

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION

**LOK SABHA**

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3358**

ANSWERED ON 12.03.2026

**WAINGANGA-NALGANGA RIVER LINKING PROJECT**

3358. Dr. BACHHAV SHOBHA DINESH:

SHRI SANJAY UTTAMRAO DESHMUKH:

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

- (a) the present status of the National River Linking Project (NRLP);
- (b) whether the Government has approved the 463 kms Wainganga–Nalganga river linking project and if so, the details thereof along with the districts covered under the said project;
- (c) whether the Government is aware that large parts of Maharashtra suffer from malnutrition due to lack of irrigation and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether several regions have been excluded from NRLP despite serious irrigation issues and if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the steps being taken by the Government to include such districts under the said project including Washim district?

**ANSWER**

**THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI**

(SHRI RAJ BHUSHAN CHOUDHARY)

(a) The Government of India has formulated the National Perspective Plan (NPP) for interlinking of rivers, under which 30 Interlinking of Rivers (ILR) projects comprising 16 Peninsular and 14 Himalayan links have been identified to address water scarcity and augment irrigation and other water-related benefits across the country. The National Water Development Agency (NWDA), the nodal agency for this programme, has completed Pre-Feasibility Reports (PFRs) for all 30 links, Feasibility Reports (FRs) for 26 links, and Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) for 11 links. The status of these 30 link projects under the NPP is enclosed at **Annexure**.

(b) NWDA has prepared the PFR and subsequently the DPR of the Wainganga–Nalganga river linking project and submitted it to the Government of Maharashtra. As informed by the State Government, the project has been accorded in-principal approval by the State Government. The project proposes diversion of 1,804.78 MCM of water from the Gosikhurd Project on the Wainganga River to the Nalganga basin through a 388.28 km link canal, to provide irrigation benefits over 4,04,281 hectares in eight districts, i.e., Nagpur, Wardha, Amravati, Yavatmal, Akola, Buldhana, Washim, and Bhandara.

(c) Matters relating to malnutrition fall primarily within the purview of the health and social welfare sectors. However, the Government recognises that improved irrigation contributes to agricultural stability, and projects such as the Wainganga–Nalganga link are expected to enhance water availability in drought-prone regions of Maharashtra.

(d) & (e) The identification of ILR projects under the National Perspective Plan is based on hydrological feasibility, water balance studies, technical parameters, and interstate considerations. The State Government has informed that no regions have been excluded from the NPP. The Wainganga–Nalganga River Linking Project already includes the Washim district among its beneficiary districts.

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**ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3358 TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 12.03.2026 REGARDING “WAINGANGA-NALGANGA RIVER LINKING PROJECT”.**

**Details and current status of ILR projects under the NPP**

**Peninsular Component**

Sl. No	Name	States benefited	Status
1	Mahanadi (Manibhadra) - Godavari (Dowlaiswaram) link	Andhra Pradesh (AP) and Odisha	FR completed
	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 (Srisailam) – Pennar link	AP	DPR Completed
7	Krishna (Almatti) – Pennar link	Karnataka & AP	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	Parbati –Kalisindh - Chambal link	Madhya Pradesh (MP) and Rajasthan	FR completed
	b) Modified Parbati – Kalisindh-Chambal link	MP and Rajasthan	MoA for implementation has been signed by both the States
11	Damanganga - Pinjal link	Maharashtra (only water supply to Mumbai)	DPR completed and dropped from status of “priority links”
12	Par-Tapi-Narmada link	Gujarat and Maharashtra	DPR completed and dropped from status of “priority links”
13	Ken-Betwa link	Uttar Pradesh (UP) and MP	DPR completed and 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, Phase-I of Project to divert unutilized waters of Godavari river, Study was carried out and DPR of Godavari (Inchampalli) – Krishna (Nagarjunasagar) - Pennar (Somasila) – Cauvery (Grand Anicut) link projects (combined) called as Godavari-Cauvery link was completed. The report has further been updated terminating the link canal at Manimukhtanadi, a Tributary of Vellar river flowing adjacent to Cauvery basin.

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

@ Godavari (Polavaram) - Krishna (Vijayawada) Link- the project has been taken up by Govt. of Andhra Pradesh and is under execution by Polavaram Project Authority.

\*\*\* Netravati – Hemavati link: Further studies not taken up after PFR preparation since after implementation of Yettinahole project by Govt. of Karnataka, no surplus water is available in Netravati basin for diversion through this link.

### **Himalayan Component**

Sl. No	Name	States / Countries benefited	Status
1.	Kosi-Mechi link**	Bihar and Nepal	PFR completed
2.	Kosi-Ghaghra link	Bihar, Uttar Pradesh (UP) and Nepal	FR completed
3.	Gandak - Ganga link	UP and Nepal	FR completed
4.	Ghaghra - Yamuna link	UP and Nepal	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	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 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-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

\*\*Kosi-Mechi Inter State link - PFR prepared and proposal was dropped due to international issues, subsequently, on request of Govt. of Bihar, NWDA has taken up Kosi-Mechi Intra State link project.

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