

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) Government's stand on the criticisms raised from some quarters that an inadequate analysis of India's water futures is the basis of NRLP and the economic, social and environmental costs outweigh the project benefits?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES AFFAIRS (SHRI VINCENT PALA): (a) to (c) The National Water Development Agency (NWDA) was set up under the Ministry of Irrigation in 1982 for carrying out various technical studies to establish the feasibility of the proposals of National Perspective Plan (NPP) and to give concrete shape to it. NWDA has already identified 14 links under Himalayan Component and 16 links under Peninsular Rivers Component. Out of these, Feasibility Reports (FRs) of 14 links under Peninsular Component and 2 links under Himalayan Component (Indian portion) has been prepared.

The feasibility of link proposals under NPP is assessed at every stage of their formulation as is done for any other water resources project. While preparing Pre-Feasibility Report (PFRs), their techno-economic viability is established at the preliminary stage. The FRs of such link proposals which are found techno-economically viable at PFR stage are taken up. While preparing FRs various studies such as Survey and Investigation, hydrological, analysis, rapid socio-economic and environment impact assessment studies, etc. are carried out. Thereafter, Details Project Reports (DPRs) of such link proposals which are found viable at FR stage are taken up with the concurrence of concerned states. At DPR stage the detailed studies regarding all the aspects of the link proposal are carried out.

NWDA is carrying out Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) study and Socio-Economic studies for individual Project at DPR Stage as per Term of reference duly approved by Expert Appraisal Committee of Ministry of Environmental and Forest duly considering economic, Social and Environmental costs and projected benefits including Rehabilitation and Resettlement plan.

National Dam Safety Authority

596. DR. T.N. SEEMA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government intends to form a National Dam Safety Authority to oversee the safety of dams in the country; and

(b) whether Government would take urgent steps to get the Dam Safety Bill, 2010 passed in both the Houses of Parliament?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT PALA): (a) No, there is no proposal for forming a National Dam Safety Authority before Government. However, in The Dam Safety Bill, 2010 the Central Government proposed to establish a separate organization to be known as the "Central Dam Safety Organisation."

(b) Yes, Sir.

Interlinking of rivers

597. DR. T.N. SEEMA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Supreme Court has passed a judgment on interlinking of rivers across the country and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government has studied the environmental impact, enormous cost involved and possible disputes between riparian and non-riparian States of such a project;

(c) whether the States would have the freedom of choice not to join the project; and

(d) whether Government would seek the review of the Supreme Court judgment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT PALA): (a) and (d) The Hon'ble supreme Court has disposed of Writ Petition (Civil) 512 of 2002 Networking of rivers, on 27.2.2012. However, certified copy of the Judgement of Hon'ble Supreme Court has so far not been received in Ministry of Water Resources.

(b) The Detailed Project Report (DPR) of river linking projects are prepared after the concurrence of the concerned States. The environmental and cost related aspects are examined while appraising the detailed report of the project for Technoeconomic approval.

(c) At present, the inter linking of rivers programme is being pursued in a consultative manner with the consensus and cooperation of the concerned states.

Interlinking of rivers

†598. SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government would comply with the directions issued by the Supreme Court with regard to interlinking of rivers in a time bound manner;

(b) if so, by when the project would be commenced and by when it is likely to be completed along with the amount of money likely to be spent on this project;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the initial cost of the project and the reasons for delay in its implementation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT PALA): (a), (b) and (d) The certified copy of the recent direction of the Hon'ble Supreme Court has so far not been received in Ministry of Water

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.