

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION
RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1835

ANSWERED ON 17.03.2025

KRISHNA-CAUVERY AND PENNAR-PALAR RIVER BASINS

1835 #. SMT. DHARMSHILA GUPTA

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

- (a) whether Government has conducted a feasibility study for interlinking of Krishna Cauvery and Pennar-Palar river basins;
- (b) the steps the Central Government has taken so far to ensure the flow of surplus water from the proposed Mahanadi-Godavari basin to the Krishna-Cauvery and Pennar-Palar basins; and
- (c) the present status of the Central funding for the Upper Bhadra Project and by when the grant is likely to be released to the State of Karnataka?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI

(SHRI RAJ BHUSHAN CHOUDHARY)

(a) & (b) The Government of India formulated a National Perspective Plan (NPP) in the year 1980 for transfer of water from the water-surplus basins to the water-deficit basins/ regions. National Water Development Agency (NWDA) has been entrusted with the work of Interlinking of Rivers (ILR) under the NPP. Under the NPP, 30 ILR projects have been identified - 16 projects under the Peninsular component and 14 projects under the Himalayan component. Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) of 11 links, Feasibility Reports (FRs) of 26 links, and Pre-Feasibility Reports (PFRs) of all the 30 links have been completed. The Peninsular component of the NPP, inter alia, includes the linking of rivers Godavari and Cauvery.

Under the NPP, the Manas-Sankosh-Tista-Ganga-Damodar-Subernarekha-Mahanadi northe-eastern link envisages to provide water to Mahanadi and thereafter, the Mahanadi-Godavari link project to provide water to Godavari. The Godavari-Krishna-Pennar-Cauvery-Vaigai-Gundar linkage system envisages to provide water to further down South. Pennar (Somasila)-Palar-Cauvery link (3rd segment of Godavari - Cauvery link project) is an integral part of this linkage system, which envisages the transfer of surplus Mahanadi and Godavari waters into the river Krishna, then to river Pennar and from there to river Palar, then to river Cauvery and further down South to river Gundar.

Pending consensus on the upper north-eastern links and Mahanadi-Godavari link; in the first phase of Peninsular Rivers development, only the unutilized Godavari waters have been proposed for diversion. The Godavari-Cauvery link project comprises 3 links, viz; Godavari (Inchampalli)-Krishna (Nagarjunasagar) link, Krishna (Nagarjunasagar)-Pennar (Somasila) link and Pennar (Somasila)-Cauvery (Grand Anicut) link,

which have been identified as priority link projects under the NPP. Feasibility study to divert unutilized Godavari waters was undertaken by NWDA and subsequently, a Detailed Project Report (DPR) of the Godavari (Inchampalli)-Cauvery (Grand Anicut) link envisaging diversion of about 7000 Million Cubic Metres (MCM) of water from Godavari basin to Krishna, Pennar and Cauvery basins, was prepared by NWDA and circulated to the party States/ Union Territory (UT) in April, 2021.

Further, based on deliberations held in the consultation meetings with the party States/ UT, the Technical Feasibility Report (TFR) of a proposal limiting the transfer of Godavari waters from 7000 MCM to about 4189 MCM along with combining a proposal for supplementation in Krishna basin through Bedti-Varda link was prepared by NWDA and circulated to the party States/ UT in January, 2023. Subsequently, the modified DPR of this proposal for transfer of about 4189 MCM unutilized waters of Chhattisgarh in the Indravati sub-basin of Godavari basin, combining therewith the proposal for supplementation in Krishna basin (524 MCM) through Bedti-Varda link was prepared by NWDA and circulated to the party States / UT in January, 2024. Concerted efforts have been made by the Government of India in the consultation meetings held with the party States/ UT of Puducherry to bring them to the necessary consensus for implementation of the link project. It is, however, for the party States/ UT of Puducherry to reach a consensus.

(c) Upper Bhadra Project is being implemented by the State Government of Karnataka through their resources.
