

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:3
ANSWERED ON:21.07.2003
LINKING OF RIVERS
BHAN SINGH BHAURA;PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Task Force set up by the Government on inter-linking rivers of India has since started functioning;
- (b) if so, the issues taken up, difficulties identified and response of the States;
- (c) whether feasibility studies regarding this project have been taken up by the National Water Development Agency;
- (d) if so, the results thereof; and
- (e) the time by which the actual work of linking of rivers is likely to be taken up and completed?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) TO (e) OF THE STARRED QUESTION NO. 3 TO BE ANSWERED ON 21.7.2003 IN LOK SABHA REGARDING LINKING OF RIVERS.

(a) & (b) The Central Government has setup a Task Force on Interlinking of Rivers on 13.12.2002 under the chairmanship of Shri Suresh P. Prabhu, Hon'ble Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha) The terms of reference of Task Force are as under:-

- i) Provide guidance on norms of appraisal of individual projects in respect of economic viability, socio-economic impacts, environmental impacts and preparation of resettlement plans;
- ii) Devise suitable mechanism for bringing about speedy consensus amongst the States;
- iii) Prioritize the different project components for preparation of Detailed project Reports and implementation;
- iv) Propose suitable organizational structure for implementing the project;
- v) Consider various modalities for project funding; and
- vi) Consider international dimensions that may be involved in some project components.

Besides, the Task Force was required to submit Action Plan I by 30.4.2003 giving an outline of the time schedules for the completion of the feasibility studies, detailed project reports, estimated cost, implementation schedule, concrete benefits and advantages of the project, etc. Meeting with the Chief Ministers to deliberate over the project and to elicit their cooperation by the Task Force was also scheduled during May-June, 2003.

The Task Force has held four meetings upto June, 2003. The Task Force has also submitted Action Plan I on 30th April, 2003. The Chairman of the Task Force has held meetings with the Chief Minister of Assam, Gujarat and Maharashtra so far.

(c) & (d) Yes, Sir. National Water Development Agency has taken up the feasibility studies of 30 identified link projects, 14 under Himalayan Component and 16 under Peninsular Component of the National Perspective Plan. Feasibility reports in respects of 7 link projects under Peninsular Component and 1 link under Himalayan Component have already been completed. The feasibility studies, prima facie, are to establish the technical feasibility of the Link Proposals on the ground through field surveys and investigations.

(e) The initiation and completion of actual work of linking of rivers depends on various important issues such as completion of detailed Project Report, Cooperation from all the concerned States well as neighbouring countries particularly Nepal and Bhutan and availability of funds.