

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:113
ANSWERED ON:28.07.2003
RIVER LINKING PROJECT
N.N. KRISHNADAS;VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any State Governments have conveyed their resentment against the river-linking project;
- (b) if so, the details of resentment including the action taken to resolve them;
- (c) whether the sources of funding and the socio-economic and ecological costs of the project were estimated; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI)

(a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) TO (d) OF THE STARRED QUESTION NO.113 TO BE ANSWERED ON 28.7.2003 IN LOK SABHA REGARDING RIVER-LINKING PROJECT

(a) to (d): Various basin States have expressed divergent views about the water balance studies and feasibility reports of various river-linking projects prepared by National Water Development Agency (NWDA). The major apprehensions expressed by the States are as follows:-

- i) Submergence of cultivable and forest land and displacement of people due to construction of storage reservoirs.
- ii) States have apprehensions about the availability of surplus water worked out by NWDA.
- iii) Apprehensive about reliability of long distance transfers.
- iv) States feel that proposed water transfer in proposals of interlinking of rivers may disturb the existing tribunal awards.
- v) Power requirement for lifting of water may not be available.

With a view to bringing about a consensus among the States and provide guidance on norms of appraisal of individual projects and modalities for project funding etc. the Central Government has set up a Task Force on Interlinking of Rivers. The Task Force has been asked to submit Action Plan giving alternative options for funding and execution of the project as also the suggested methods for cost recovery by July 31, 2003.