

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES,
RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 6431
ANSWERED ON 05.04.2018

REPRESENTATIONS ON INTER-LINKING OF RIVERS

6431. SHRI K. PARASURAMAN

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

- (a) whether the Government has received any representations from Tamil Nadu to implement the inter-linking of the Mahanadi-Godavari-Krishna- Pennar-Palar-Cauvery-Vaigai rivers;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government in this regard;
- (c) whether it is a fact that due to excessive financial implications the inter-linking of river projects on any segment would not be possible;
- (d) if so, whether the Government has any proposal to generate separate fund sources for this project; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government on this issue so far?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) & (b) The National Perspective Plan (NPP) was prepared by the then Ministry of Irrigation, now Ministry of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation (MoWR, RD & GR) in August 1980 for water resources development through inter basin transfer of water, 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 (FRs). Out of the 16 links proposed under Peninsular Component of NPP, Mahanadi-Godavari-Krishna-Pennar-Palar-Cauvery-Vaigai-Gundar river link has been identified as the nine link system which will benefit the Southern States. Mahanadi-Godavari is the mother link of this system. The details of the projects under the nine link system and the States concerned and benefitted, etc., are furnished in **Annexure**.

During the various meetings of NWDA members/representatives of Government of Tamil Nadu requested to implement the interlinking of Mahanadi-Godavari-Krishna-Pennar-Palar-Cauvery-Vaigai-Gundar rivers.

The Mahanadi-Godavari link project has been considered as one of the priority link under the inter-linking of river (ILR) programme. Govt of Odisha is not agreeable to Manibhadra dam due to

large submergence involved. On the request of Government of Odisha, NWDA has carried out alternate studies for Mahanadi-Godavari link project with proposed Barmul dam site with reduced submergence and submitted the report to Govt of Odisha. Hydrological studies were also carried out through NIH, Roorkee. However, Government of Odisha did not agree for the water balance computed at Barmul Dam site. For taking up the Detailed Project Report (DPR) of Mahanadi-Godavari link, the consensus building with concerned States is necessary.

Further, out of the above nine links, Government of Andhra Pradesh has taken up the implementation of Godavari(Polavaram)-Krishna(Vijayawada) link project according to their own planning.

As per the directions of Supreme Court, a Committee called “Special Committee on Interlinking of Rivers” was constituted under the Chairmanship of the Union Minister of WR, RD & GR for the implementation of ILR programme vide Gazette Notification dated 23rd September, 2014. Fourteen meetings of the Special Committee for ILR have been held so far (last meeting held on 17.01.2018 at New Delhi), wherein State Irrigation/ Water Resources Ministers along with the Secretaries of various States participated. The Special Committee on ILR takes into consideration all the suggestions/observations of the stakeholders while planning and formulating the ILR projects. The Committee, after considering the views of all the 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.

(c) to (e) The ILR programme has been taken up on high priority. The Government is pursuing the ILR program in a consultative manner.

The implementation of ILR projects involves various steps such as preparation of Pre Feasibility Reports (PFRs)/FRs; negotiation and consensus among concerned States; preparation of DPRs; clearance from appraisal agencies including clearance by Ministry of Environment & Forests and Climate Change (MoEF & CC) and Ministry of Tribal Affairs; techno-economic clearance by Advisory Committee on Irrigation, Flood Control & Multipurpose Projects of MoWR, RD & GR; investment clearance and the actual construction time required for the completion of the project as per DPR.

The implementation of a project is taken up after preparation of its DPR with the consensus of concerned States and obtaining requisite statutory clearances. The financial implication will be available only after the preparation of DPRs of all the links.

Further, the Central Government constituted a Group for Financial Aspects under the Task Force-ILR on 12.09.2017. Six meetings of the Group have been held so far, and the last meeting was held on 27.02.2018.

ANNEXURE

Annexure referred to in reply to part (a) & (b) of Unstarred Question No. 6431 to be answered in Lok Sabha on 05.04.2018 regarding “Representations on Inter-linking of Rivers”.

States, Rivers concerned and benefitted under Proposed Inter State Water Transfer Links

Sl. No	Name	States concerned	States benefitted	Present status
Peninsular Component				
1	Mahanadi (Manibhadra) - Godavari (Dowlaiswaram) link	Odisha, Maharashtra, AP, Karnataka, Chattisgarh & Telangana	Andhra Pradesh & Odisha	Feasibility Report completed.
2	Godavari (Inchampalli) - Krishna (Pulichintala) link	-do-	Andhra Pradesh & Telangana	Feasibility Report completed.
3	Godavari (Inchampalli) - Krishna (Nagarjunasagar) link	Odisha, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, AP, Karnataka, Chattisgarh & Telangana	Telangana	Feasibility Report completed.
4	Godavari (Polavaram) - Krishna (Vijayawada) link	Odisha, Maharashtra, AP, Karnataka, Chattisgarh & Telangana	Andhra Pradesh	Feasibility Report completed. (Govt of AP started to implement this project as per own planning)
5	Krishna (Almatti) – Pennar link	Maharashtra, Karnataka, Telangana & AP	Andhra Pradesh & Karnataka	Feasibility Report completed.
6	Krishna (Srisailem) – Pennar link	-do-	Andhra Pradesh	Feasibility Report completed.
7	Krishna (Nagarjunasagar) - Pennar (Somasila) link	Maharashtra, AP & Karnataka	-do-	Feasibility Report completed.
8	Pennar (Somasila) - Cauvery (Grand Anicut) link	AP, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Kerala & Puducherry	AP, Tamil Nadu & Puducherry	Feasibility Report completed.
9	Cauvery (Kattalai) - Vaigai -Gundar link	Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Kerala & Puducherry	Tamil Nadu	Feasibility Report completed.