

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2810

ANSWERED ON 18.08.2025

RIVER INTERLINKING PROJECTS

2810. SHRI MANAS RANJAN MANGARAJ

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

- (a) list of approved river interlinking projects;
- (b) whether Mahanadi-related interlinking is planned;
- (c) environmental concerns raised by stakeholders;
- (d) inter-State coordination mechanisms; and
- (e) impact on downstream States?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI

(SHRI RAJ BHUSHAN CHOUDHARY)

(a) The Government of India has formulated a National Perspective Plan (NPP) for Inter-Linking of Rivers (ILR) for transferring water from surplus basins to deficit basins/areas. Details of the status of 30 ILR projects under the NPP are given at **Annexure**.

(b) Under the National Perspective Plan (NPP), the Manas–Sankosh–Tista–Ganga–Damodar–Subernarekha–Mahanadi link is designed to transfer water to the Mahanadi basin. Subsequently, the Mahanadi–Godavari–Krishna–Pennar–Cauvery–Vaigai–Gundar link system will facilitate water transfer to the southern regions of the country. The surplus water available in the Mahanadi and Godavari rivers is proposed to be diverted to the Krishna basin, enabling its utilization in water-deficient and needy areas across the Krishna, Pennar, Cauvery, Vaigai, and Gundar river basins. This transfer will be achieved through a series of nine interlinking projects that systematically connect the Mahanadi, Godavari, Krishna, Pennar, Cauvery, Vaigai, and Gundar rivers.

(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.

(d) Inter-State cooperation is fundamental to the Interlinking of Rivers (ILR) programme. To ensure coordinated implementation, the Government of India is actively engaged in consensus-building with concerned States, adopting a consultative approach that addresses their views, concerns, and apprehensions. All study reports—including Preliminary Feasibility Reports (PFRs), Feasibility Reports (FRs), and Detailed Project Reports (DPRs)—prepared by the National Water Development Agency (NWDA) are shared with State Governments for feedback, which is duly incorporated. States are also involved in key decision-making platforms such as the NWDA Society (chaired by the Hon’ble Minister of Jal Shakti), the Governing Body of NWDA (chaired by the Secretary, Water Resources), the Special Committee for Interlinking of Rivers (SCILR), and the Task Force for Interlinking of Rivers (TFILR). These forums, along with dedicated consultation meetings, facilitate active engagement and resolution of State-specific issues, thereby enabling the timely and collaborative implementation of link projects.

(e) The river link projects under the National Perspective Plan (NPP) have been formulated following comprehensive assessments, including hydrological, meteorological, hydraulic, geological, and geotechnical studies covering upstream, downstream, and en route areas and basins. These detailed investigations ensure that the interests and concerns of downstream States are adequately addressed, with due consideration given to flow regimes, water availability, and ecological implications. The planning process is designed to safeguard downstream requirements while optimizing water resource utilization across basins.

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2810 TO BE ANSWERED IN RAJYA SABHA ON 18.08.2025 REGARDING “RIVER INTERLINKING PROJECTS”.

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 ERCP)	MP and Rajasthan	MoA for implementation has been signed by both the States

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.

The DPR for the Par-Tapi-Narmada Link Project has been prepared. However, the project has been discontinued from the list of priority projects under NPP.

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	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 (The proposal has been dropped)
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
