

1	2	3	4	5	6
		of this link project according to their own planning.			
5.	Krishna (Almatti) - Pennar link	1980	2.58	Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh States	FR Completed
6.	Krishna (Srisaïlam) - Pennar link	2310	No	- enroute irrigation	FR Completed
7.	Krishna (Nagarjunasagar) - Pennar (Somasila) link	12146	1.68	Andhra Pradesh State	FR Completed
8.	Pennar (Somasila) - Cauvery (Grand Anicut) link	8565	4.91	Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu States and Puducherry (UT).	FR Completed
9.	Cauvery (Kattalai) - Vaigai - Gundar link	2252	3.38	Tamil Nadu State.	FR Completed

#### Declaration of ILR Projects as National Projects

308. DR. PRABHAKAR KORE: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government proposes to declare all Inter Linking of River (ILR) Projects in the country as National Projects to expedite their implementation;
- (b) if so, the number of ILR Projects declared as National Projects in the country and number of proposed ILR Projects identified for inclusion; and
- (c) the details of steps taken by Government in consultations with State Governments to expedite the implementation of ILR Projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION (SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL): (a) and (b) The National Perspective Plan (NPP) was prepared by the then Ministry of Irrigation, now Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation (MoWR, RD & GR) in August, 1980 for water resources development through inter basin transfer of water, for transferring water from water surplus basins to water-deficit

basins. Under the NPP, the National Water Development Agency (NWDA) has identified 30 links (16 under Peninsular Component and 14 under Himalayan Component) for preparation of Feasibility Reports. The Pre-Feasibility Report of the all 30 links have been prepared and circulated to the concerned State Governments by the NWDA. After survey and investigations, Feasibility Reports of 14 links under Peninsular Component and Feasibility Reports of 2 links and draft Feasibility Reports of 7 links (Indian portion) under Himalayan Component have been completed.

Ken-Betwa (K-B) link project was declared as a National Project by Government of India in February, 2008, as per the then existing norms for consideration of any project as National Project. No other ILR project has so far been declared as National Project. MoWR, RD & GR has constituted a Group on Financial Aspects under Task Force for Inter-linking of Rivers (ILR) Projects. One of the terms of reference of this group is "to study the options of declaring some of the inter basin water transfer links of NPP as National Project on the pattern of K-B link".

(c) The ILR programme has been taken up on high priority. The Government is aware about the several issues involved in the ILR programme and therefore, pursuing the ILR program in a consultative manner.

The Supreme Court *vide* its judgment dated 27.02.2012 in the Writ Petition (Civil) No. 512 of 2002 on 'Networking of Rivers' along with Writ Petition No. 668 of 2002' directed the Union of India and particularly the Ministry of Water Resources to constitute a Committee under the Chairmanship of Minister of Water Resources for the implementation of ILR.

As per the directions of Supreme Court, a committee called "Special Committee on Interlinking of Rivers" was constituted under the Chairmanship of the Union Minister of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation (MoWR, RD & GR) for the implementation of ILR programme *vide* Gazette Notification dated 23rd September, 2014. Fourteen meetings of the Special Committee for ILR have been held so far (last meeting held on 17.01.2018 at New Delhi), wherein State Irrigation/Water Resources Ministers along with the Secretaries of various States participated. The Special Committee on ILR takes into consideration all the suggestions/observations of the stakeholders while planning and formulating the ILR Projects.

The Committee, after considering the views of all the stakeholders, is proceeding ahead to expedite the objectives of the interlinking of rivers as per terms of reference. Vigorous efforts have been made for generating consensus with development of

alternative plans and also setting out road maps for implementation of mature projects.

The Special Committee for ILR has constituted four specific sub-committees:

- (i) Sub-committee for comprehensive evaluation of various studies/reports,
- (ii) Sub-Committee for system studies for identifications of most appropriate alternate plan,
- (iii) Sub-Committee for restructuring of National Water Development Agency, and
- (iv) Sub-Committee for consensus building through negotiations and arriving at agreement between concerned States to discharge its functions.

The Union Cabinet while approving the constitution of Special Committee for ILR in its meeting held on 24th July, 2014 directed that a committee comprising of experts be constituted to look into the issues relating to inter linking of rivers. In compliance to the direction of Union Cabinet, MoWR, RD & GR *vide* O.M. dated 13th April, 2015 has constituted a Task Force for Interlinking of Rivers (TF-ILR) under the Chairmanship of Shri B.N. Navalawala, Chief Advisor, MoWR, RD&GR. So far, eight (8) meetings of the TF-ILR have been held and the last meeting was held on 15.09.2017.

TF-ILR on 18.07.2016 constituted a Group to look into legal aspects and enabling provisions for implementation of Interlinking of Rivers and other related issues. The legal group has completed its assigned task and submitted its report to the Chairman, TF-ILR on 17th March 2017.

#### **Pending irrigation projects in Vidarbha region**

309. SHRI ANIL DESAI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether many irrigation projects in the backward Vidarbha region are pending due to lack of funds;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (c) by when adequate funds will be provided to the State to complete irrigation projects in Vidarbha region in particular and Maharashtra in general?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION (SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL):