

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1564

ANSWERED ON 13.02.2025

NATIONAL RIVER INTERLINKING PROJECT

1564. SHRI DHARAMBIR SINGH

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

- (a) the current status of the National River Interlinking Project and the details of the rivers successfully linked so far;
- (b) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to address the environmental concerns and potential displacement of communities due to the river interlinking initiative;
- (c) the details of the budget allocated for the river linking project this year and its projected impact on water supply management;
- (d) the manner in which the Government is ensuring that the interlinking of rivers does not adversely affect the ecology and biodiversity of the regions involved; and
- (e) the timeline for the completion of the river interlinking project along with the way in which the Government is planning to monitor its long-term effectiveness in addressing water scarcity?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI

(SHRI RAJ BHUSHAN CHOUDHARY)

(a) to (e) The Government of India formulated a National Perspective Plan (NPP) for the Inter-linking of Rivers (ILR) for transferring water from surplus basins to deficit basins/areas in 1980. National Water Development Agency (NWDA) has been entrusted with the work of Interlinking of Rivers under the NPP. 30 link projects have been identified under the NPP with two components, viz; Himalayan Component (14 ILR projects) and Peninsular Component (16 ILR projects). Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) of 11 ILR projects, Feasibility Reports (FRs) of 26 ILR projects, and Pre-Feasibility Reports (PFRs) of 30 ILR projects have been completed. The present status of the link projects and rivers is given at **Annexure**.

For every river linking project, detailed Environmental Impact Study (EIS) is carried out at the stage of preparation of the FRs and DPRs. Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) study is undertaken to identify positive and negative impacts of the project on physical, biological and socio-economic environment. Detailed study on soil type, climate type, ground water quality, biological environment, floral diversity, Forests and Wildlife, Ground water Recharge, Change of hydrological regime of river, Public health aspects, Employment Potential generated, Project affected families, Submergence area etc. and other socio-economic characteristics is undertaken at the stage of preparation of DPRs along with proposal for the Environment Management Plan to mitigate the assessed impacts.

The Ken-Betwa Link Project (KBLP) is first and only ILR project under the NPP, implementation of which has started after the approval by the Union Cabinet in December, 2021. During the current Financial Year (FY) 2024-25, a budget allocation of Rs. 4000 crore has been kept for the project. The project is envisaged to, *inter alia*, provide water for an annual irrigation of 10.62 lakh hectare (ha) and for domestic water supply to a population of 62 lakh in the States of Madhya Pradesh (MP) and Uttar Pradesh (UP).

The Government of India has given top priority to the ILR programme and has been pursuing the programme in a consultative manner. Concerted efforts have been made at various levels for consensus building amongst the party States for implementation of the matured ILR projects. A Special Committee on Interlinking of Rivers (SCILR) has been constituted in September, 2014 for the implementation of ILR programme. 21 meetings of the SCILR have been held so far. Further, a Task Force for Interlinking of Rivers (TFILR) has been constituted in April, 2015 and 20 meetings of the same have been held so far. States have wide representation and participation in these meetings, wherein concerted efforts are made for consensus building amongst the party States and for setting out road maps for implementation of the ILR projects. It is, however, for the party States to reach a consensus on critical issues like water sharing, etc, to take an ILR project forward to the implementation stage and the schedule and timelines for completion of the ILR projects would arise only at the implementation stage. As on date, only one ILR project, namely the KBLP, is under implementation and is scheduled to be completed by March, 2030.

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1564 TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 13.02.2025 REGARDING “NATIONAL RIVER INTERLINKING PROJECT”

