

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1561

ANSWERED ON:14.03.2005

INTER-LINKING OF RIVERS

Badiga Shri Ramakrishna;Patel Shri Kishanbhai Vestabhai;Rawat Shri Kamla Prasad;Satpathy Shri Tathagata

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether experts have expressed their doubts over the interlinking of rivers during the first meeting of the newly constituted committee of experts;
- (b) if so, whether the experts have stated that the inter-linking programme would lead to privatisation of water sector; and
- (c) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto and the other issues discussed therein?

Answer

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

(a) to (c) During the first meeting of the committee of Environmentalists, Social Scientists and other Experts on Interlinking of Rivers held on 18th January, 2005, the experts opined that various environmental and ecological aspects, social issues, and techno-economic issues etc. should be considered while framing the Interlinking of Rivers(ILR) proposals. One of the Members also mentioned that ILR would lead to privatisation of water sector. The Chairman of the Committee informed the members that the key concern of the Government is to solve the socio-economic and socio-environmental issues on the proposed links under ILR and to obtain consensus in a fully consultative manner and that in case of ILR proposals, only those would be considered for implementation where benefits outweigh the costs.