

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1048
ANSWERED ON:28.07.2003
RIVER LINKING PROJECT
VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any meeting on river-networking was recently held in Delhi;
- (b) if so, whether the Chairman of National Water Development Task Force also participated in the said meeting;
- (c) the details of deliberations held in the meeting alongwith outcome thereof;
- (d) whether River Grid Project has been included in the latest annual report of the Ministry; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BHOYA CHAKRAVARTY)

(a) & (b) The 3rd Meeting of Task Force on Interlinking of Rivers was held at New Delhi on 28th April, 2003 under the chairmanship of Chairman, Task Force, Shri Suresh P. Prabhu, Hon'ble Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha).

(c):

(i) The Task Force took note of the massive work done by National Water Development Agency (NWDA) during the last 21 years since 1982, in identifying feasible links round the country under two components, namely (a) Himalayan Component (14 links) and (b) Peninsular Component (16 links) to meet the desired objectives.

(ii) The Task Force then approved the NWDA proposal to complete the remaining feasibility studies by the end of December, 2005 so as to arrive at a further course of action.

(iii) It was decided to open a dialogue with concerned States, for the links and after receipt of confirmation, the selected links could be taken up for preparation of Detailed Project Reports (DPRs).

(iv) The Task Force decided to formulate procedures for DPR preparation in consultation with the National Agencies and institutions. Inter-alia, it was decided to give a detailed look to the techno-economic, environmental, social, administrative, managerial and financial issues involved to arrive at a realistic benefit cost analysis.

(d) & (e): Yes, Sir. The latest Annual Report of the Ministry of Water Resources i.e. for the year 2002-2003, contains a Chapter on the NWDA at pages 96 to 103. The Chapter describes the constitution and objectives of NWDA, National Perspective Plan proposals and constitution of Task Force. It has a map of India depicting the inter-basin water transfer links and two bar diagrams indicating the status of studies for Peninsular and Himalayan Component of National Perspective Plan proposals.