

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
WATER RESOURCES  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2580  
ANSWERED ON:16.08.2004  
RIVER LINKING POLICY  
Adhalrao Patil Shri Shivaji

**Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:**

(a) whether the Government of Maharashtra through a resolution adopted by Legislative Assembly, sought certain changes in the river-linking policy of the Union Government; and

(b) if so, the details thereof along with reaction of the Government thereto?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV)

(a)&(b) The resolution of Maharashtra Assembly demands that the State of Maharashtra be given equitable benefits by making necessary technical changes in the proposed national project for interlinking of river, to bring the waters of northern rivers into the deficit basins of Godavari, Krishna, Bhima and Tapi in Maharashtra, by means of tunnels or lift across the Vindhya Mountains. Financial provisions be made by the Central Government to the tune of 10% of the cost of Rs.5,60,000 crore or the increased cost that may be updated in future, of national river linking project for irrigation development in State taking into account the water requirement of the State. The resolution further resolved that the Central Government be requested to take into account the strong feelings of the members of this house regarding injustice to the State of Maharashtra in distribution of water and give a concrete assurance in this regard immediately.

The Central Government envisages a comprehensive assessment of the feasibility of linking of the rivers of the country in a fully consultative manner.