuram and Cuddalore districts of Tamilnadu and Pondicherry. Based on the feasibility study of the above, canal link was prepared by NWDA and project cost was estimated to be Rs. 6769 crore based on 2003-04 price level.

Under the state link program of Tamil Nadu, Pennar (Krishnagiri)-Palar link was the only Intra-State link that was taken up based on the request of the Government of Tamil Nadu to assess the feasibility of diverting the flood waters from the existing Krishnagiri reservoir across Pennar river to the water deficit Palar basin. A preliminary feasibility report was prepared by NWDA for diverting 99 Mms of flood flow waters annually available at existing Krishnagiri dam to the Palar basin. This project was estimated to cost Rs.257.93 crore at 2008-09 price level.

I wish to ask the Hon'ble Minister that what further action has been taken by the Ministry in this regard. It has been more than a decade since the project was initiated but there is no work done on the ground. I want to know that if the Government has any intention at all to start these projects to link the rivers of the country in the general and in particular the link between the rivers Pennar and Palar.