Details and Current Status of ILR projects under the NPP

Peninsular Component

Sl.No	Name	States benefited	Status	Major rivers
1	a. Mahanadi (Manibhadra) - Godavari (Dowlaiswaram) link	Andhra Pradesh (AP) and Odisha	FR completed	Pennar, Palar, Cauvery
	b. Alternate Mahanadi (Barmul) – Rushikulya – Godavari (Dowlaiswaram) link	AP and Odisha	FR completed	Mahanadi, Godavari
2	Godavari (Polavaram) - Krishna (Vijayawada) link @	AP	FR completed	Godavari and Krishna
3	a. Godavari (Inchampalli) - Krishna (Nagarjunasagar) link	Telangana	FR completed	Godavari and Krishna
	b. Alternate Godavari (Inchampalli) - Krishna (Nagarjunasagar) link *	Telangana	DPR completed	Godavari and Krishna
4	Godavari (Inchampalli/SSMPP) - Krishna (Pulichintala) link	Telangana and AP	DPR completed	Godavari and Krishna
5	a. Krishna (Nagarjunasagar) - Pennar (Somasila) link	AP	FR completed	Krishna, Pennar
	b. Alternate Krishna (Nagarjunasagar) - Pennar (Somasila) link *	AP	DPR completed	Krishna, Pennar
6	Krishna (Srisailam) – Pennar link	AP	Draft DPR completed	Krishna, Pennar
7	Krishna (Almatti) – Pennar link	AP and Karnataka	Draft DPR completed	Krishna, Pennar
8	a. Pennar (Somasila) - Cauvery (Grand Anicut) link	AP, Tamil Nadu and Puducherry	FR completed	Pennar, Palar, Cauvery
	b. Alternate Pennar (Somasila) - Cauvery (Grand Anicut) link *	AP, Tamil Nadu and Puducherry	DPR completed	Pennar, Palar, Cauvery
9	Cauvery (Kattalai) - Vaigai -Gundar link	Tamil Nadu	DPR completed	Cauvery, Vaigai & Gundar
10	a. Parbati –Kalisindh - Chambal link	Madhya Pradesh (MP) and Rajasthan	FR completed	Parbati, Kalisindh, Chambal
	b. Modified Parbati – Kalisindh-Chambal link (duly integrated with ERCP)	MP and Rajasthan	Draft PFR completed	Parbati, Kalisindh, Chambal, Kul, Banas, Mej, Kuno, Chamla, Shipra, Lakhunder, Newaj
11	Damanganga-Pinjal link	Maharashtra (only water supply to Mumbai)	DPR completed	Damanganga, Pinjal
12	Par-Tapi-Narmada link	Gujarat and Maharashtra	DPR completed	Par, Tapi, Narmada
13	Ken-Betwa link	Uttar Pradesh (UP)	DPR completed	Ken ,Betwa

		and MP	& project is under implementation	
14	Pamba - Achankovil - Vaippar link	Tamil Nadu and Kerala	FR completed	Pamba, Achankovil & Vaippar
15	Bedti - Varda link @@	Karnataka	DPR completed	Bedti & Varda
16	Netravati – Hemavati link**	Karnataka	PFR completed	Netravati & Hemavati

* 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 was 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 Government of Karnataka, no surplus water is available in Netravati basin for diversion through this link.

@ Godavari (Polavaram) – Krishna (Vijayawada) link – The project has been taken up by Government of Andhra Pradesh.

@@ Bedti – Varda link – DPR was prepared directly after preparation of its PFR, no FR was prepared.

Himalayan Component

Sl.No	Name of the link	States / Countries benefited	Status	Major Rivers
1.	Kosi-Mechi link	Bihar and Nepal	PFR completed	Kosi, Mechi
2.	Kosi-Ghaghra link	Bihar, UP and Nepal	FR completed	Kosi, Ghaghra
3.	Gandak - Ganga link	UP and Nepal	FR completed	Gandak, Ganga
4.	Ghaghra - Yamuna link	UP and Nepal	Draft completed	FR Ghaghra, Yamuna
5.	Sarda - Yamuna link	UP and Uttarakhand	FR completed	Sarda, Yamuna
6.	Yamuna-Rajasthan link	Haryana and Rajasthan	FR completed	Yamuna
7.	Rajasthan-Sabarmati link	Rajasthan and Gujarat	FR completed	Luni, Sukri, Sagi, Bandi and Sukal Banas
8.	Chunar-Sone Barrage link	Bihar and UP	Draft completed	FR Ganga river at Chunar and Sone River
9.	Sone Dam - Southern Tributaries of Ganga link	Bihar and Jharkhand	Draft completed	FR Sone river
10.	Manas-Sankosh-Tista-Ganga (M-S-T-G) link	Assam, West Bengal (WB) and Bihar	FR completed	Manas, Sankosh, Tista, Mahananda, Ganga
11.	Jogighopa-Tista-Farakka link (Alternative to M-S-T-G)	Assam, WB and Bihar	PFR completed	The proposal has been dropped
12.	Farakka-Sundarbans link	WB	FR completed	Ganga, Hooghly, Bidyadhari
13.	Ganga(Farakka) - Damodar-Subarnarekha link	WB, Odisha and Jharkhand	FR completed	Ganga, Damodar, Subarnarekha
14.	Subarnarekha-Mahanadi link	WB and Odisha	FR completed	Subarnarekha & Mahanadi
