

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

RAJYA SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO. *95

ANSWERED ON 09.02.2026

INTERLINKING OF RIVERS AND MAJOR IRRIGATION PROJECTS

95. Smt. KIRAN CHOUDHRY:

Will the Minister of **Jal Shakti** be pleased to state:

- (a) the status of river interlinking projects that recorded progress or approvals during the last three years;
- (b) whether milestones have been achieved in priority links;
- (c) whether environmental or rehabilitation issues have affected implementation schedules;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) the manner in which cost sharing between the Centre and States is being managed; and
- (f) the projected benefits in terms of irrigation and drinking water availability?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF JAL SHAKTI

(SHRI C R PAATIL)

(a) to (f) : A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (f) OF STARRED QUESTION NO. *95 TO BE ANSWERED ON 09.02.2026 IN RAJYA SABHA REGARDING “INTERLINKING OF RIVERS AND MAJOR IRRIGATION PROJECTS”

(a) to (f) Government of India formulated National Perspective Plan (NPP) in year, 1980 for Inter-Basin Water Transfer and 30 Interlinking of Rivers (ILR) Projects have been identified under NPP (16 link projects under Peninsular component and 14 link projects under Himalayan component). National Water Development Agency (NWDA) has been entrusted with the work of ILR.

The Details of link projects including the priority links, along with their projected benefits in terms of irrigation and drinking water availability, that recorded progress or approvals during the last three years is enclosed at **Annexure**.

The Ken-Betwa Link Project is the only priority link that has entered the implementation stage. It has an estimated cost of ₹ 44,605 crore, with ₹ 39,317 crore of central support.

The Polavaram Irrigation Project (PIP), which includes the Godavari (Polavaram)-Krishna (Vijayawada) link, has an approved cost of ₹30,436.96 crore, with an approved Central share of ₹27,303.80 crore. The cumulative Central Assistance of ₹20,658 crore has been released to the Polavaram Irrigation Project.

An Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is undertaken for every interlinking of river project during the preparation of FR and DPR to assess environmental and socio-economic impact. After participating States sign implementation agreements, proposals are submitted for appraisal and consideration of central support. A comprehensive EIA was taken up for Ken Betwa Link Project. Environmental issues have not affected implementation schedule of this project.

The Cost-sharing arrangements between the Centre and States are not uniform and are determined individually for each project.

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) to (f) OF RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. *95 TO BE ANSWERED ON 09.02.2026 REGARDING “INTERLINKING OF RIVERS AND MAJOR IRRIGATION PROJECTS”

DETAILS OF LINK PROJECTS THAT RECORDED PROGRESS OR RECEIVED APPROVALS DURING THE LAST THREE YEARS ALONG WITH ITS BENEFITS.

Sl. No	Name	States benefited	Annual Irrigation (Lakh ha)	Domestic & Industrial (MCM)	Hydro power (MW)	Year of completion of FR/DPR	Status
1.	Ken-Betwa link Project (KBLP)	Uttar Pradesh (UP) & Madhya Pradesh (MP)	10.62 (UP-2.51 MP. -8.11)	194	103 MW (Hydro) & 27MW (Solar)	DPR completed in 2018	Govt. of India has approved the implementation of KBLP in December 2021 with an estimated cost of Rs 44605 crore (year 2020-21 price level) with central support of Rs 36,290 crore through a Special Purpose Vehicle viz; Ken Betwa Link Project Authority (KBLPA). Honourable Prime Minister has laid the foundation stone for project on 25.12.2024. The project is to complete by March 2030.
2.	Godavari (Inchampalli) - Krishna (Nagarjunasagar) link	Telangana	2.38	232	26	DPR completed in January, 2024	1. DPR for this modified proposal was circulated to party States in January 2024
3.	Krishna (Nagarjunasagar)-Pennar (Somasila) link	Andhra Pradesh (AP)	1.71	236	40	DPR completed in January, 2024	2. Draft MoA for implementation was circulated among party states in April 2024.
4.	Pennar (Somasila) - Cauvery (Manimuktha) link	AP - Tamil Nadu - Puducherry	0.51 1.14 --	43 618 62		DPR completed in January, 2024	
5.	Modified Parbati-Kalisindh-Chambal link	MP & Rajasthan	Benefits as per MoA: MP - 6.11 Rajasthan - 4.03 Total = 10.15 lakh	Benefits as per MoA: MP-(71.39 drinking +21.50 industrial)		MoA for implementation has been signed in year 2024	Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for preparation of DPR was signed by both the States (MP and Rajasthan) on

			ha	= 92.9 Rajasthan -(1744.16 drinking + 205.75 industrial) = 1949.91 Total = 2043 MCM			28.01.2024. Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) for implementation has been signed in December 2024. DPRs of components of Rajasthan have been completed and uploaded on e-PAMS Portal of CWC.
6.	Krishna (Almatti) - Pennar link	Karnat aka	0.69	464.51	----	DPR Completed in September 2025.	
		AP	1.57	10.1- Drinking water 22.3- Industrial	----		
7.	Bedti - Varda link	Karnat aka	1.05	38	----	DPR completed in September 2022.	Presently, PFR of alternate link has been submitted to State in August 2025.
8.	Godavari (SSMP/Inchampa lli) -Krishna (Pulichintala) link	Telang ana & AP	TOTAL 4.74 Telangana - 0.36 AP - 4.38	Telangana - 26.8 AP - 319.7	90.0	DPR completed in March 2024	
9.	Godavari (Polavaram) - Krishna (Viayawada) link (Polavaram irrigation project)	AP	4.36	665	960	DPR was completed in 2005	Benefits included here are the total benefit under Polavaram Irrigation project.
10.	Krishna (Srisailam) Pennar link	AP	1.79	58	11	DPR completed in March 2024	
11.	Kosi-Ghaghra link	Bihar, U.P & Nepal	Total 8.35 Bihar- 6.05 U.P- 1.20 Nepal -1.10	0	--	FR completed in march, 2023	
12.	Gandak - Ganga link	U.P & Nepal	Total 34.58 U.P -28.80 Nepal -5.78	-700	4375 (Dam PH) & 180 (Canal PH)	FR completed in June 2024	
13.	Chunar-Sone Barrage link	Bihar & U.P	Total - 0.60 Bihar - 0.10 U.P. - 0.49	--	--	FR completed in September, 2025	
