

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1668
ANSWERED ON 04.08.2025

INTERLINKING OF RIVERS PROJECT

1668. SHRI BABUBHAI JESANGBHAI DESAI

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

- (a) the detailed update on the status of the interlinking of rivers project;
- (b) the quantum of fund allocated and expected fund and time to complete the project; and
- (c) the details of environmental assessments made, and manner in which Government is planning to address the concerns raised by environmentalists and local communities?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI

(SHRI RAJ BHUSHAN CHOUDHARY)

(a) The Government of India has formulated the National Perspective Plan (NPP), under which 30 Interlinking of Rivers (ILR) projects have been identified to address water scarcity and augment irrigation facilities across the country. The National Water Development Agency (NWDA) has been entrusted with implementing the ILR programme under the NPP. Out of 30 link projects, Pre-Feasibility Reports have been completed for all 30 identified link projects. Following this, Feasibility Reports have been finalized for 26 projects—while the remaining four do not require such reports—and Detailed Project Reports have been prepared for 11 link projects. Details of the status of ILR projects under the NPP are given at **Annexure**.

(b) Ken –Betwa Link Project (KBLP) is the only project of NPP under implementation with an estimated cost of Rs. 44,605 crores with Central support of Rs 39,317 Cr. The project is planned to be completed in period of 8 years by March 2030. As of June 2025, a total expenditure of ₹11,329 crore has been incurred on the Ken–Betwa Link Project (KBLP), of which ₹8,611.14 crore has been released as the Central Government's share.

For other identified link projects under the NPP, considerations such as budgetary provisions, fund allocations etc are taken up once these projects advance to the implementation phase

(c) An Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is conducted for each river interlinking project during the formulation of Feasibility Reports (FRs) and Detailed Project Reports (DPRs). The study aims to systematically evaluate the project's potential positive and adverse effects on the physical, biological,

and socio-economic environment, ensuring that environmental considerations are integrated into the planning and decision-making processes.

With respect of KBLP the only interlinking project of NPP under implementation, an Integrated Landscape Management Plan (ILMP) has been prepared to improve habitat quality, maintain critical wildlife corridors linking adjacent Protected Areas (PAs), and enable the holistic protection and management of flagship species—including tigers, vultures, and gharials—as well as promote biodiversity conservation within Panna Tiger Reserve (PTR) and its surrounding ecologically sensitive zones. To ensure systematic and time-bound implementation of the ILMP, a Greater Panna Landscape Council (GPLC) was constituted under the chairmanship of the Chief Secretary, Government of Madhya Pradesh.

ANNEXURE

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1668 TO BE ANSWERED IN RAJYA SABHA ON 04.08.2025 REGARDING “INTERLINKING OF RIVERS PROJECT”.

Details and current status of ILR projects under the NPP**Peninsular Components**

Sl.No	Name	States benefited	Status
1	a. Mahanadi (Manibhadra) - Godavari (Dowlaiswaram) link	Andhra Pradesh (AP) and Odisha	FR completed
	b. Alternate Mahanadi (Barmul) – Rushikulya – Godavari (Dowlaiswaram) link	AP and Odisha	FR completed
2	Godavari (Polavaram) - Krishna (Vijayawada) link @	AP, Karnataka, Maharashtra and Telangana	FR completed
3	a. Godavari (Inchampalli) - Krishna (Nagarjunasagar) link	Telangana	FR completed
	b. Alternate Godavari (Inchampalli) - Krishna (Nagarjunasagar) link *	Telangana	DPR completed
4	Godavari (Inchampalli/SSMPP) - Krishna (Pulichintala) link	Telangana and AP	DPR completed
5	a. Krishna (Nagarjunasagar) - Pennar (Somasila) link	AP	FR completed
	b. Alternate Krishna (Nagarjunasagar) - Pennar (Somasila) link *	AP	DPR completed
6	Krishna (Srisailem) – Pennar link	AP	Draft DPR completed
7	Krishna (Almatti) – Pennar link	AP and Karnataka	Draft DPR completed
8	a. Pennar (Somasila) - Cauvery (Grand Anicut) link	AP, Tamil Nadu and Puducherry	FR completed
	b. Alternate Pennar (Somasila) - Cauvery (Grand Anicut) link *	AP, Tamil Nadu and Puducherry	DPR completed
9	Cauvery (Kattalai) - Vaigai -Gundar link	Tamil Nadu	DPR completed
10	a. Parbati –Kalisindh - Chambal link	Madhya Pradesh (MP) and Rajasthan	FR completed
	b. Modified Parbati – Kalisindh-Chambal link (duly integrated with ERCF)	MP and Rajasthan	Draft PFR completed
11	Damanganga-Pinjal link	Maharashtra (only water supply to Mumbai)	DPR completed
12	Par-Tapi-Narmada link	Gujarat and Maharashtra	DPR completed
13	Ken-Betwa link	Uttar Pradesh (UP) and MP	DPR completed & project is under implementation

14	Pamba - Achankovil - Vaippar link	Tamil Nadu and Kerala	FR completed
15	Bedti - Varda link @@	Karnataka	DPR completed
16	Netravati – Hemavati link**	Karnataka	PFR completed

* Due to pending consensus on Manibhadra and Inchampalli dams, Alternate study to divert unutilized waters of Godavari River was carried out and DPR of Godavari (Inchampalli/ Janampet) – Krishna (Nagarjunasagar) - Pennar (Somasila) – Cauvery (Grand Anicut) link projects were completed. Godavari- Cauvery (Grand Anicut) link project has been prepared comprising of Godavari (Inchampalli / Janampet) - Krishna (Nagarjunasagar), Krishna (Nagarjunasagar) - Pennar (Somasila) and Pennar (Somasila) Cauvery (Grand Anicut) link projects.

** Further studies are not taken up since after implementation of Yettinahole project by Government of Karnataka, no surplus water is available in Netravati basin for diversion through this link.

@ Godavari (Polavaram) – Krishna (Vijayawada) link – The project has been taken up by Government of Andhra Pradesh.

@@Bedti – Varda link – DPR was prepared directly after preparation of its PFR, no FR was prepared.

Himalayan Component

Sl.No	Name of the link	States / Countries benefited	Status
1.	Kosi-Mechi link	Bihar and Nepal	PFR completed
2.	Kosi-Ghaghra link	Bihar, UP and Nepal	FR completed
3.	Gandak - Ganga link	UP and Nepal	FR completed
4.	Ghaghra - Yamuna link	UP and Nepal	Draft FR completed
5.	Sarda - Yamuna link	UP and Uttarakhand	FR completed
6.	Yamuna-Rajasthan link	Haryana and Rajasthan	FR completed
7.	Rajasthan-Sabarmati link	Rajasthan and Gujarat	FR completed
8.	Chunar-Sone Barrage link	Bihar and UP	Draft FR completed
9.	Sone Dam - Southern Tributaries of Ganga link	Bihar and Jharkhand	Draft FR completed
10.	Manas-Sankosh-Tista-Ganga (M-S-T-G) link	Assam, West Bengal (WB) and Bihar	FR completed
11.	Jogighopa-Tista-Farakka link (Alternative to M-S-T-G)	Assam, WB and Bihar	PFR completed
12.	Farakka-Sundarbans link	WB	FR completed
13.	Ganga(Farakka) - Damodar-Subarnarekha link	WB, Odisha and Jharkhand	FR completed
14.	Subarnarekha-Mahanadi link	WB and Odisha	FR completed
