

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2451

ANSWERED ON 10.08.2026

**STATUS OF RIVER-LINKING PROJECTS AND REHABILITATION OF PROJECT-
AFFECTED FAMILIES**

2451 Smt. JEBI MATHER HISHAM:

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

- (a) project-wise details of river-linking projects under construction during last five years, including cost, expenditure and status;
- (b) project-wise number of families displaced, rehabilitated and pending rehabilitation;
- (c) project-wise reasons for pending rehabilitation and whether Government proposes to resolve such deadlocks, including review of eligibility criteria - details;
- (d) whether Government ordered fresh surveys of rehabilitation and compensation claims, if so, the details thereof, project-wise;
- (e) measures to ensure fair rehabilitation, timely compensation and prevent wrongful inclusion/exclusion of beneficiaries; and
- (f) whether public resentment over any project was noted, if so, nature of concerns and action taken?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI

(SHRI RAJ BHUSHAN CHOUDHARY)

(a) The Ken–Betwa Link Project (KBLP), approved in 2021, a major river-interlinking project under National Perspective Plan, is designed to provide annual irrigation to 11.88 lakh hectares, supply drinking water to about 62 lakh people, and generate 103 MW of hydropower. The project's total estimated cost is ₹44,604.99 crore, against which ₹12,445.85 crore had been spent as of July 2026.

The Godavari (Polavaram)–Krishna (Vijayawada) link, forming part of the Polavaram Irrigation Project (PIP), has been completed. The PIP envisages irrigation for 7.2 lakh acres, stabilization of 23.5 lakh acres in the Godavari and Krishna delta systems, diversion of 80 TMC of Godavari water to the Krishna basin, and extensive drinking and industrial water supply, including to Visakhapatnam. It also provides domestic water to about 28.5 lakh people across 611 villages and includes a hydropower component of 960 MW. The project has received ₹20,658 crore in cumulative Central Assistance.

(b) In the State of Madhya Pradesh, construction of the Daudhan Reservoir under the Ken-Betwa Link Project affects 22 villages (8 in Panna District and 14 in Chhatarpur District), involving 5,039 Project Affected Families (PAFs). All identified PAFs have voluntarily opted for the Special Rehabilitation Package. Resettlement and Rehabilitation (R&R) awards amounting to ₹629.87 crore have been passed, of which compensation amounting to ₹590.74 crore has been disbursed to 4,726 families. Pending number of families for rehabilitation is 313.

In the case of the PIP, Land Acquisition and Rehabilitation & Resettlement works have been included as part of the approved project components. The total number of Project Displaced families (PDF) is 96,660 due to construction of the PIP.

(c) to (e) The R&R cases pertain primarily to completion of statutory formalities, verification of land records, succession and title-related issues, and other procedural requirements. To ensure that all eligible Project Affected Families receive compensation and rehabilitation benefits in accordance with the provisions of the RFCTLARR Act, 2013, the approved R&R Plan, and the applicable policies of the Government of Madhya Pradesh, continuous verification and updation of land acquisition and R&R records is considered through scrutiny of land records, field verification, and validation of beneficiary details wherever required.

Compensation and rehabilitation benefits are extended strictly in accordance with the approved R&R Plan and the Special Rehabilitation Package notified by the Government of Madhya Pradesh. Joint verification exercises, field inspections, stakeholder consultations, grievance-redressal mechanisms, and periodic reviews are carried out at various levels to ensure effective and timely implementation of all R&R measures.

(f) During implementation of the Project, concerns raised by Project Affected Families are primarily related to land acquisition, compensation and rehabilitation. To address these concerns, the Government of Madhya Pradesh has approved a comprehensive Special Rehabilitation Package providing enhanced compensation and rehabilitation benefits over and above the statutory entitlements, wherever applicable. Regular consultations with Project Affected Families, field-level interactions, grievance redressal mechanisms and periodic review meetings at various levels are carried out for the expeditious resolution of issues.
