

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

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 520

ANSWERED ON 06.02.2025

INTER-LINKING OF RIVERS IN BIHAR

†520. SHRI KAUSHALENDRA KUMAR

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

- (a) whether the Government is considering any special scheme for inter-linking of rivers in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any flaws have been detected in the previously implemented schemes and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether Bihar has to bear the brunt of the catastrophic flood water released into the rivers from outside every year; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof indicating the rivers in Bihar proposed to be inter-linked under the scheme along with the time by which it is likely to be completed?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI

(SHRI RAJ BHUSHAN CHOUDHARY)

(a) & (b) The Government of India formulated a National Perspective Plan (NPP) for 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 ILR projects have been identified under the NPP with two components, viz; Himalayan Component (14 projects) and Peninsular Component (16 projects). Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) of 11 link projects, Feasibility Reports (FRs) of 26 link projects and Pre-Feasibility Reports (PFRs) of 30 link projects have been completed.

Details of the status of ILR projects under the NPP are given at **Annexure-I**.

(c) Ken-Betwa Link Project (KBLP) is the first ILR project under the NPP, implementation of which has started after the approval accorded by the Union Cabinet in December, 2021. The project is planned to be completed by March 2030.

(d) The State of Bihar bears the brunt of floods is on account of increased discharge in rivers of North Bihar like Gandak, Burhi Gandak, Bagmati, Kamla, Kosi, and Mahananda due to heavy rainfall in the upper catchment areas, which mainly lie in Nepal.

(e) Under the NPP, six ILR projects benefit the State of Bihar. Apart from this, ten intra-State link proposals were also received by NWDA from the Government of Bihar. PFRs of these ten intra-State links were prepared by the NWDA, out of which, three links have been found technically feasible. Details of ILR

and the three intra-State link projects found technically feasible, concerning the State of Bihar are attached in **Annexure - II**.

For ILR projects, the schedule of completion depends upon the party States arriving at a consensus for the respective ILR projects and signing of the link specific Memorandum of Agreements (MoAs) for their implementation.

As for the intra-State links, techno-economic viability in respect of Kosi-Mechi intra-State link project has been accepted by the Advisory Committee of Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation (DoWR,RD&GR) in its meeting held on 08.03.2024 for an estimated cost of Rs. 6,282.32 crore, at Price Level 2022-23. Investment clearance for the project has been subsequently accorded by the DoWR, RD & GR and thereafter, the project has been duly recommended by the Public Investment Board (PIB) in its meeting held on 21.11.2024 for inclusion of the project under the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana - Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (PMKSY-AIBP).

Further, as per the information available, three numbers of intra-State link projects, viz; Bagmati - Burhi Gandak River Link (Belwadhar), Bagmati- Burhi Gandak (Shanti Dhar) and Gandak- Akali Nala (Chhadi) – Gandaki – Mahi - Ganga link are under execution by the Government of Bihar and these projects are scheduled to be completed by 2025.

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) & (b) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 520 TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 06.02.2025 REGARDING “INTER-LINKING OF RIVERS IN BIHAR”.

