

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES
RAJYA SABHA
QUESTION NO 07.03.2011
ANSWERED ON
RIVER LINKING PROJECTS .

1236

SHRI N.K. SINGH

Will the Minister of COALWATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :-

- (a) the number and details of river linking projects taken up so far during the last five years;
- (b) the number and details of river linking projects envisaged as on date;
- (c) whether environmental impact has been studied for the upcoming river linking projects; and
- (d) the details of the projects which are likely to have an adverse environmental impact?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES & MINORITY AFFAIRS. (SHRI VINCENT H. PALA)

(a) Five links under Peninsular Component namely

(i) Ken-Betwa,

(ii) Parbati-Kalisindh-Chambal,

(iii) Damanganga-Pinjal,

(iv) Par-Tapi-Narmada &

(v) Godavari (Polavaram)-Krishna (Vijayawada) were identified as priority links for building consensus among the concerned states for taking up their Detailed Project Reports (DPRs). DPR of one priority link namely, Ken – Betwa was completed in December, 2008 and sent to the Governments of Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh for comments. The Government of Madhya Pradesh suggested an alternative proposal based on which two phases of the project are envisaged. The DPR of the phase-I has been prepared and sent to the Government of Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh in May 2010 for consultation. Further, NWDA has taken up the DPRs of two more priority links after concurrence of the concerned States, namely Par – Tapi – Narmada and Damanganga – Pinjal which are planned to be completed by December, 2011. Another priority link namely, Godavari (Polavaram)- Krishna(Vijawada) link is part of the Polavaram project of the Andhra Pradesh. Planning Commission has given investment clearance to the Polavaram Project and the Government of Andhra Pradesh has taken up the above project including link component as per their proposals.

(b) Based on various studies conducted, National Water Development Agency has identified 30 inter state river links (16 under Peninsular Component & 14 under Himalayan Component) for preparation of Feasibility Reports (FRs). Out of these, FRs of 14 links under Peninsular Component and 2 links (Indian Portion) under Himalayan Component have been completed. The names of the inter state river links and the names of rivers likely to be interlinked and their present status is given at Annexure-I. . National Water Development Agency (NWDA) has received 36 proposals of intra-state links from 7 States viz. Maharashtra, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Orissa, Bihar, Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu. Out of above, Pre-Feasibility Reports (PFRs) of 12 intra-state links have been completed by NWDA. Details of intra-state link proposals received from the State Governments along with their status and target for completion of their PFRs is given at Annexure-II.

(c) & (d) Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (CEIA) studies are carried at Detailed Project Report (DPR) stage of each major water resources including river link projects. Environmental clearance in respect of Polavaram project has been given. Further, CEIA studies of one link viz Ken-Betwa has been completed and the CEIA studies are also taken up for two more links viz.

(i) Damanganga – Pinjal &

(ii) Par – Tapi – Narmada. The Ministry of Environment & Forests has to appraise the CEIA studies to come to a decision as to whether there are any adverse environmental impacts. Stage has not reached for appraisal of CEIA studies of Ken Betwa link by Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF).