

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES,
RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1828
ANSWERED ON 28.12.2017

INTER-LINKING OF RIVERS

1828. SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY
SHRI R. GOPALAKRISHNAN
SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE

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

- (a) whether the Government has prepared a feasibility and the detailed project report of the rivers inter-linking project across the country along with its impact on environment and biodiversity;
- (b) if so, the details thereof including the Ken-Betwa and Vaigai river interlinking;
- (c) the present status of the project and the names of States concerned and benefited thereunder due to inter-river water transfers;
- (d) whether it is a fact that some portion of the Biosphere reserves and Habitats will be submerged due to interlinking of rivers; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the necessary steps taken by the Government for early completion of each river-link and in preserving the environment and biosphere reserves/habitat?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION & PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) to (c) The National Perspective Plan (NPP) was prepared by the then Ministry of Irrigation, now Ministry of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation (MoWR, RD & GR) in August 1980 for water resources development through inter basin transfer of water, for transferring water from water surplus basins to water-deficit basins. Under the NPP, the National Water Development Agency (NWDA) has identified 30 links (16 under Peninsular Component & 14 under Himalayan Component) for preparation of Feasibility Reports. The Pre-Feasibility Report of the all 30 links have been prepared and circulated to the concerned State Governments by the NWDA. After survey and investigations, Feasibility Reports of 14 links under Peninsular Component and Feasibility Reports of 2 links and draft Feasibility Reports of 7 links (Indian portion) under Himalayan Component have been completed. The present status of the projects and the names of States concerned and benefited there under due to inter river water transfers are furnished in the **Annexure**.

Four priority links under Peninsular Rivers Component have been identified for preparation of Detailed Project Reports (DPR) viz; Ken-Betwa link project (KBLP) Phase –I & II, Damanganga-Pinjal link project, Par-Tapi-Narmada link project and Mahanadi-Godavari link project. The preparation of DPR of a project is taken up only after consent of concerned State Governments. Based on the concurrence of the concerned States, DPRs of KBLP Phase-I & Phase-II, Damanganga-Pinjal link project and Par-Tapi-Narmada link project have been completed. The techno-economic clearance and various statutory clearances of the KBLP Phase-I have been accorded. The techno-economic clearance of the Damanganga-Pinjal link project has also been accorded subject to statutory

clearances. The DPR of Par-Tapi-Narmada link project has been submitted for technical appraisal in Central Water Commission. The DPR of the Mahanadi – Godavari link could not be taken up as the Government of Odisha was not agreeable for Mahanadi – Godavari link, a mother link of 9 link system viz., Mahanadi – Godavari – Krishna – Pennar – Palar – Cauvery – Vaigai – Gundar linkage due to large submergence involved in Manibhadra Dam. Based on the suggestions of WRD, Govt. of Odisha, NWDA has prepared a preliminary revised proposal of Mahanadi- Godavari Link Project with reduced submergence and submitted to the State Govt. of Odisha for consideration.

The draft Memorandum of Understandings (MoUs) for implementation of KBLP has been sent to concerned States UP & MP for concurrence and draft MoU for implementation of Damanganga-Pinjal link project and Par-Tapi-Narmada link project have been sent to concerned States Maharashtra & Gujarat for concurrence.

At the time of preparation of DPR of the individual river link projects, detailed Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) studies as per Terms of Reference approved by Environmental Appraisal Committee (EAC) of Ministry of Environment and Forests &CC are carried out. EIA study includes impacts on land environment, water resources and its quality, terrestrial ecology (flora, fauna, vegetation cover, wildlife), aquatic ecology (riverine ecology, fisheries), pollution due to noise during construction phase, impact on air quality, impact due to command area development, impacts on local services (like water supply, education, health care, community forests, impacts on business opportunities). All environmental impacts and issues arising out of the EIA studies are duly addressed in Environmental Management Plan which forms a part of DPR.

