

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI,  
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION

**LOK SABHA**

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 266**

ANSWERED ON 08.12.2022

**INTER-LINKING OF RIVERS**

266 DR. TALARI RANGAIAH  
SHRI UTTAM KUMAR REDDY NALAMADA  
SHRI ADALA PRABHAKARA REDDY  
SHRI KURUVA GORANTLA MADHAV

Will the Minister of JAL SHAKTI be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether the Government in concert with National Water Development Agency (NWDA) has decided to come with plans to inter-link Godavari - Krishna - Pennar - Cauvery rivers, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (b) whether the lack of consensus in this respect is causing delays in the said projects and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the details of the impact of the project on immediate drinking and irrigation water supply from pre-existing projects on the Godavari or Cauvery rivers;
- (d) the details of the land required in each State for the completion of the project and the proposed compensation to be paid to acquire the required land;
- (e) the total quantum of funds required to develop and operate the project and the timeline for the same; and
- (f) the impact of the project on existing lift irrigation projects and canals?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI

(SHRI BISHWESWAR TUDU)

(a) Godavari-Krishna-Pennar-Cauvery link project is among the 30 link projects identified under the National Perspective Plan (NPP). As envisaged under the NPP, Godavari is to be augmented by transfer of surplus waters from Mahanadi and Brahmaputra basins, for further diversion of waters to Krishna, Pennar and Cauvery basins. The Government of India is making concerted efforts in consultation with the party States, for the implementation of this link project. Pending consensus on Mahanadi-Godavari and Godavari (Inchampalli)-Krishna link projects, alternative studies to divert surplus waters available in Godavari basin and unutilized waters in Indravati sub-basin of Godavari basin through Godavari-Cauvery link project were carried out by National Water Development Agency (NWDA). The Godavari (Inchampalli)-Cauvery (Grand Anicut) link comprises of three links namely Godavari (Inchampalli)-Krishna (Nagarjunasagar) link, Krishna

(Nagarjunasagar) – Pennar (Somasila) link and Pennar (Somasila)-Cauvery (Grand Anicut) link. This link project traverses through Godavari, Krishna, Pennar, Palar and Cauvery basins and lies in the States of Telangana, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu. The link project has been identified as one of the priority link projects.

The Detailed Project Report (DPR) of the Godavari (Inchampalli)-Cauvery(Grand Anicut) link project was completed by NWDA in consultation with the party States and circulated to them on 28.04.2021. The link project is envisaged for diversion of 7000 Million Cubic Metres (MCM) of waters annually from Godavari basin to Krishna, Pennar and Cauvery basins and would provide an annual irrigation of 9.44 lakh hectares.

**(b)** Regarding the Godavari (Inchampalli)-Cauvery (Grand Anicut) link project, the party States have raised concerns related to surplus waters availability in Godavari basin and quantum of allocation of waters to the States. Four consultation meetings with party States/Union Territory (UT) have been held so far. As decided during the meeting held on 18.02.2022, a Technical Feasibility Report (TFR) has also been prepared by NWDA to recast the proposal limiting the transfer from 7000 MCM to about 4000 MCM of waters from Godavari basin in the interim phase, along with combining the proposal for supplementation in Krishna basin through Bedti-Varda link. The consultation meeting was last held on 18.10.2022 and efforts made to arrive at a consensus among the Party States for implementation of the link project.

**(c)** The Godavari (Inchampalli)-Cauvery (Grand Anicut) link project shall provide irrigation of 6.23 lakh ha area annually in the States of Telangana, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu in the interim phase. The link shall also fulfill the industrial and domestic needs of nearly 1.88 crore people in the States of Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu and the UT of Puduchchery. Further, the Bedti-Verda link shall provide annual irrigation of 1.05 lakh ha area in the State of Karnataka and provide domestic water to 5 lakh people in the State.

**(d) to (f)** The details of the land and funds required for the completion of the project, compensation, etc. will come into consideration at the time of the implementation of the project. The detailed project planning process will ensure that there is no impact on existing schemes for irrigation or domestic water supply.

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