

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES
RAJYA SABHA
QUESTION NO 07.03.2011
ANSWERED ON
INTER LINKING OF RIVERS .

1238

Shri T.M. Selvaganapathi

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government has finally assured to give approval for inter-linking of rivers;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that Government recently gave its nod in principle for inter-linking of two rivers; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES & MINORITY AFFAIRS. (SHRI VINCENT H. PALA)

(a) to (d) The Ministry of Water Resources (MOWR) (erstwhile Ministry of Irrigation) had 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 MOWR in 1982 for carrying out various technical studies to establish the feasibility of the proposals of 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 2 links (Indian Portion) under Himalayan Component have been completed. Five links under Peninsular Component 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 suggested an alternative proposal based on which two phases of the project are envisaged. The DPR of the phase-I has been prepared and sent to the Government of Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh in May 2010 for consultation. 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 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 proposals.

National Water Development Agency (NWDA) has received 36 proposals of intra-state links from 7 States viz. Maharashtra, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Orissa, Bihar, Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu. Out of above, Pre-Feasibility Reports (PFRs) of 12 intra-state links have been completed by NWDA.