

Criteria for categorising rivers

905. SHRI AHAMED HASSAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has devised any criteria for categorising rivers in major and minor category;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of major and minor rivers pertaining to States of West Bengal, Jharkhand and Madhya Pradesh, State-wise; and

(d) details of expenditure made to clean rivers in West Bengal for 2017-18?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION (SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL): (a) and (b) No criteria for categorising rivers in major and minor category has been devised by the Government.

(c) Does not arise in view of (a) and (b) above.

(d) During the financial year 2017-18, ₹ 244.01 crore have been released to State Program Management Group, West Bengal for the implementation of projects for rejuvenation of river Ganga.

Funds for Inter-linking of Rivers project

906. SHRI AHAMED HASSAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has initiated work of river inter-linking project in the country;

(b) if so, the details of all river inter-linking project approved during last three years;

(c) whether Government has sanctioned funds for the river-interlinking projects; and

(d) if so, the details of funds allocated and expenditure incurred during the last three years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION (SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL): (a) and (b) The Government has taken up the implementation of

the Inter-linking of River (ILR) projects in a consultative manner. The National Perspective Plan (NPP) was prepared by then Ministry of Irrigation [now Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation (MoWR, RD and GR)] in August, 1980 for transferring water from water surplus basins to water-deficit basins. Under the NPP, the National Water Development Agency (NWDA) identified 30 links (16 under Peninsular Component and 14 under Himalayan Component) for preparation of Feasibility Reports (FRs).

Under NPP four priority links have been identified for preparation of Detailed Project Reports (DPR) under the Peninsular Rivers Component *viz*, Ken-Betwa link project (KBLP) Phase-I and II, Damanganga-Pinjal link project, Par-Tapi-Narmada link project and Godavari-Cauvery link project. The preparation of DPR of a project is taken up only after consent of concerned State Governments. Based on the concurrence of the concerned States, DPRs of KBLP Phase-I and Phase-II, Damanganga-Pinjal link project and Par-Tapi-Narmada link project have been completed. The techno-economic clearance and various statutory clearances of the KBLP Phase-I have been accorded except clearance from Central Empowered Committee (CEC) of the Supreme Court. Based on the request of Government of Madhya Pradesh, Lower Orr dam, Bina complex and Kotha barrage projects have been included in KBLP Phase-II. The DPR of these projects have been completed by NWDA/Government of Madhya Pradesh. The Environmental Clearance and Forest Land Diversion Clearances for Lower Orr dam have been recommended by Expert Appraisal Committee and Forest Advisory Committee of Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF & CC) respectively. Clearance for Resettlement and Rehabilitation plan of Project Affected Families has also been accorded by Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA) subject to certain conditions. Environmental clearance and Stage-I and II clearances for Bina complex projects have been accorded by MoEF and CC.

The draft Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) for implementation of Ken-Betwa Link Project has been sent to Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh for concurrence.

The techno-economic clearance of the Damanganga-Pinjal link project has also been accorded, subject to statutory clearances. The DPR of Par-Tapi-Narmada link project has been completed by NWDA. The combined draft MoA for implementation of Damanganga-Pinjal and Par-Tapi-Narmada Link has been sent to Maharashtra and Gujarat State Governments for concurrence.

(c) and (d) An enabling allocation of ₹ 100 lakh for ILR programme has been made in the budget of each of the last three years including current year. As the ILR projects are not at implementation stage, hence, no expenditure has been incurred on implementation of the ILR projects so far.