DETAILS AND CURRENT STATUS OF ILR PROJECTS UNDER THE NPP

PENINSULAR COMPONENT

| Sl. No | Name | States benefited | Status |
|---------------|--|-----------------------------------|---|
| 1 | a. Mahanadi (Manibhadra) - Godavari (Dowlaiswaram)link | Andhra Pradesh (AP) and Odisha | FR completed |
| | b. Alternate Mahanadi (Barmul) – Rushikulya – Godavari (Dowlaiswaram) link | AP and 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 and 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 (Srisailam) – Pennar link | AP | Draft DPR completed |
| 7 | Krishna (Almatti) – Pennar link | AP and Karnataka | Draft DPR completed |
| 8 | a. Pennar (Somasila) - Cauvery (Grand Anicut) link | AP, Tamil Nadu and Puducherry | FR completed |
| | b. Alternate Pennar (Somasila) - Cauvery (Grand Anicut) link * | AP, Tamil Nadu and Puducherry | DPR completed |
| 9 | Cauvery (Kattalai) - Vaigai -Gundar link | Tamil Nadu | DPR completed |
| 10 | a. Parbati –Kalisindh - Chambal link | Madhya Pradesh (MP) and Rajasthan | FR completed |
| | b. Modified Parbati – Kalisindh-Chambal link (duly integrated with ERCP) | MP and Rajasthan | Draft PFR completed |
| 11 | Damanganga - Pinjal link | Maharashtra | DPR completed |
| 12 | Par-Tapi-Narmada link | Gujarat and Maharashtra | DPR completed |
| 13 | Ken-Betwa link | Uttar Pradesh (UP) and MP | DPR completed & project is under implementation |
| 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 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 Govt. 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 | States / Countries benefited | Status |
|--------|---|-----------------------------------|---|
| 1. | Kosi-Mechi link | Bihar and Nepal | PFR completed |
| 2. | Kosi-Ghaghra link | Bihar, UP and Nepal | FR completed |
| 3. | Gandak - Ganga link | UP and Nepal | FR completed |
| 4. | Ghaghra - Yamuna link | UP and Nepal | Draft FR completed |
| 5. | Sarda - Yamuna link | UP and Uttarakhand | FR completed |
| 6. | Yamuna-Rajasthanlink | Haryana and Rajasthan | FR completed |
| 7. | Rajasthan-Sabarmatilink | Rajasthan and Gujarat | FR completed |
| 8. | Chunar-Sone Barrage link | Bihar and UP | Draft FR completed |
| 9. | Sone Dam - Southern Tributaries of Ganga link | Bihar and Jharkhand | Draft FR completed |
| 10. | Manas-Sankosh-Tista-Ganga (M-S-T-G) link | Assam, West Bengal (WB) and Bihar | FR completed |
| 11. | Jogighopa-Tista-Farakka link (Alternative to M-S-T-G) | Assam, WB and Bihar | PFR completed (The proposal has been dropped) |
| 12. | Farakka-Sundarbanslink | WB | FR completed |
| 13. | Ganga(Farakka) - Damodar-Subarnarekha link | WB, Odisha and Jharkhand | FR completed |
| 14. | Subarnarekha-Mahanadilink | WB and Odisha | FR completed |

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DETAILS OF ILR PROJECTS CONCERNING BIHAR

| Sl.No | Name | States / Countries benefited | Status |
|--------------|---|-------------------------------------|--|
| 1. | Kosi-Mechi ILR project | Bihar and Nepal | PFR completed |
| 2. | Kosi - Ghaghra link | Bihar, UP and Nepal | FR completed |
| 3. | Chunar-Sone Barrage link | Bihar and UP | Draft FR completed |
| 4. | Sone Dam - Southern Tributaries of Ganga link | Bihar and Jharkhand | Draft FR completed |
| 5. | Manas-Sankosh-Tista-Ganga (M-S-T-G) link | Assam, WB and Bihar | FR completed |
| 6. | Jogighopa-Tista-Farakka link (Alternative to M-S-T-G) | Assam, WB and Bihar | PFR completed (The proposal has been dropped) |

DETAILS OF INTRA-STATE LINK PROPOSALS RECEIVED FROM GOVERNMENT OF BIHAR, WHICH WERE FOUND FEASIBLE

| S.No | Name of Intra-State link | Rivers | Present status of PFR /DPR |
|-------------|---|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. | Kosi-Mechi intra-State link[entirely lies in India] | Kosi and Mechi | DPR completed. |
| 2. | Burhi Gandak- Noon- Baya-Ganga | Burhi Gandak ,Noon, Baya and Ganga | DPR completed,. |
| 3. | Kosi - Ganga | Kosi and Ganga | PFR completed |
