

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES,
RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3846
ANSWERED ON 03.01.2019

STUDIES ON INTER-LINKING OF RIVERS

3846. SHRI FEROZE VARUN GANDHI

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

- (a) whether the Government has conducted or plans to conduct any social and environmental impact assessment studies to investigate the cost benefit of inter-linking of river projects and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government is planning to introduce region-specific irrigation projects across the country especially in drought prone and arid areas; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) At the time of preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR) of individual inter-linking of river projects, detailed Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) studies as per Terms of Reference approved by Environmental Appraisal Committee (EAC) of Ministry of Environment and Forests & Climate Change are carried out. The environmental impacts and issues arising out of the EIA studies are addressed in Environmental Management Plan which forms a part of DPR.

Socio-economic impact assessment including Resettlement and Rehabilitation (R&R) Plan in respect of project affected persons is an integral part of implementation of any link project and is included in the DPR.

The Benefit-Cost analysis of each link is carried out as per the "Guidelines for preparation of Detailed Project Report of Irrigation & Multipurpose projects" and is included in the DPR.

(b) & (c) Water Resources Projects are planned, funded, executed and maintained by the State Governments themselves as per their own resources and priority. In order to supplement their efforts, Government of India provides technical and financial assistance to State Governments to encourage sustainable development and efficient management of water resources through various schemes and programmes such as Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP), Surface Minor Irrigation (SMI) etc. under Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY). Ninety-nine (99) on-going Major/Medium Irrigation (MMI) projects under PMKSY-AIBP have been prioritized in consultation with States, for completion in phases up to December, 2019 along with their Command Area Development & Water Management (CADWM) works. Funding mechanism through NABARD has been approved by the Government for both Central and State share. Drought Prone areas are given priority under PMKSY. Total 59 projects benefitting drought prone areas in 11 States are part of the 99 prioritized PMKSY-AIBP projects. Further, special package of Rs.3831.41 crore as central assistance to complete 83 SMI projects and 8 MMI projects in Vidarbha, Marathwada and other drought prone areas of Maharashtra has been approved by the Government in July, 2018.
