

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1037
ANSWERED ON:27.02.2006
WHITE PAPER ON RIVERS LINKING PROJECT
Khandelwal Shri Vijay Kumar

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to release a white paper on the far reaching effects of the river-linking project; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ)

(a) No Sir.

(b) The National Common Minimum Programme of the UPA Government indicates that it will make a comprehensive assessment of the feasibility of linking the rivers of the country starting with the peninsular rivers and this assessment will be done in a fully consultative manner. After the comprehensive assessment, it has been decided that river linking programme be continued with a focus on peninsular rivers. Also, the ILR Project is still at conceptual stage only and all the far reaching effects of the link projects can be analyzed at the stage of preparation of Detailed Project Reports. As such, there is no need to release a White paper on ILR at this stage.