

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES,
RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. †1019
ANSWERED ON 08.02.2018

INTER-LINKING OF KOSI AND MECHI RIVERS

†1019. SHRIMATI RAMA DEVI

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the progress made by the Government in inter-linking of Kosi and Mechi rivers so far;
- (b) whether the PFR work for the same has been completed;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the details of the works likely to be undertaken thereafter to benefit the people?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION & PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) to (d) The National Perspective Plan (NPP) was prepared by the then Ministry of Irrigation in August 1980 for transferring water from water surplus basins to water-deficit basins. Under the NPP, the National Water Development Agency (NWDA) has identified 30 links (16 under Peninsular Component & 14 under Himalayan Component) for preparation of Feasibility Reports. The Kosi-Mechi link project is one of the link project proposed under the Himalayan Component of NPP. This link entirely lies in Nepal territory. The Pre Feasibility Reports (PFR) of this link project was prepared by NWDA in 1997. Taking up preparation of Feasibility Report (FR)/Detailed Project Report (DPR) depends upon agreement with Government of Nepal. This link proposal is envisaged to provide irrigation benefits of about 4.74 lakh ha (2.99 lakh ha in India and 1.75 lakh ha in Nepal), 24 MCM of water for domestic and industrial uses and generation of 3180 MW of hydropower.

Further, an intra-State link project for linking Kosi-Mechi rivers was proposed by Government of Bihar for which NWDA prepared the DPR and submitted to Government of Bihar in March, 2014. Kosi-Mechi link project entirely lies in the State of Bihar and is envisaged to start from existing Hanuman Sagar barrage on river Kosi close to Indo-Nepal Border.

The existing Kosi Project consists of a barrage across river Kosi near Hanuman Nagar, canal headworks, Western Kosi Main Canal (WKMC) system in Nepal and Eastern Kosi Main Canal (EKMC) system in India. The present proposal is to extend the existing EKMC beyond its tail end at RD 41.30 km to RD 117.50 km upto Mechi River, so that Kosi and Mechi rivers which flow within Bihar after crossing Indo-Nepal border could be linked together. This link project will provide additional irrigation facilities to about 2.11 lakh ha during kharif season in the new command area between rivers Parman and Mechi covering Araria, Purnea, Kishanganj and Katihar districts of Bihar. Total cost of the Project has been estimated as Rs. 4900.00 crore (2015-16 price level) with benefit cost ratio of 2.40. Ministry of WR, RD & GR has conveyed techno-economic appraisal of Kosi-Mechi Intra-State link project in July 2016.
