

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3605

ANSWERED ON 03.04.2023

INTERLINKING OF RIVER PROJECTS

3605. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI

Will the Minister of **JAL SHAKTI** be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of environmental resettlement and rehabilitation problems occurring in the implementation of Interlinking of River (ILR) projects including action taken thereon;
- (b) whether there are certain difficulties/impediments that Government has not been able to address in the implementation of ILR projects; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof along with the strategy chalked out in this regard?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI

(SHRI BISHWESWAR TUDU)

(a) Interlinking of Rivers (ILR) projects are water transfer projects and like other water resources projects, these link projects also entail issues related to impact of such projects on physical, biological and socio-economic environment, submergence of areas, displacement of people and their resettlement and rehabilitation. For dealing with such issues, a detailed Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) study for the link projects under the National Perspective Plan (NPP) is carried out to identify positive and negative impacts of the projects on physical, biological and socio-economic environment during the preparation of Detailed Project Reports (DPRs). The study areas for conducting EIA studies are identified and after completing EIA studies, Environmental Management Plan (EMP) is prepared to suggest the actions to be taken for mitigating the impacts of the project on environment. Impact on air environment, land environment, noise environment, water environment, biological environment, socio-economic environment are studied in details.

Regarding Resettlement and Rehabilitation (R &R) issues of project affected persons / families, proper R&R plans are prepared at DPR stage as per “Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013”.

(b) & (c) The consensus building among the party States on the issues related to water sharing, etc is the most challenging task for implementation of the ILR projects. The Government has accorded top priority to the ILR program and concerted efforts for building consensus amongst the party States have been made.

A “Special Committee on Interlinking of Rivers” has been constituted in September, 2014 for the implementation of ILR programme. 20 meetings of the Special Committee have been held so far. Further, a Task Force for Interlinking of Rivers has been constituted in April, 2015 for expediting the works under the ILR programme and 16 meetings of the Task Force have been held so far. States have wide representation and active participation in these meetings.

Implementation of an ILR project, however, depends upon the party States to reach a consensus.
