

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

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3331**

ANSWERED ON 20.03.2025

**SCHEME TO INTER-LINK THE RIVERS**

†3331. SHRI AMRA RAM

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to implement a scheme to inter-link the rivers in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the timeline for its implementation and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether it is a fact that half of the country faces floods during the monsoon season while the other half suffers from drought; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof along with the schemes implemented/being implemented to address the said issue?

**ANSWER**

**THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI**

(SHRI RAJ BHUSHAN CHOUDHARY)

**(a) to (d)** The Government of India formulated a National Perspective Plan (NPP) in the year 1980 and the National Water Development Agency (NWDA) has been entrusted with the work of Interlinking of Rivers (ILR) under the NPP. The NPP has been formulated for providing storage and transfer of water from the water-surplus basins to the water-deficit basins / regions to minimize the miseries brought by droughts and also to mitigate the ravages of annually recurring floods. These link projects are designed to minimize the non-utilized volume of water going to the sea. The flood water from flood prone/water surplus river basins would be diverted to water deficit regions and would also recharge groundwater tables, tanks, and canals in the command areas. Under the NPP, 30 link projects have been identified, 16 link projects under the Peninsular component and 14 link projects under the Himalayan component. Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) of 11 link projects, Feasibility Reports (FRs) of 26 links, and Pre-Feasibility Reports (PFRs) of all the 30 links have been completed.

The implementation of Ken-Betwa Link Project (KBLP), the first link project under NPP has started. The project is scheduled to be completed by March, 2030. For other link projects under the NPP, the schedule of completion would depend upon the Party States arriving at the necessary consensus and signing the link specific Memorandum of Agreement for implementation of the respective link projects.

As per a report of the Central Water Commission on “Assessment of Area Affected Due to Floods in India”, the total flood affected areas in India are assessed as 21.213 million hectares (MHa) and the area protected through various steps taken for flood management by the Central/State Governments is assessed as 20.538 MHa.

Flood management including erosion control falls within the purview of the States. Flood management and anti-erosion schemes are formulated and implemented by concerned State Governments as per their priority. The Government of India supplements the efforts of the States by providing technical guidance and also promotional financial assistance for management of floods in critical areas. For providing Central Assistance to the States for works related to river management, flood control, anti-erosion, drainage development, anti-sea erosion, etc, Flood Management Programme (FMP) scheme was implemented by the Government of India, during 11th and 12th Plan, which subsequently continued as a component of the Flood Management and Border Areas Programme (FMBAP) scheme for the period from 2017-18 to 2020-21 and further extended up to September, 2022. Subsequently, in February 2024, the Union Cabinet has approved FMBAP scheme with an outlay of Rs. 4,100 crores for a period of 5 years from 2021-22 to 2025-26.

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