

Government for smooth completion of Polavaram National Project including withdrawal of cases in various courts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI (SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA): (a) and (b) The Govt. of Odisha has filed suit before Hon'ble Supreme Court raising objections on estimation of design flood, backwater studies, environmental clearance etc. in respect of Polavaram project.

An inter State meeting was held in DoWR, RD and GR, Ministry of Jal Shakti (then MoWR, RD & GR) on 02.06.2016. The Govt of Odisha raised issues regarding design flood, back water studies etc. As decided in the meeting, the Govt. of Andhra Pradesh shared the requisite details with the Govt. of Odisha. Central Water Commission has also sent reply to the Govt. of Odisha in this regard during January, 2019.

Further, the matter is *subjudice*.

Feasibility report on interlinking of Cauvery river

96. DR. SASIKALA PUSHPA RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of JAL SHAKTI be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that Cauvery (Kattalia)-Vaigai-Gundar river interlinking is held up even completion of Feasibility Report/Detailed Project Report has been long back;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has any proposal to fast track implement this project with a specified time-frame;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI (SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA): (a) and (b) The National Perspective Plan (NPP) was prepared by the then Ministry of Irrigation (now Ministry of Jal Shakti) 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 (FRs).

Under the Peninsular Component of NPP, Mahanadi-Godavari-Krishna-Pennar-Cauvery-Vaigai-Gundar linking scheme has been identified as the Nine link system. Mahanadi-Godavari is the mother link of this system. Cauvery (Kattalai)-Vaigai-Gundar link project is the last leg of the Nine link system. NWDA has prepared the FR of this link project during 2004 and circulated to concerned States. The quantum of water meant for diversion through the link canal mainly depends on the deliveries of surplus flows of Mahanadi and Godavari basins from the preceding upper links through the Mahanadi-Godavari-Krishna-Pennar-Cauvery link schemes. Preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR) of the upper preceding links viz., Mahanadi - Godavari link and Godavari (Inchampalli)-Krishna links depends upon consensus among the concerned States. NWDA has taken up the preparation of DPR for the Cauvery-Vaigai-Gundar link project in 2019.

(c) to (e) The implementation of river link projects involves various steps such as preparation of Pre Feasibility Reports/ Feasibility Reports of links, negotiation and consensus among concerned States, preparation of DPRs of the projects, clearances from Ministry of Environment and Forests and Climate Change, Ministry of Tribal Affairs, techno-economic clearance by Advisory Committee on Irrigation, Flood control and multipurpose projects of Ministry of Jal Shakti, investment clearance and construction time required for the completion of the project as per the DPR.

The stage of implementation of a project would be reached after its DPR is prepared with the consensus of concerned States and the requisite statutory clearances are obtained. The estimated time for implementation will depend upon the construction schedule as per DPR.

The Government is pursuing the inter-linking of rivers (ILR) program in a consultative manner. A "Special Committee on Interlinking of Rivers" has been constituted in September, 2014 for the implementation of ILR programme. Sixteen meetings of the Special Committee have been held so far. Further, a Task Force for Interlinking of Rivers has been constituted by MoWR, RD & GR in April, 2015. Efforts have been made for building consensus among the concerned States and also setting out road maps for implementation of the projects.

MOU signed on Ken Betwa link project

97. SHRI S. MUTHUKARUPPAN: Will the Minister of JAL SHAKTI be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is all set to sign Ken-Betwa link project MoU soon, as the MoU is in the final stage of completion;