

Interlinking of river bedti and varada basin

3708. DR. PRABHAKAR KORE: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the present status of interlinking of river Bedti and Varada basin of Karnataka;

(b) whether the integrated environmental study was done in this regard;

(c) what are the outcomes of the study;

(d) whether the Central Government has received any response from the State Government on this issue;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) to (c) The concurrence from the Government of Karnataka for Survey and Investigations and preparation of Feasibility Reports (FRs) in respect of Bedti - Varda link project was received. During the field visits of National Water Development Agency (NWDA) officers/ staff for taking up the investigation for preparation of FR, lot of opposition was faced from the local people. This matter was discussed during meetings of Governing Body (GB). As per decision of 50th GB a seminar in association with the Government of Karnataka, was organized on the link at Sirsi, Uttara Kannada District, Karnataka State to propagate the likely benefits of the link amongst the local people, who are opposing the survey works of the link and to create a conducive atmosphere in the survey area for carrying out field surveys and investigation activities related with preparation of Feasibility Report of the link. But NGOs and local public are against any project which changes environment/ ecology of the area/their district. NWDA proposes to address the concerns of NGOs/Public and will carry out the study of eco-system of Bedti Basin with special reference to Uttara Kannada District. NWDA has prepared the Terms of Reference (TOR) for the proposed Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Eco-system studies of Bedti-Varda link and sent to local NGO i.e. Bedti-Aghanashini Kolla Sanrakshana Samithi during August, 2008 for their suggestions/comments.

(d) to (f) During 27th Annual General Meeting (AGM) of NWDA on 31.03.2012 representative of the Government of Karnataka mentioned that the Government of Karnataka is still making effort with NGOs to reach a consensus for conducting EIA study for the link.