(d) & (e) Yes, it is a fact that some portion of the Biosphere reserves and Habitats would be submerged due to Inter-Linking of Rivers (ILR) in some of the link projects, for which suitable Environment Management Plan (EMP) is suggested in the EIA studies. Implementation of the project is taken up after the statutory clearances such as Environment, Wildlife, Forest land diversion, clearance from Ministry of Tribal Affairs.

ILR programme has been taken up on high Priority. The Government is pursuing the ILR program in a consultative manner.

The Supreme Court vide its judgment dated 27.02.2012 in the Writ Petition (Civil) No. 512 of 2002 on 'Networking of Rivers' along with Writ Petition No. 668 of 2002 directed the Union of India and particularly the Ministry of Water Resources to constitute a Committee under the chairmanship of Minister of Water Resources for the implementation of ILR.

As per the directions of Supreme Court, a committee called "Special Committee on Interlinking of Rivers" was constituted under the Chairmanship of the Union Minister of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation (MoWR, RD & GR) for the implementation of ILR programme vide Gazette Notification dated 23rd September, 2014. Thirteen meetings of the Special Committee for ILR have been held so far (last meeting held on 27.07.2017 at New Delhi), wherein State Irrigation/ Water Resources Ministers along with the Secretaries of various States participated. The Special Committee on ILR takes into consideration all the suggestions/observations of the stakeholders while planning and formulating the ILR projects. Vigorous efforts have been made for generating consensus with development of alternative plans and also setting out road maps for implementation of mature projects.

Annexure referred to in reply to part (a) & (b) of Unstarred Question No. 1828 to be answered in Lok Sabha on 28.12.2017 regarding “Inter-linking of Rivers”.

Benefits from Proposed Inter Basin Water Transfer Links

Sl. No	Name	States concerned	States benefited	Annual Irrigation (Lakh ha)	Domestic and Industrial supply (MCM)	Hydro power (MW)	Present status
Peninsular Component							
1	Mahanadi (Manibhadra) - Godavari (Dowlaiswaram) link	Odisha, Maharashtra, AP, Karnataka, Chattisgarh & Telangana	Andhra Pradesh & Odisha	0.91+3.52 = 4.43	802	445	FR completed
2	Godavari (Inchampalli) - Krishna (Pulichintala) link	-do-	-do-	6.13	413	--	FR completed
3	Godavari (Inchampalli) - Krishna (Nagarjunasagar) link	Odisha, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, AP, Karnataka, Chattisgarh & Telangana	-do-	2.87	237	975	FR completed
4	Godavari (Polavaram) - Krishna (Vijayawada) link	Odisha, Maharashtra, AP, Karnataka, Chattisgarh & Telangana	Andhra Pradesh	5.82	162	--	FR completed
5	Krishna (Almatti) – Pennar link	Maharashtra, Karnataka, Telangana & AP	Andhra Pradesh & Karnataka	1.90+0.68 = 2.58	56	--	FR completed
6	Krishna (Srisailem) – Pennar link	-do-	--	--	--	17	FR completed
7	Krishna (Nagarjunasagar) - Pennar (Somasila) link	Maharashtra, AP & Karnataka	-do-	5.81	124	90	FR completed
8	Pennar (Somasila) - Cauvery (Grand Anicut) link	AP, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Kerala & Puducherry	AP, Tamil Nadu & Puducherry	0.49+4.36 + 0.06 = 4.91	1105	--	FR completed
9	Cauvery (Kattalai) - Vaigai -Gundar link	Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Kerala & Puducherry	Tamil Nadu	3.38	185	--	FR completed
10	Ken-Betwa link a) Ken-Betwa Link Phase-I b) Ken-Betwa link Phase-II	Uttar Pradesh & Madhya Pradesh - do-	Uttar Pradesh & Madhya Pradesh Madhya Pradesh	2.66 + 3.69 = 6.35 0.99	49 6	78 -	FR & DPR (Ph-I&II) completed
11	Parbati -Kalisindh- - Chambal link	Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan & Uttar Pradesh (UP requested to be consulted during consensus building)	Madhya Pradesh & Rajasthan	*Alt.I: 2.05+ 0.25 =2.30 (Alt.II: 1.77+ 0.43 = 2.20)	13.2	--	FR completed
12	Par-Tapi-Narmada link	Maharashtra & Gujarat	Gujarat	2.32	76	22	FR & DPR completed

