

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES

RAJYA SABHA

QUESTION NO 18.11.2010

ANSWERED ON

NWDA PROJECT ON INTERLINKING OF RIVERS .

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Shri Sanjay Raut

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

(a) whether the National Water Development Agency (NWDA), which was set up in 1982, have finalized and prepared detailed project report with the consultation of various State Governments and agencies for channelizing the rain water from excessive rainfall regions to minimum rainfall regions by interlinking of various rivers in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the details of steps taken or proposed to be taken for the early finalization of inter-link river project in the country for the benefit of farmers?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES

(SHRI VINCENT H. PALA)

(a) to (c) 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 two components, namely, Himalayan Rivers Development Component and Peninsular Rivers Development Component. The National Water Development Agency (NWDA) was set up under the Ministry of Water Resources in 1982 for carrying out various technical studies to establish the feasibility of the inter-linking of the rivers proposals envisaged under NPP and to give concrete shape to them. 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 that of 2 links (Indian Portion) under Himalayan Component namely Ghaghra –Yamuna link and Sarda-Yamuna link have been completed. Completion of feasibility Reports in respect of the remaining 2 links under peninsular component namely Bedti-Varda link and Netravati-Hemavati links depends on the consensus amongst beneficiary States. The preparation of FR of links in Himalayan Component of NPP depends upon consensus and cooperation of the neighbouring countries. Out of the sixteen links under Peninsular Component five links, namely

(i) Ken-Betwa,

(ii) Parbati-Kalisindh-Chambal,

(iii) Damanganga-Pinjal,

(iv) Par-Tapi-Narmada &

(v) Godavari (Polavaram)-Krishna (Vijayawada) were identified as priority links for building consensus among the concerned States for taking up their Detailed Project Reports (DPRs). DPR of one priority link namely, Ken – Betwa was completed and sent to the Governments of Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh for comments. The Government of Madhya Pradesh has suggested an alternative proposal for a part of the scheme and has suggested to divide the project report into two phases. The DPR of the phase-I has been completed and sent to the Government of Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh in May 2010 for comments. Further, NWDA has taken up the DPRs of two more priority links after concurrence of the concerned States, namely Par – Tapi – Narmada and Damanganga – Pinjal which are planned to be completed by December, 2011. Another priority link namely, Godavari (Polavaram)- Krishna(Vijawada) link is part of the Polavaram project of the Andhra Pradesh. Planning Commission has given investment clearance to the Polavaram Project and the Government of Andhra Pradesh has taken up the above project including link component as per their proposal.

(d) As per National Common Minimum Programme (NCMP) of last UPA Government, interlinking of river programme is being pursued in consultative manner with consensus & cooperation of States.

The Government has constituted a Consensus Group headed by Chairman, Central Water Commission (CWC) and consisting of Secretaries of Irrigation/Water Resources Departments of the concerned States for arriving at consensus regarding sharing of surplus waters and to discuss issues of preparation of Detailed

Project Reports by NWDA. So far ten meetings of the consensus group have been held. The consensus building for eight more links under Mahanadi-Godavari-Krishna-Pennar-Cauvery-Vaigai-Gundar linkage system for taking up their DPRs with concerned States has been initiated. The issues related to the inter-basin water transfer proposals under NPP are regularly discussed with the officials of State Governments at the meeting of the Governing Body (GB) and Society of NWDA. So far 55 meetings of GB and 29 meetings of Society have been held.