

2.	Kosi-Ghaghra link	- S&I works taken up
3.	Gandak-Ganga link	- S&I works completed
4.	Ghaghra-Yamuna link	- FR completed (for Indian portion)
5.	Sarda-Yamuna link	- FR completed (for Indian portion)
6.	Yamuna-Rajasthan link	- S&I works completed
7.	Rajasthan-Sabarmati link	- S&I works completed
8.	Chunar(at Ganga)-Sone Barrage link	- S&I works completed
9.	Sone Dam - Southern Tributaries of Ganga link	- S&I works taken up
10.	Manas-Sankosh-Tista-Ganga (M-S-T-G) link	- S&I works taken up
11.	Jogighopa(at Brahmaputra)-Tista-Ganga at Farakka (Alternate to M-S-T-G) link	- S&I works taken up
12.	Ganga (Farakka)-Sunderbans link	- S&I works completed
13.	Ganga-Damodar-Subernarekha link	- S&I works completed
14.	Subernarekha-Mahanadi link	- S&I works completed

* Priority links

PFR- Pre-Feasibility Report;

FR- Feasibility Report;

DPR- Detailed Project Report

S&I - Survey & Investigation in Indian portion

Interlinking of rivers

1702. DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has given any undertaking to implement the interlinking of rivers within a stipulated time-frame; and

(b) if so, whether Government is formulating a 'River Water Policy' enabling the centre State and private sector participation on comprehensive policy of starting Tiny Hydro Projects water ways, reservoir for agriculture and afforestation with an eye on environment protection and carbon emission to fulfil and lead in international commitment and in this effort which State have been given such proposals and the details of those proposals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT PALA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. However Ministry of Water Resources has formulated National Water Policy 2002. Salient features of National Water Policy, 2002 is given in the Statement.

Statement

Salient Features of National Water Policy, 2002

- Water is a prime natural resource, a basic human need and a precious national asset. Planning, development and management of water resources need to be governed by national perspectives.
- A well developed information system for water related data at national/state level should be established with a net-work of data banks and data bases integrating and strengthening the existing central and state level agencies.
- Water resources available to the country should be brought within the category of utilizable resources to the maximum possible extent.
- Non-conventional methods for utilization of water such as through inter-basin transfers, artificial recharge of ground water and desalination of brackish or sea water as well as traditional water conservation practices like rainwater harvesting, including roof-top rainwater harvesting, need to be practiced to further increase the utilizable water resources. Promotion of frontier research and development, in a focused manner, for these techniques is necessary.

- Water resources development and management will have to be planned for a hydrological unit. Appropriate river basin organizations should be established for the planned development and management of the river basins.
- Water should be made available to water short areas by transfer from other areas including transfer from one river basin to another, after taking into account the requirements of the areas/basins.
- Planning of water resources development projects should, as far as possible, be for multi-purpose with an integrated and multi-disciplinary approach having regard to human and ecological aspects including those of disadvantaged sections of the society.
- In the allocation of water, first priority should be given for drinking water, followed by irrigation, hydro-power, ecology, agro-industries and non-agricultural industries, navigation and other uses, in that order.
- The exploitation of groundwater should be regulated with reference to recharge possibilities and consideration of social equity. The detrimental environmental consequences of over-exploitation of ground water need to be effectively prevented.
- Adequate emphasis needs to be given to the physical and financial sustainability of existing water resources facilities. There is need to ensure that the water charges for various uses should be fixed such as to cover at least the operation and maintenance charges initially and a part of the capital costs subsequently.
- Management of the water resources for diverse uses should incorporate a participatory approach by involving users and other stakeholders along with various governmental agencies, in an effective and decisive manner.
- Private sector participation should be encouraged in planning, development and management of water resources projects for diverse uses, wherever feasible.
- Both surface water and ground water should be regularly monitored for quality. Effluents should be treated to acceptable levels and standards before discharging them into natural streams. Minimum flow should be ensured in the perennial streams for maintaining ecology.

- Efficiency of utilization should be improved in all the diverse uses of water and conservation consciousness promoted through education, regulation, incentives and disincentives.
- Land erosion by sea or river should be minimized by suitable cost-effective measures. Indiscriminate occupation of, and economic activity in coastal areas and flood plain zones should be regulated.
- Needs of drought-prone areas should be given priority in the planning of project for development of water resources. These areas should be made less vulnerable through various measures.
- The water sharing/distribution amongst the states should be guided by a national perspective with due regard to water resources availability and needs within the river basin.
- Training and research efforts should be intensified as an integral part of water resources development.

Rain water harvesting

1703. PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it was considered to undertake rain water harvesting throughout the country;

(b) whether it is a fact that a Model Bill was circulated to all the States in this connection;

(c) the States which have not undertaken this measure, so far; and

(d) what is the feed-back in respect of States that had agreed to adopt legal framework to undertake rain water harvesting?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT PALA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir. Ministry of Water Resources has circulated the Model Bill to all the States/Union Territories to regulate and control development and management of ground water, which also contains a chapter on Rain Water Harvesting for Ground Water Recharge.