

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2324

ANSWERED ON 16.12.2024

INTERLINKING OF RIVERS

2324. SHRI AYODHYA RAMI REDDY ALLA

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

- (a) the potential benefits of the Wainganga-Nalganga river linking project, and whether it will impact the water availability in the Buldhana district;
- (b) whether the potential synergies and trade-offs between interlinking of rivers and other water management strategies, such as water storage, conservation, and efficiency measures; and
- (c) whether the construction of 426.52 km of link canals will affect the local ecosystem and wildlife habitats and the potential social implications of the project, including the impact on local communities and their access to water?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI

(SHRI RAJ BHUSHAN CHOUDHARY)

(a) The Wainganga (Gosikhurd) - Nalganga (Purna Tapi) intra-State link project takes off from the right flank of the Gosikhurd dam and traverses a length of about 427 Kilometre (km) through six districts of Maharashtra. As per the Detailed Project Report (DPR), the link project envisages diversion of 1772 Million Cubic Meters (MCM) of water from the Gosikhurd (Indira Sagar) project on Wainganga river in Pranhita sub-basin of Godavari basin for extending irrigation, domestic and industrial water supply benefits in six districts of Vidarbha region of Maharashtra, viz; Nagpur, Wardha, Amravati, Yeotmal, Akola and Buldhana, before outfalling into Nalganga project on Nalganga river in Tapi basin.

The link canal envisages to provide irrigation benefits to about 371277 hectare (ha) of new command area, utilising 1286 MCM of water. Out of this, 38214 ha area lies in Shegaon and Motala tehsils of Buldhana district utilising 140 MCM. 32 MCM of water is envisaged to be provided for drinking water supply to the enroute villages/towns lying in the command area in the above cited six districts and 397 MCM to industries in the vicinity of the link project, while the transmission losses work out to be 57 MCM. Further, since the diversion of 1772 MCM of water has been envisaged through the proposed link canal during the three monsoon months of July to September, which constitutes the prime flood season, the project would also help in mitigation of the intensity of flood in the downstream.

(b) As intimated by the Government of Maharashtra, most of the command area of the scheme is drought prone. The existing water conservation measures are not enough to cater to the needs of domestic water supply, industries and irrigation. The scheme has therefore been envisaged to supplement water in the command area, by way of construction of 31 new dams and use of 6 existing dams along with about 427 km long main canal.

(c) At DPR stage of Wainganga (Gosikhurd)-Nalganga (Purna Tapi) intra-State link project, all the parameters for Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Environmental Management Plan as well as Socio-Economic Studies with Resettlement and Rehabilitation Plan have been duly considered. The impact of construction as well as operation phases of project on various aspects of ecosystem has been assessed.
