

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI  
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION

**RAJYA SABHA**

**STARRED QUESTION NO. \*75**

ANSWERED ON 02.12.2024

**STATUS OF KOSI-MECHI LINK**

\*75#. DR. BHIM SINGH

Will the Minister of JAL SHAKTI be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is considering or working on any specific scheme for interlinking of rivers in the State of Bihar, if so, the details thereof and the current status, particularly the Kosi-Mechi Link;
- (b) the timeframe set for completion of interlinking of rivers;
- (c) the other steps taken by Government for interlinking of rivers in the country, river-wise ; and
- (d) the details of the benefits occurred in respect of irrigation, drinking water supply and hydropower generation through these projects and their estimated cost?

**ANSWER**

**THE MINISTER OF JAL SHAKTI**

(SHRI C R PAATIL)

(a) to (d) : A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF STARRED QUESTION NO. \*75 TO BE ANSWERED ON 02.12.2024 IN RAJYA SABHA REGARDING “STATUS OF KOSI-MECHI LINK”**

(a) A National Perspective Plan (NPP) was formulated by the Government of India in 1980, to provide for water transfer from the water-surplus basins to the water-deficit regions. 30 Interlinking of Rivers (ILR) Projects have been identified under NPP. The National Water Development Agency (NWDA) has been entrusted with the work of the ILR Programme under the NPP. There are 6 ILR projects under the NPP, which have been envisaged to, *inter alia*, benefit the State of Bihar. The status of these ILR Projects is given in **Annexure-I**.

Apart from the above, the NWDA received ten proposals for intra-state link projects from the Government of Bihar. Out of these ten, three intra-state link proposals were found technically feasible, viz; the Kosi-Mechi intra-State Link Project, the BurhiGandak-None-Baya-Ganga intra-State Link Project and the Kosi-Ganga intra-State link Project.

The Kosi-Mechi intra-State Link Project envisages the diversion of a part of the surplus water of the Kosi River for extending irrigation to un-irrigated areas of the Mahananda river basin lying in Bihar, by way of extending the existing Eastern Kosi Main Canal (EKMC), so that the rivers Kosi and Mechi, which flow through Bihar, could be linked together within the State. The Link Project will provide additional irrigation facilities in the Kharif season to an area of 2,10,516 hectare (ha) in the new command route of the link in the Mahananda basin, between the rivers Parman and Mechi, covering the districts of Araria, Purnea, Kishanganj and Katihar in the State. The updation of Detailed Project Report (DPR) of the Kosi-Mechi intra-State link project was completed by the NWDA in December, 2022 and subsequently, the project has been accorded techno-economic clearance by the Technical Advisory Committee of the Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation (DoWR,RD&GR), Ministry of Jal Shakti in its 155<sup>th</sup> meeting held in March 2024, at an estimated cost of Rs. 6282.32 crores at 2022-23 Price Level. Further, the project has also been accorded Investment Clearance by the Investment Clearance Committee of DoWR,RD&GR in its 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting held in April 2024. Subsequently, the Screening Committee of DoWR,RD&GR has recommended the inclusion of this project under the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) - Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP).

(b) For ILR projects, the timeframe for their completion would depend upon the respective party States arriving at a consensus and signing the link-specific Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) for the implementation of respective ILR projects.

(c) The Government of India has given top priority to the ILR program and is pursuing with all the linked party states to reach a consensus for its implementation. A Special Committee on Interlinking of Rivers (SCILR) was constituted in September, 2014 for the implementation of the ILR program. 21 meetings of

the SCILR have been held so far. Further, a Task Force for Interlinking of Rivers (TFILR) was constituted in April 2015 and 20 meetings of the same have been held so far. States have wide representation and participation in these meetings, wherein concerted efforts are made for consensus building amongst the party States and for setting out road maps for implementation of the ILR projects. It is, however, for the party States to reach a consensus for implementation of an ILR project.

**(d)** Details of the benefits related to irrigation, drinking water supply, and hydropower generation through the ILR projects are enclosed in **Annexure-II**. The estimated Cost for the ILR projects (30 links) under the NPP is Rs. 8.44 lakh crore at the 2015-16 price level.

