

Development of sea ports for private investment

1737. DR. E. M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is encouraging private investment in developing sea ports; and

(b) if so, what are the proposals for developing Mookaiyur in Ramnad District, and Kalachal in Kanyakumari district by looking into the welfare of fishermen?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI RADHAKRISHNAN P.): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The proposed development of a Major Port at Enayam near Colachel in Tamil Nadu will catalyse economic activities and opportunity for employment of the local population including fishermen. There is no proposal to set up a Major Port in Mookaiyur.

Feasibility report for linking of rivers under NPP

1738. SHRI N. GOKULAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Water Development Agency has prepared pre-feasibility/feasibility reports for linking of 30 rivers in the country under the National Perspective Plan (NPP);

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that Cauvery (Kattalai)-Vaigai-Gundar link has also been indentified for inter river basin water transfer;

(c) if so, the percent status of the project, including the allocations made and spent, so far; and

(d) by when it is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION (SHRI SANWAR LAL JAT): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. This Ministry has formulated a National Perspective Plan (NPP) for Water Resources Development envisaging Inter-basin transfer of water from surplus basins to deficit basins/areas. National Water Development Agency (NWDA) has prepared feasibility reports, which facilitated identification of 30 links (16 under Peninsular Component and 14 under Himalayan Component) under NPP and Cauvery (Kattalai)-Vaigai-Gundar link is one of them.

Further, the feasibility report of the Cauvery (Kattalai)-Vaigai-Gundar link has also been prepared by NWDA and sent to the concerned States Governments. The planning and Detailed Project Report (DPR) of Cauvery (Kattalai)-Vaigai-Gundar link is critically dependent on the planning of Mahanadi-Godavari link, a mother link of 9 link systems viz., Mahanadi-Godavari-Krishna-Pennar-Palar-Cauvery-Vaigai-Gundar linkage which has been envisaged under NPP. Efforts are on to build consensus on Mahanadi-Godavari link, which is a first and critical link of above mentioned nine river link System. Based on the suggestions of Water Resources Department, Government of Odisha, NWDA has prepared a revised preliminary proposal of Mahanadi-Godavari Link Project with reduced submergence and the same is presented to the Government of Odisha for their comments. After the finalisation of Mahanadi-Godavari Link Project proposal, NWDA will take up the preparation of Detailed Project Report of the remaining links of Mahanadi-Godavari-Krishna-Pennar-Palar-Cauvery-Vaigai-Gundar linkage in consultation with concerned States. The expenditure has been incurred for studies for establishing viability of the proposals from hydrological and technical angles. The expenditure incurred, is not maintained project-wise/State-wise.

Setting up of water regulatory authority

1739. SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 2766 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 30th April, 2012 and state:

(a) the details of current status of setting up of Water Regulatory Authority in States as suggested by the Thirteenth Finance Commission, State-wise;

(b) the updated status of action taken by the Central Government, in coordination with the State Government, to frame a special national water usage charge policy for various kinds of water usages; and

(c) by when such a policy is expected to be framed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION (SHRI SANWAR LAL JAT): (a) to (c) The National Water Resources Council (NWRC) at its sixth meeting held on 28th December, 2012 adopted the National Water Policy (2012) which *inter-alia* recommends setting up of an independent Statutory Water Regulatory Authority by each State to fix and regulate the tariff for drinking water and other uses such as sanitation, agricultural and industrial. The National Water Policy, 2012 has since been circulated to all the States/Union Territories for necessary action.