

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 873

ANSWERED ON 24.07.2025

INTER-LINKING OF RIVERS

†873. SHRI KAUSHALENDRA KUMAR

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

- (a) the present status of the Government's ambitious project to inter-link rivers in the country;
- (b) whether it is a fact that on the one hand the north Bihar experiences devastating floods while on the other hand the south Bihar has to endure drought every year and if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the concrete efforts made/being made by the Government in this direction to check the devastation caused by floods every year due to delay in the inter-linking of rivers?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI

(SHRI RAJ BHUSHAN CHOUDHARY)

(a) The Government of India has formulated a National Perspective Plan (NPP) for Inter-Linking of Rivers (ILR) for transferring water from surplus basins to deficit basins/areas of the country . 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 Projects 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**.

Ken-Betwa Link project (KBLP): KBLP is the first link of NPP that is under implementation. The Govt. of India has approved the implementation of KBLP in December, 2021 with an estimated cost of Rs. 44,605 crore (year 2020-21 price level) with central support of Rs. 39,317 crore through a Special Purpose Vehicle viz. Ken Betwa Link Project Authority (KBLPA). Work for the main component of the project i.e. Daudhan dam has been awarded. A Project Management Consultant has been hired for assisting KBLPA for implementation of project.

(b) & (c) As per information provided by the Government of Bihar, Bihar State is prone to floods. Predominantly, Northern Bihar gets affected by floods every year due to heavy rainfall in the upper catchment areas, which mainly lie in Nepal. Whereas Southern Bihar faces problem of flash flood as well as drought.

The link projects under the NPP are judiciously planned and designed to, wherever possible, transfer water from surplus basins to the deficit/water short basins and thus, mitigating the effects of floods and droughts to some extent. The flood water from flood prone/water surplus river basins would be diverted to water deficit regions and would also recharge ground water table, tanks and canals in the command areas.

Further, the Flood management and anti-erosion schemes are planned and executed by the respective State Governments based on their priorities. To support these efforts, the Union Government provides both technical guidance and promotional financial assistance for managing floods in critical areas.

In order to strengthen structural flood management measures, the Union Government implemented the Flood Management Programme (FMP) during the XI and XII Five Year Plans, offering central assistance to States for works related to flood control, anti-erosion, drainage improvement, and protection against sea erosion. This initiative was subsequently continued as a component of the *Flood Management and Border Areas Programme* (FMBAP) during the period 2017–18 to 2020–21, and was further extended up to 2026 with a limited financial outlay.

Under the FMP component of FMBAP, a total of 48 flood management projects—estimated at ₹1866.50 crore—have been included for implementation, out of which central assistance amounting to ₹924.40 crore has been released to the Government of Bihar.

Further, the Ministry of Jal Shakti has advised all the States including Bihar to adopt and enforce flood plain zoning as a non structural measure to mitigate damage caused by floods.

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 873 ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 24.07.2025 REGARDING “INTER-LINKING OF RIVERS”.

Details and current status of ILR projects under the NPP

Peninsular Components

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, Karnataka, Maharashtra and Telangana	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 (Srisailem) – 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 (only water supply to Mumbai)	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 were 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	Nameofthelink	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-Rajasthan link	Haryana and Rajasthan	FR completed
7.	Rajasthan-Sabarmati link	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
12.	Farakka-Sundarbans link	WB	FR completed
13.	Ganga(Farakka) - Damodar-Subarnarekha link	WB, Odisha and Jharkhand	FR completed
14.	Subarnarekha-Mahanadi link	WB and Odisha	FR completed