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**ANNEXURE-I**

**ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) OF RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. \*75 TO BE ANSWERED ON 02.12.2024 REGARDING “STATUS OF KOSI-MECHI LINK”**

**STATUS OF INTER-LINKING OF RIVERS PROJECTS UNDER THE NPP,  
BENEFITTING THE STATE OF BIHAR**

Sl. No	Name of link project	States / Countries benefitted	Annual Irrigation (Lakh ha)	Domestic & Industrial (MCM)	Hydropower (MW)	Status
1.	Kosi-Mechi link (Inter-State link)	Bihar and Nepal	4.74 (2.99+1.75)	24	3180	Pre-Feasibility Report (PFR) completed
2.	Kosi - Ghaghra link	Bihar, Uttar Pradesh (UP) and Nepal	8.35 (6.05+1.20 +1.10)	0	--	Feasibility Report (FR) completed
3.	Chunar-Sone Barrage link	Bihar and UP	0.67 (0.13 + 0.54)	--	--	Draft FR completed
4.	Sone Dam - Southern Tributaries of Ganga link	Bihar and Jharkhand	3.07 (2.39 + 0.68 )	360	95	Draft FR completed
5.	Manas-Sankosh-Tista-Ganga (M-S-T-G) link	Assam, West Bengal (WB) and Bihar	3.41 (2.05 + 1.00 + 0.36 )	--	--	FR completed
6.	Jogighopa-Tista-Farakka link (Alternative to M-S-T-G)	Assam, WB and Bihar	3.559 (0.975+ 1.564+ 1.02)	265	360	PFR completed (The proposal has been dropped)

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (d) OF RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. \*75 TO BE ANSWERED ON 02.12.2024 REGARDING “STATUS OF KOSI-MECHI LINK”

DETAILS OF BENEFITS FROM ILR PROJECTS UNDER THE NPP

Peninsular Component						
Sl. No	Name	States benefited	Annual Irrigation (Lakh ha)	Domestic & Industrial (Mm <sup>3</sup> )	Hydro power (MW)	Status
1	a. Mahanadi (Manibhadra) - Godavari (Dowlaiswaram) link	Andhra Pradesh (AP) and Odisha	4.43	802	445	FR completed
	b. Alternate Mahanadi (Barmul) - Rushikulya – Godavari (Dowlaiswaram) link	AP and Odisha	6.25 (0.91 + 3.52 + 1.82**)	700 +125**	210 + 240**	FR completed
2	Godavari (Polavaram) - Krishna (Vijayawada) link **	AP	2.1	162	--	FR completed
3	a.) Godavari (Inchampalli) - Krishna (Nagarjunasagar) link	Telangana	2.87	237	975+ 70= 1045	FR completed
	b.) Alternate Godavari (Inchampalli) - Krishna (Nagarjunasagar) link*	Telangana	2.38	232	26	DPR completed
4	Godavari (Inchampalli/SSMPP) - Krishna (Pulichintala) link	Telangana and AP	4.74 (0.36+ 4.38)	346	90	DPR completed
5	a.) Krishna (Nagarjunasagar) - Pennar (Somasila ) link	AP	5.81	124	90	FR completed
	b.) Alternate Krishna (Nagarjunasagar) - Pennar (Somasila) link*	AP	1.71	236	40	DPR completed
6	Krishna (Srisailam) – Pennar link	AP	1.79	58	11	Draft DPR completed
7	Krishna (Almatti) – Pennar link	Karnataka	0.69	467	--	Draft DPR completed
		AP	1.57	29.83		
8	a.) Pennar (Somasila) - Cauvery (Grand Anicut) link	AP, Tamil Nadu & Puducherry	4.91 (0.49+ 4.36 +0.06)	1105	--	FR completed
	b.) Alternate Pennar (Somasila) - Cauvery	AP	0.51	43		DPR
		Tamil Nadu	1.14	618		

	(Grand Anicut) link *	Puducherry	--	62		completed
9	Cauvery (Kattalai) - Vaigai -Gundar link	Tamil Nadu	4.48	218	--	DPR completed
10	a. Parbati –Kalisindh - Chambal link	Madhya Pradesh (MP) and Rajasthan	Alt.I = 2.30 Alt.II = 2.20	- 13.2	--	FR completed
	b) Modified Parbati –Kalisindh-Chambal link (duly integrated with ERCP)	MP and Rajasthan	3.38 (as per draft PFR) MP – 2.58 Rajasthan- 0.8	Rajasthan- 1723 MCM Domestic- Industrial- 286 MCM MP- Domestic- 36 MCM	-	Draft PFR completed
11	Damanganga - Pinjal link	Maharashtra (only water supply to Mumbai)	--	895	5	DPR completed
12	Par-Tapi-Narmada link	Gujarat	2.28	76	21	DPR completed
		Maharashtra	0.04	--	--	
13	Ken-Betwa link	Uttar Pradesh & Madhya Pradesh	10.62 (2.51 +8.11)	194	103 MW (Hydro) & 27MW (Solar)	DPR completed & project is under implementation
14	Pamba - Achankovil - Vaippar link	Tamil Nadu	0.91	--	3.87	FR completed
		Kerala			504.5	
15	Bedti - Varda link*	Karnataka	1.05	38	----	DPR completed
16	Netravati – Hemavati link***	Karnataka	0.34	--	--	PFR completed

