

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
WATER RESOURCES  
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:249

ANSWERED ON:21.03.2005

COMMITTEE ON LINKING OF RIVERS

Athawale Shri Ramdas;Nahata Smt. P. Jaya Prada

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

(a) whether the Government has set up a high level committee on inter-linking of rivers, in place of the Task Force set up for the purpose earlier;

(b) if so, the composition and terms of reference of the committee and by when the report is likely to be submitted to the Union Government;

(c) whether any report about the study and consultations has been submitted by the out-going task force; and

(d) if so, the details of observations and recommendations made therein?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF THE STARRED QUESTION NO. +249 TO BE ANSWERED ON 21.3.2005 IN LOK SABHA REGARDING COMMITTEE ON LINKING OF RIVERS

(a) & (b): Consequent upon winding up of the Task Force on Interlinking of Rivers(TF-ILR) w.e.f. 31.12.2004, a Special Cell has been constituted to look after the residual routine work of the TF-ILR and for taking follow up action on the Interlinking of Rivers Programme under the Ministry of Water Resources(MOWR). Ministry of Water Resources has also constituted a Committee of Environmentalists, Social Scientists and other Experts under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Ministry of Water Resources with a view to make the process of proceeding on Interlinking of Rivers (ILR) consultative. The role of Committee is advisory in nature and it is required to render its advice to the Government from time to time on its terms of reference. The Committee is not required to submit any report.

The Composition and Terms of Reference of the Committee are given below:

A. Composition

1. Secretary, Ministry of Water Resources Chairman  
Govt. of India, New Delhi
2. Secretary, Ministry of Social Justice & Member  
Empowerment, Government of India, New Delhi
3. Secretary, Ministry of Environment & Forests, Member  
Govt. of India, New Delhi
4. Chairman, Central Water Commission, Govt. of Member  
India, New Delhi
5. Shri Z.Hasan, Former Secretary (Ministry of Member  
Water Resources), Government of India, Noida.
6. Shri A.C. Kamraj, Chairman, NAWAD Council, Member  
Madurai, Tamil Nadu.
7. Shri P. Sen, Rtd. Member, Central Water Member  
Commission, Kolkata, West Bengal.
8. Shri Rajinder Singh, Noted Sociologist, Alwar, Member  
Rajasthan

- |     |  |                       |                    |
|-----|--|-----------------------|--------------------|
| 9.  | Dr. Mala Kapur Shankardass,  | Chairperson           | Member             |
|     | Development Welfare and Research Foundation (DWARF), New Delhi         |                       |                    |
| 10. | Dr. Ashok Khosla,  | President,            | Development Member |
|     | Alternatives, New Delhi.   |                       |                    |
| 11. | Prof. M.N. Madhyastha,   | Environmentalist,     | Centre Member      |
|     | for Ecological & Environment Studies, Mangalore University, Karnataka. |                       |                    |
| 12. | Director General, National Water Agency, New Delhi.                    | Development Secretary | Member-            |

## B. Terms of Reference:

The Committee will advise the Government on the following aspects of the proposed project.

- 1 Environmental and socio-economic issues covered in the Term of Reference (TOR) for preparation of Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) finalised by the Task Force.
- 2 Rehabilitation & Resettlement package for the persons affected by ILR programme keeping in view the national R&R policy and structure of the agency for its implementation.
3. Additional studies needed to be carried out, to address any other concerns in the ILR Programme.
4. Impacts of proposed inter basin transfer of water links on settlements, occupations and other socio-economic activities, while preparing the DPRs.
5. Adoption of appropriate measures for optimum utilisation of transferred water especially in the water short basins while preparing the various DPRs.

(c) & (d): The Task Force on Interlinking of Rivers (TF-ILR) has submitted its report in the form of Action Plan-I and Action Plan-II on 30th April 2003 and 16th April 2004 respectively. The Task force in its report has made following observations and recommendations.

1. TF-ILR has outlined the time schedule for completion of the Feasibility Studies, Detailed Project Reports, Estimated Cost, implementation schedule, concrete benefits and advantage of the Project.
2. The TF-ILR has recommended that Detailed Project Report should be prepared in a Scientific manner and for this purpose Terms of Reference (ToR) has been chalked out by the Task Force for preparing Detailed Project Reports (DPRs).
3. The Task Force has observed that persuading the States to agree to sign Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for preparing DPRs for the proposed link proposals, is a time consuming activity. It has recommended that the process of achieving consensus among the States could be initiated with the meetings at the highest level and subsequently at the technical level to form a platform for achieving consensus. The meeting at Chief Minister level could be held at a final stage for signing of the agreement / MOU for preparing DPRs.
4. The Task Force has observed that at the present juncture it is too early to pursue the matter of Himalayan Component of Interlinking of Rivers programme with the neighbouring countries. The Task Force has observed that the Peninsular Links are the right Component to begin with implementation of Interlinking of Rivers Programme. It has recommended that the Ken-Betwa Link and Parbati-Kalisindh-Chambal Link between Uttar Pradesh & Madhya Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh & Rajasthan respectively could be top priority Links.
5. The Task Force has proposed that funding should be through a combination of Private Participation, appropriate Public Private Partnership and Pure Public Funding.