

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1926

ANSWERED ON 14.12.2023

INTER-LINKING OF RIVER

1926. SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL

SHRI KHAGEN MURMU

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

- (a) the main features of the river interlinking project;
- (b) the current status of river linking projects in the country, highlighting those that are under various stages of planning and implementation;
- (c) whether the Government has set up any task force or dedicated mechanism to streamline decision making processes related to river linking projects and if so, the details thereof along with the role of Government in overseeing and expediting these initiatives; and
- (d) whether there have been comprehensive studies conducted to assess the potential climatic impact of river linking projects and if so, the details of findings and recommendations of such studies?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI

(SHRI BISHWESWAR TUDU)

(a) to (b) The Government of India formulated a National Perspective Plan (NPP) in 1980 for transferring water from water surplus basins to water deficit basins/areas. National Water Development Agency (NWDA) has identified 30 links (16 under Peninsular Component and 14 under Himalayan Component) under the NPP. The main features of the NPP is given at **Annexure-I**.

Out of the 30 Inter-linking of Rivers (ILR) projects under the NPP, Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) of 11 links, Feasibility Reports (FRs) of 24 links and Pre-Feasibility Reports (PFRs) of all the 30 links have been completed. The details and the latest status of ILR projects under the NPP is given at **Annexure-II**.

Five link projects have been identified as priority link projects under the NPP, viz; Ken - Betwa Link Project (KBLP), Modified Parbati - Kalisindh - Chambal (PKC) Link duly integrated with Eastern Rajasthan Canal Project (ERCP) and Godavari - Cauvery link project (comprising of 3 links). The KBLP is the first link project under the NPP, implementation of which has been initiated. The project was approved on 08.12.2021 by the Government of India for its implementation, with an estimated cost of Rs. 44,605 crore (at year 2020-21 price level) and central support of Rs.39,317 crore, through a Special Purpose Vehicle, viz; Ken - Betwa Link Project Authority (KBLPA). The project is planned to be completed in 8 years. The initial focus is on land acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement of affected people and meeting conditions of environment and forest clearances.

Modified Parbati - Kalisindh - Chambal (PKC) Link Project will help in utilizing the available water resources of Chambal basin optimally and economically. Efforts have been made to build consensus between the party States of Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan, on issues related to the project. It is, however, for the party States to arrive at a consensus.

The DPRs of Godavari (Inchampalli) – Krishna (Nagarjunasagar) link, Krishna (Nagarjunasagar) – Pennar (Somasila) link and Pennar (Somasila) – Cauvery link under Godavari – Cauvery alternative link scheme for transfer of 7000 Million Cubic Metres (MCM) of water from the Godavari basin were finalized and circulated in April 2021 to all the party States and the Union Territory (UT) of Puducherry. Efforts have been made at various levels to build consensus amongst the party States / UT for the implementation of the link project. Five consultation meetings with the party States / UT have been held so far. Based on the decisions taken during the consultation meetings, a Technical Feasibility Report (TFR) was prepared by the NWDA and circulated to the party States / UT in January, 2023. During the last consultation meeting held on 10.11.2023 at Hyderabad, a modified proposal for the transfer of about 4189 MCM from the Godavari basin along with combining the proposal for supplementation in Krishna basin through Bedti - Varda link has, inter alia, been deliberated and efforts made for bringing the party States / UT to a consensus on issues related to the implementation of the project. It is, however, for the party States / UT to arrive at a consensus .

(c) The Government of India has accorded top priority to the ILR Programme. To streamline the decision making process and to expedite the work of these projects, a “Special Committee on Interlinking of Rivers (SCILR)” was constituted by the Government of India in September, 2014. 20 meetings of the Special Committee have been held so far. Further, a Task Force for Interlinking of Rivers was also constituted in April, 2015 for expediting the works under ILR programme and 18 meetings of the Task Force have been held so far. Apart from this, the progress of the ILR programme is reviewed on a regular basis, in the Annual General Meetings (AGMs) and the meetings of the Governing Body of the NWDA Society, as well. The AGM and the Governing Body of the NWDA Society have wider representations from the Central Ministries / Departments and State Governments. 36 AGMs of the NWDA Society have been held so far, while the Governing Body has so far held 72 meetings.

(d) For every river linking project, detailed Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is done at the stage of preparation of FRs and DPRs. EIA consists of a systematic investigation of both positive and negative impacts that would be potentially caused or induced due to a proposed river linking project on the physical, biological and socio-economic environment, including air environment, land environment, noise environment and water environment, etc.

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) TO (b) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1926 ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 14.12.2023 REGARDING “INTER-LINKING OF RIVERS”.

Main features of the two components of the NPP are as mentioned below:

A. Peninsular Rivers Development Component: This is divided into following four major parts:

- i. Interlinking of Mahanadi-Godavari-Krishna-Pennar-Cauvery rivers and building storages at potential sites in these basins: This part involves interlinking of the major river systems, where surplus from the Mahanadi and the Godavari basins are intended to be transferred to the needy areas in the south, through Krishna, Pennar and Cauvery rivers.
- ii. Interlinking of west flowing rivers, north of Bombay and south of Tapi: The scheme provides for taking water supply canal to the metropolitan areas of Mumbai; it also provides irrigation in the coastal areas in Maharashtra.
- iii. Interlinking of Ken-Chambal: The scheme provides for a water grid for Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh and interlinking canal backed by as many storages as possible.
- iv. Diversion of other west flowing rivers: The high rainfall on the western side of the "Western Ghats" runs down into numerous streams. which discharge into the Arabian Sea. The construction of an interlinking canal system, backed up by adequate storages could be planned to meet requirements of new areas on the western side, as also for transfer of some waters towards east to meet the needs of drought affected areas.