\*\*Benefit to Odisha from Six Projects of Govt. of Odisha

For PKC links at Serial no.10 (a): Alt I- Linking with Gandhi sagar Dam, Alt. II- Linking with Rana Pratap Sagar Dam

\* Due to pending consensus on Manibhadra and Inchampalli dams, an Alternate study to divert unutilized waters of the Godavari river was carried out, and DPR of Godavari (Inchampalli/ Janampet) – Krishna (Nagarjunasagar) - Pennar (Somasila) – Cauvery (Grand Anicut) link projects completed. Godavari-Cauvery (Grand Anicut) link project has been prepared comprising of Godavari (Inchampalli / Janampet) - Krishna (Nagarjunasagar), Krishna (Nagarjunasagar)- Pennar (Somasila) and Pennar(Somasila)-Cauvery(Grand Anicut) link projects. The report was further updated terminating the link canal at Manimukhta Nadi, a tributary of the Vellar River flowing adjacent to the Cauvery basin.

\* Bedti –Varda Link- DPR was prepared directly after the preparation of its PFR, no FR was prepared.

\*\* Godavari (Polavaram)- Krishna (Vijayawada) Link- the project has been taken up by Govt. of Andhra Pradesh.

\*\*\* Further studies have not been taken up since after the implementation of the Yettinahole project by Govt. of Karnataka, no surplus water is available in the Netravati basin for diversion through this link.

**Himalayan Component**

Sl. No	Name	States / countries benefited	Annual Irrigation (Lakh ha)	Domestic & Industrial (Mm <sup>3</sup> )	Hydro power (MW)	Status
1.	Kosi-Mechi link	Bihar and Nepal	4.74 (2.99+1.75)	24	3180	PFR completed
2.	Kosi-Ghaghra link	Bihar, UP and Nepal	8.35 (6.05+1.20 +1.10)	0	--	FR completed
3.	Gandak - Ganga link	UP and Nepal	34.58 (28.80+5.78 )	700	4375 (Dam PH) & 180 (Canal PH)	FR completed and circulated
4.	Ghaghra - Yamuna link	UP and Nepal	27.84 (25.30 + 2.54)	1391	10884	Draft FR completed
5.	Sarda - Yamuna link	UP and Uttarakhand	2.95 (2.65 + 0.30)	3054	6620	FR completed
6.	Yamuna-Rajasthan link	Haryana and Rajasthan	2.51 (0.11+ 2.40 )	30	--	FR completed
7.	Rajasthan-Sabarmati link	Rajasthan and Gujarat	11.53 (11.21+0.32)	102	--	FR completed
8.	Chunar-Sone Barrage link	Bihar and UP	0.67 (0.13 + 0.54)	--	--	Draft FR completed
9.	Sone Dam - Southern Tributaries of Ganga link	Bihar and Jharkhand	3.07 (2.39 + 0.68 )	360	95	Draft FR completed
10.	Manas-Sankosh-Tista-Ganga (M-S-T-G) link	Assam, WB and Bihar	3.41 (2.05 + 1.00 + 0.36 )	--	--	FR completed
11.	Jogighopa-Tista-Farakka link (Alternative to M-S-T-G)	Assam, WB and Bihar	3.559 (0.975+ 1.564+ 1.02)	265	360	PFR completed (The proposal has been dropped)
12.	Farakka-Sundarbans link	WB	1.50	184	--	FR completed
13.	Ganga(Farakka) - Damodar-Subarnarekha link	WB, Odisha and Jharkhand	12.30 (11.18+ 0.39+ 0.73)	432	--	FR completed
14.	Subarnarekha-Mahanadi link	WB and Odisha	2.16 (0.18+ 1.98)	198	20	FR completed

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