

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANAGA REJUVENATION  
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:145

ANSWERED ON:17.07.2014

INTER-LINKING OF RIVERS

Suresh Shri Doddaalahalli Kempegowda;Thomas Prof. Kuruppassery Varkey

**Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANAGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:**

(a) the present status of proposed interlinking of rivers and the benefits likely to accrue as a result thereof;

(b) whether the Government has received proposals from various States for inclusion of certain rivers as part of the proposed inter-linking and intra-linking of the river projects and if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and

(c) whether some States have raised objections over proposed inter-linking of rivers projects, if so, the details thereof and the measures taken by the Government to address their objections?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANAGA REJUVENATION (SUSHRI UMA BHARATI)

(a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (c) OF STARRED QUESTION NO. 145 TO BE ANSWERED ON 17.07.2014 REGARDING INTER-LINKING OF RIVERS

(a) Based on the concurrence of the concerned States, three links namely Ken-Betwa Link, Damanganga - Pinjal link and Par-Tapi-Narmada link have been taken up for the preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR) by the National Water Development Agency (NWDA) out of 30 interstate links identified under National Perspective Plan (NPP). The DPR for Ken-Betwa Link Project and Damanganga - Pinjal link have been completed by NWDA, and submitted to the concerned States. DPR of Par-Tapi-Narmada link is in various stages of completion. Further, the Hon'ble Supreme Court in its order dated 27.02.2012 has inter-alia directed to take up Ken-Betwa Link Project for implementation at the first instance itself.

Approximately 35 million hectare of additional irrigation potential and 34000 mega watts (MW) hydro power generation are the likely benefits envisaged under NPP apart from the incidental benefits of flood moderation, navigation, drinking water supply, fisheries, salinity and pollution control etc..

(b) Out of 46 proposals of intra-state links received by NWDA from 9 States, the Burhi Gandak-Noon-Baya-Ganga Link of Bihar, Kosi-Mechi Link of Bihar, Ponnair-Palar Link of Tamil Nadu, Wainganga-Nalganga Link of Maharashtra and Barakar-Damodar-Subernarekha Link of Jharkhand have been taken up for the preparation of DPR by NWDA on the request made by the concerned States. The DPRs of two intra-state links i.e. Burhi Gandak-Noon- Baya-Ganga Link Project and Kosi-Mechi Link Project have been completed and sent to Government of Bihar in December, 2013 and March, 2014 respectively.

(c) The details of objections raised by concerned State Governments for taking up FR/DPR of proposed inter-linking of river projects are given at Annexure-I. Government has constituted a Consensus Group headed by the Chairman, Central Water Commission and Secretaries of Irrigation/Water Resource Departments of the concerned States for arriving at consensus on the links for sharing of the surplus water and preparation of DPR by NWDA. In addition, the issues on the inter-State links are also regularly discussed during the meeting of Governing Body and Society of the NWDA.