B. Himalayan Rivers Development Component: The Himalayan Rivers Development Component envisages construction of storages on the principal tributaries of Ganga and the Brahmaputra in India, Nepal and Bhutan along with interlinking canal systems to transfer surplus flows of the eastern tributaries of the Ganga to the West, apart from linking of the main Brahmaputra and its tributaries with the Ganga and Ganga with Mahanadi and further South.

C. Benefits of NPP: The implementation of NPP would provide irrigation benefits of 35 million hectare (ha) (25 million ha from surface waters and about 10 million ha by additional recharge and higher use of ground water) over and above the ultimate irrigation potential of 140 million ha in the country, apart from extending other benefits of Domestic & Industrial supply, Hydropower, etc.

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) TO (b) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1926 ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 14.12.2023 REGARDING “INTER-LINKING OF RIVERS”.

Details and current status of the ILR Projects under the NPP

Sl. No	Name	States benefited	Status
1	a. Mahanadi (Manibhadra) - Godavari (Dowlaiswaram) link	Andhra Pradesh (AP) & Odisha	FR completed
	b. Alternate Mahanadi (Barmul) - Rushikulya – Godavari (Dowlaiswaram) link	AP& Odisha	FR completed
2	Godavari (Polavaram) - Krishna (Vijayawada) link	AP	FR completed
3	a) Godavari (Inchampalli) - Krishna (Nagarjunasagar) link	Telangana	FR completed
	b) Alternate Godavari (Inchampalli) - Krishna (Nagarjunasagar) link *	Telangana	DPR completed
4	Godavari (Inchampalli/ SSMPP) - Krishna (Pulichintala) link	Telangana & AP	DPR completed
5	a) Krishna (Nagarjunasagar) - Pennar (Somasila) link	AP	FR completed
	b) Alternate Krishna (Nagarjunasagar) - Pennar (Somasila) link *	AP	DPR completed
6	Krishna (Srisailem) – Pennar link	AP	Draft DPR completed
7	Krishna (Almati) – Pennar link	AP & Karnataka	Draft DPR completed
8	a) Pennar (Somasila) - Cauvery (Grand Anicut) link	AP, Tamil Nadu & Puducherry	FR completed
	b) Alternate Pennar (Somasila) - Cauvery (Grand Anicut) link *	AP, Tamil Nadu & Puducherry	DPR completed
9	Cauvery (Kattalai) - Vaigai -Gundar link	Tamil Nadu	DPR completed
10	a. Parbati –Kalisindh - Chambal link	Madhya Pradesh (MP) & Rajasthan	FR completed
	b. Modified Parbati – Kalisindh-Chambal link (duly integrated with ERCP)	MP & Rajasthan	Draft PFR completed
11	Damanganga - Pinjal link	Maharashtra (only water supply to Mumbai)	DPR completed
12	Par-Tapi-Narmada link (As per DPR)	Gujarat & Maharashtra	DPR completed
13	Ken-Betwa link	Uttar Pradesh (UP) & MP	implementation initiated
14	Pamba - Achankovil - Vaippar link	Tamil Nadu and Kerala	FR completed
15	Bedti - Varda link	Karnataka	DPR completed
16	Netravati – Hemavati link **	Karnataka	PFR completed

* Due to pending consensus on Manibhadra and Inchampalli dams, Alternate study to divert unutilized waters of Godavari river was carried out and DPR of Godavari (Inchampalli/ Janampet) – Krishna (Nagarjunasagar) - Pennar (Somasila) – Cauvery (Grand Anicut) link projects completed. Godavari-Cauvery (Grand Anicut) link project has been prepared comprising of Godavari (Inchampalli / Janampet) - Krishna (Nagarjunasagar), Krishna (Nagarjunasagar)- Pennar (Somasila) and Pennar(Somasila)-Cauvery(Grand Anicut) link projects.

** Further studies are not taken up since after implementation of Yettinahole project by Govt. of Karnataka, no surplus water is available in Netravati basin for diversion through this link.

Himalayan Component

Sl. No.	Name of the Link	Country/ States benefited	Status
1.	Kosi-Mechi link	Bihar & Nepal	PFR completed
2.	Kosi-Ghaghra link	Bihar & UP & Nepal	FR completed
3.	Gandak - Ganga link	UP & Nepal	FR completed (Indian portion)
4.	Ghaghra - Yamuna link	UP & Nepal	FR completed (Indian portion)
5.	Sarda - Yamuna link	UP & Uttarakhand	FR completed
6.	Yamuna-Rajasthan link	Haryana & Rajasthan	FR completed
7.	Rajasthan-Sabarmati link	Rajasthan & Gujarat	FR completed
8.	Chunar-Sone Barrage link	Bihar & UP	PFR completed
9.	Sone Dam - Southern Tributaries of Ganga link	Bihar & Jharkhand	PFR completed
10.	Manas-Sankosh-Tista-Ganga (M-S-T-G) link	Assam, West Bengal (WB) & Bihar	FR completed
11.	Jogighopa-Tista-Farakka link (Alternative to M-S-T-G)	Assam, WB & Bihar	PFR completed (The proposal has been dropped)
12.	Farakka-Sundarbans link	WB	FR completed
13.	Ganga(Farakka) - Damodar-Subarnarekha link	WB, Odisha & Jharkhand	FR completed
14.	Subarnarekha-Mahanadi link	WB & Odisha	FR completed
