

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES,
RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4416
ANSWERED ON 22.03.2018

MEETING OF SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON INTER-LINKING OF RIVERS

4416. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI

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

- (a) whether a meeting of Special Committee on inter-linking of rivers was held recently;
- (b) if so, the details of the issues discussed therein and the outcome thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has urged the concerned States to sort out issues pending for finalization; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the time by which pending issues among States and the Government are likely to be sorted out?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) & (b) The Fourteenth meeting of the Special Committee for Interlinking of Rivers (ILR) was held on 17.01.2018 at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi. During the meeting, the issues like status of various statutory clearances of Ken-Betwa link project Phase-I, present status of DPRs Ken-Betwa Link Project Phase-II, Damanganga-Pinjal and Par-Tapi-Narmada link projects, introduction of micro-irrigation in the command area of projects, guidelines for arriving surplus water in a river basin, status of intra-state link projects, restructuring of National Water Development Agency (NWDA), funding resources for ILR projects, consideration of ILR projects as National Project were discussed. Further, alternative proposal of diversion of Godavari waters upto Cauvery basin was also discussed.

(c) & (d) Though no time lines have been fixed, the ILR programme has been taken up on high priority. The Government is pursuing the ILR program in a consultative manner. State Irrigation/Water Resources Ministers along with the Secretaries of various States participate in the meetings of the Committee. The Special Committee on ILR takes into consideration all the suggestions/observations of stakeholders while planning and formulating the ILR projects. The Committee, after considering views of all stakeholders, is proceeding ahead to expedite the objectives of the interlinking of rivers as per terms of reference. Vigorous efforts have been made for generating consensus with development of alternative plans and also setting out road maps for implementation of mature projects.

During the meeting held on 17.01.2018, the Minister for WR, RD & GR requested States of Tamil Nadu and Kerala to resolve their inter-state disputes through the inter-state meetings. Further, he requested Governments of Maharashtra and Gujarat to convey their consent for signing of Memorandum of Understanding for implementation of Damanganga-Pinjal and Par-Tapi-Narmada link projects.