Sl. No	Name	States concerned	States benefited	Annual Irrigation (Lakh ha)	Domestic and Industrial supply (MCM)	Hydro power (MW)	Present status
13	Damanganga- Pinjal link (As per DPR)	-do-	Maharashtra (only water supply to Mumbai)	--	895 (including 316 MCM from Pinjal dam proposed by GoM)	--	FR & DPR completed
14	Bedti- Varda link	Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh & Karnataka	Karnataka	0.60	--	4	PFR completed
15	Netravati- Hemavati link	Karnataka, Tamil Nadu & Kerala	Karnataka	0.34	--	--	PFR completed
16	Pamba- Achankovil- Vaippar link	Kerala & Tamil Nadu,	Tamil Nadu	0.91	--	508	FR completed
Himalayan Component							
1.	Manas-Sankosh-Tista-Ganga (M-S-T-G) link	Assam, West Bengal, Bihar & Bhutan	Assam, West Bengal & Bihar	2.08 + 1.82 + 2.64 = 6.54	--	5287	PFR completed
2.	Kosi-Ghaghra link	Bihar, Uttar Pradesh & Nepal	Bihar & Uttar Pradesh	8.17 + 0.67 + 1.74 (Nepal) = 10.58	48	--	PFR completed
3.	Gandak-Ganga link	-do-	Uttar Pradesh	37.99 + 2.41 (Nepal) = 40.40	700	--	Draft FR completed (Indian portion)
4.	Ghaghra-Yamuna link	-do-	Uttar Pradesh	25.30 + 1.35 (Nepal) = 26.65	1391	10884	FR completed (Indian portion)
5.	Sarda-Yamuna link	Bihar, UP, Haryana, Rajasthan, Uttarakhand & Nepal	Uttar Pradesh & Uttarakhand	3.45 + 0.30 = 3.75	6250	3600	FR completed (Indian portion)
6.	Yamuna-Rajasthan link	UP, Gujarat, Haryana & Rajasthan	Haryana & Rajasthan	0.435 + 2.442 = 2.877	57	--	Draft FR completed
7.	Rajasthan-Sabarmati link	-do-	Rajasthan & Gujarat	5.35 + 2.04 = 7.39	282	--	Draft FR completed
8.	Chunar-Sone Barrage link	Bihar & UP	Bihar & Uttar Pradesh	0.30 + 0.37 = 0.67	--	--	Draft FR completed
9.	Sone Dam – Southern Tributaries of Ganga link	Bihar & Jharkhand	Bihar & Jharkhand	2.99 + 0.08 = 3.07	360	95	PFR completed
10.	Ganga(Farakka)-Damodar-Subernarekha link	West Bengal, Odisha & Jharkhand	West Bengal, Odisha & Jharkhand	7.63 + 0.30 + 0.55 = 8.47	484	-	Draft FR completed
11.	Subernarekha-Mahanadi link	West Bengal & Odisha	West Bengal & Odisha	0.18 + 0.365 = 0.545	--	9	Draft FR completed
12.	Kosi-Mechi link	Bihar, West Bengal & Nepal	Bihar	2.99 + 1.75 (Nepal) = 4.74	24	3180	PFR completed Entirely lies in Nepal.
13.	Farakka-Sunderbans link	West Bengal	West Bengal	1.50	184	--	Draft FR completed
14.	Jogighopa-Tista-Farakka link (Alternative to M-S-T-G)	-do-	Assam, West Bengal & Bihar	----	216	1115	Alternate to M-S-T-G link dropped.

- PFR- Pre Feasibility Report
- FR- Feasibility Report
- DPR- Detailed Project Report
- S&I - Survey and Investigation
- MCM - Million Cubic Meters