

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

**LOK SABHA**

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3807**

ANSWERED ON 23.03.2023

**INTER-LINKING OF GODAVARI-CAUVERY RIVERS**

3807. SHRI SRIDHAR KOTAGIRI

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

- (a) whether the Government in concurrence with the National Water Development Agency (NWDA) has decided to come up with the plan to link Godavari-Krishna-Penna-Cauvery rivers;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether the lack of consensus in this respect is causing delays in the said projects;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the details of the measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to resolve the same?

**ANSWER**

**THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI**

(SHRI BISHWESWAR TUDU)

**(a) & (b)** Government of India formulated a National Perspective Plan in 1980 and National Water Development Agency (NWDA) has been entrusted with the work of Interlinking of Rivers (ILR) under the NPP. Godavari - Krishna - Pennar - Cauvery link project is among the 30 link projects identified under the 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 the NWDA. The Godavari (Inchampalli)-Cauvery (Grand Anicut) link comprises three links, viz; 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. The link project is envisaged for diversion of 7,000 Million Cubic Metres (MCM) of water annually from Godavari basin to Krishna, Pennar and Cauvery basins for providing annual irrigation of 9.44 lakh hectares.

**(c)** Does not arise.

**(d) to (f)** 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. The issue have been deliberated in the consultation meetings with party States and also in the meetings of NWDA Society and Special Committee on Interlinking of Rivers held on 13.12.2022.

Based on decisions taken during the consultation meeting held on 18.02.2022, an alternative study has been carried out by NWDA to recast the proposal limiting the transfer from 7,000 MCM to about 4,000 MCM from Godavari (unutilized water in Indravati sub-basin) along with combining the proposal for supplementation in Krishna basin through Bedti-Varda link. Technical Feasibility Report (TFR) of this proposal has been completed and circulated to the party States in January, 2023. The concerns raised by the party States on the link project have also been deliberated with the party States in the meeting of Task Force for Interlinking of Rivers held on 06.03.2023.

The implementation of the ILR link projects depends upon the party States to reach a consensus.

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