

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES,
RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4458
ANSWERED ON 22.03.2018

TEESTA INTER-LINKING OF RIVERS PROJECT

4458. SHRI PREM DAS RAI

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

- (a) the current status of inter-linking of rivers project with regard to Teesta river;
- (b) the impact of inter-linking project on water availability in downstream areas; and
- (c) the manner in which the decline in glacial source waters due to climate change are to affect livelihood of mountain communities and lower riparian communities?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION & PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS
(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) & (b) As envisaged in National Perspective Plan (NPP) for Water Resources development through Inter Basin Water Transfer prepared by the then Ministry of Irrigation (now Ministry of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation) in August 1980, National Water Development Agency (NWDA) has identified 16 links under Peninsular and 14 links under Himalayan component. One of the link namely Manas-Sankosh-Teesta-Ganga (MSTG) link under the Himalayan Component of NPP envisages diversion of the surplus waters of Manas and Sankosh rivers with supplementation from the intermediate major streams namely Aie, Raidak, Torsa and Jaldhaka for the benefit of augmenting the flows of Ganga at Farakka and further transfer to water scarce areas of Krishna, Pennar and Cauvery basins and providing irrigation facilities to the enroute command areas including the Teesta basin for meeting the requirements of North Bengal. No transfer of water from Teesta river is envisaged. Pre-Feasibility Report of this link has been prepared by NWDA.

(c) The contribution of the glaciers to the river flow depends upon the size and properties of the glacier and temperature. Most of the contribution due to glacier is received in the downstream areas during the months when temperature remains high, e.g. April to June in north India. In case the contribution of glacier reduces in lean season due to any reason, the livelihood of mountain communities and lower riparian communities dependent on these sources would be adversely affected.

Central Water Commission (CWC) carries out hydrological observation on important rivers round the year including Teesta Basin. CWC has observed the river flow in Teesta Basin at Bansoi, Lachung and Sankalang HO site. Snow melt and glaciers melt is cyclic process which rejuvenate the river in non-monsoon season. From available flow data, no specific trend on increase / decrease of availability of water in River Teesta has been observed especially in summer season.