

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES
RAJYA SABHA
QUESTION NO 19.11.2009
ANSWERED ON
PROPOSAL OF INTERLINKING OF RIVERS .

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Shri N. Balaganga

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :-

- (a) whether Government is aware of the fact that there is acute shortage of water due to insufficient rains and climate change and drought like situation prevails in most parts of the country;
- (b) if so, whether Government is seriously considering the proposal of interlinking of rivers to meet the water shortage in future;
- (c) if so, the financial allocation proposed for this purpose; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES

(SHRI VINCENT H. PALA)

(a) As per information available in Ministry of Water Resources, cumulative rainfall from 1st June to 30th September, 09 is deficient by 23% and about 300 districts in 12 States have been declared as drought affected as on 30.09.2009.

(b) The Ministry of Water Resources (MOWR) (erstwhile Ministry of Irrigation) formulated a National Perspective Plan (NPP) for Water Resources Development in 1980 envisaging inter-basin transfer of water from surplus basins to deficit basins/areas which comprises of two components, namely, Himalayan Rivers Development Component and Peninsular Rivers Development Component. National Water Development Agency (NWDA) was set up under the MOWR in 1982 for carrying out various technical studies to establish the feasibility of the proposals of NPP and to give concrete shape to it. Based on various studies conducted, NWDA has identified 30 links (16 under Peninsular Component & 14 under Himalayan Component) for preparation of Feasibility Reports (FRs). Out of these, FRs of 14 links under Peninsular Component and of 2 links (Indian Portion) under Himalayan Component have been completed. Detailed Project Report (DPR) of one priority link namely Ken – Betwa has also been completed. Further, NWDA has taken up the DPRs of another two links after concurrence of the concerned states, namely Par – Tapi – Narmada & Damanganga – Pinjal which are planned to be completed by December, 2011. The implementation of links under NPP depends upon the consensus and cooperation of the concerned states and agreement with the neighboring countries.

(c) Government has kept a provision of Rs. 182.80 crore in Eleventh Five Year Plan for the preparation of Prefeasibility Reports (PFRs) / FRs / DPRs of river link proposals under NPP, preparation of PFRs/ FRs of Intra- state links proposed by states and other studies in this regard.

(d) Does not arise.