

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

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1994

ANSWERED ON 28.07.2022

INTER-LINKING OF ERCP

1994 SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH

Will the Minister of JAL SHAKTI be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has any proposal for inter-linking of Eastern Rajasthan Canal Project (ERCP) with Parbati-Kuno-Sind Link Project;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to declare ERCP as a National Project; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI

(SHRI BISHWESWAR TUDU)

(a) to (d) Parbati-Kalisindh-Chambal (PKC) Link Canal Project is one the 30 link projects identified under National Perspective Plan (NPP) prepared by Ministry of Jal Shakti. The PKC link project benefits the States of Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh. However, the project as planned originally could not be materialised due to lack of consensus on water sharing between Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan.

The Government of Rajasthan formulated Eastern Rajasthan Canal Project to utilize surplus water resources available in the catchments of some of the sub-basins of Chambal basin, viz; Kalisindh and Parbati to meet water demands particularly for the drinking water supply in various districts in eastern Rajasthan. The Government of Rajasthan has proposed to utilize about 3500 MCM of water available at 50% dependability to meet drinking water requirements of 13 districts of Eastern Rajasthan as well as to provide irrigation to new command areas of about 2 lakh ha and stabilization of about 0.80 lakh ha of existing command area. The Detailed Project Report (DPR) of ERCP is under appraisal in Central Water Commission (CWC). As the diversion of water involves interstate rivers, CWC has requested Rajasthan in September, 2018 to either revisit the planning of ERCP for water availability from 50 percent dependability to 75 percent dependability or seek No Objection Certificate (NOC) from Madhya Pradesh. Govt. of Madhya Pradesh has also stressed upon planning all

components of ERCP for water available at 75 percent dependability.

With a view to optimize the utilization of water of the Chambal River System, the Task force on Interlinking of Rivers in November, 2019 decided to explore the integration of ERCP with PKC link project. Accordingly, NWDA prepared a draft Pre-Feasibility Report (PFR) for Parbati-Kuno-Sindh (PKS) link project pertaining to components in Madhya Pradesh and proposing to integrate the same with ERCP. In the PFR, an exchange of about 131 MCM of water was proposed in Kuno and Parbati sub-basins between the two States. There are possibilities of similar exchange in Kalisindh sub-basin.

The issue of integration of ERCP with PKC link has been deliberated with both the States at various platforms. The issues for the integration of ERCP with PKC link under NPP are yet to be resolved, particularly in respect of the dependability criteria for diversion of water in the inter-State rivers, which has been planned at 50 percent dependability for ERCP by the state of Rajasthan.

Based on deliberations at various platforms, a proposal of modified Parbati-Kalisindh-Chambal (Modified PKC) link, incorporating the components as proposed by Govt. of Madhya Pradesh in Kuno, Parbati and Kalisindh sub-basins along with components of ERCP corresponding to divertible water available at 75 percent dependability, has been framed.

The Task Force on Interlinking of Rivers (TF-ILR) has recommended in its 16th meeting held on 17.05.2022 to proceed with the proposal of modified PKC link, under Phase-I.

Further, as per the guidelines for inclusion of a project for funding under National Projects scheme of Government of India, the project is required to be first appraised by Central Water Commission (CWC), and accepted by the Advisory Committee on Irrigation, Flood Control and Multipurpose Projects of Ministry of Jal Shakti. Thereafter, investment clearance is required to be obtained by the State Government. Subsequently, if the project meets the laid down norms for the National Project scheme, it is required to be considered by the High Powered Steering Committee (HPSC) setup for the purpose. On being recommended by HPSC, and as per availability of funds etc., Government of India considers inclusion of a project under the National Projects scheme.

As such, for consideration on inclusion of a project for funding under National Projects scheme of Ministry of Jal Shakti, its appraisal by CWC is one of the important criteria to be fulfilled. However, in respect of ERCP, in absence of amicable resolution of the inter-State issues between the States of Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan, the project has not been appraised by CWC.
