

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF PORTS, SHIPPING AND WATERWAYS
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 278
ANSWERED ON 03/02/2023

LINKING OF MAHANANDA RIVER

278. SHRI DULAL CHANDRA GOSWAMI:

Will the Minister of PORTS, SHIPPING AND WATERWAYS be pleased to state:

पत्तन, पोत परिवहन और जलमार्ग मंत्री

- (a) whether the Government has linked Mahananda river in Katihar and Ganges in Manihari situated in Bihar under the Sagarmala project;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the future plan to link the said rivers in Katihar?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF PORTS, SHIPPING AND WATERWAYS
(SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL)

(a), (b) and (c) The Sagarmala programme is the flagship programme of the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways to promote port-led development in the country through harnessing India's 7,500 km long coastline, 14,500 km of potentially navigable waterways and strategic location on key international maritime trade routes. As a part of Sagarmala Programme, more than 800 projects at an estimated cost of around 5.5 lakh crore have been identified for implementation during 2015 to 2035 across all coastal states an Eastern and Western side of the country. Sagarmala projects includes projects from various categories such as modernisation of existing ports and terminals, new ports, terminals, RoRo & tourism jetties, enhancement of port connectivity, inland waterways, lighthouse tourism, industrialization around port, skill development, technology centres, etc.

Linking of rivers are not mandated under Sagarmala Programme. However, National Water Development Agency under Ministry of Jal Shakti, Government of India has formulated a National Perspective Plan (NPP) of interlinking of rivers for transferring water from surplus basins to deficit basins/areas in 1980. National Water Development Agency (NWDA) has identified 30 links (16 under Peninsular Component and 14 under Himalayan Component) under NPP. Manas – Sankosh – Tista - Ganga (MSTG) link is one of the important links under Himalayan Component benefitting States of Assam, West Bengal and Bihar. Mahananda river is utilized for conveyance of water under this link project. The Feasibility Report of the link has been completed.

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