

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI,
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2962
ANSWERED ON 22.03.2021

LINKING OF GODAVARI AND CAUVERY RIVERS

2962 SHRI B. LINGAIAH YADAV

Will the Minister of JAL SHAKTI be pleased to state:

(a) whether some States have requested to declare the linking of rivers in the country including Godavari and Cauvery, a National Project for the benefit of lakhs of people in Telangana, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu and also made a strong case for rejuvenating Cauvery river, and its tributaries on the lines of 'Namami Gange Programme' conservation mission and to accord sanction and extend financial assistance to States to take projects further to expedite the same in the country and

(b) if so, action taken so far and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI & SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
(SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA)

(a) & (b) The Kosi-Mechi link scheme of Bihar was submitted by Government of Bihar for inclusion in the scheme of National Project and this scheme has been recommended by the High Powered Steering Committee in the meeting held on 24.11.2020 for inclusion in the scheme of National Projects.

The Government of Tamil Nadu has requested to consider the proposal relating to Cauvery-Vaigai-Gundar link project as a National Project. The Government of Karnataka has also requested to consider the Yettinihole integrated drinking water project as an extended part of Netravathi-Hemavathi link project and requested to declare it as a National Project.

Inclusion of any project in the category of National Projects depends upon fulfilment of various criteria as per the scheme of National Projects including acceptance by Advisory Committee of Ministry of Jal Shakti, Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, from techno-economic angle, investment clearance, and availability of funds.

Cleaning and rejuvenation of rivers is a continuous process and Central Government is supplementing the efforts of the State Governments and Union Territories in addressing the challenges of pollution of rivers by providing financial and technical assistance through schemes like National River Conservation Plan (NRCP) and Namami Gange. Government of Tamil Nadu has recently (November 2020) submitted a Detailed Project Report for rejuvenation of Cauvery River and its tributaries on the lines of Ganga River rejuvenation, namely "Nandanthai Vaazi Cauvery" at an estimated cost of Rs.1631.32 crores, out of which an amount of Rs.713.39 crores proposed under NRCP. Inclusion of a proposal under NRCP depends on various criteria including availability of adequate funds under the plan, conformity of the project to NRCP guidelines, technical feasibility, and appraisal by individual agency and commitment of State Government to bear the matching share.

Apart from the above, projects for pollution abatement of six rivers in Tamil Nadu namely Adyar, Cooum, Vaigai, Vennar, Cauvery and Tamirabarani have been sanctioned under NRCP at total cost of Rs.908.13 crore for thirteen different towns.