

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.721

ANSWERED ON 02.12.2024

INTERLINKING OF GODAVARI AND CAUVERY RIVERS

721. SHRI C. VE. SHANMUGAM

Will the Minister of **JAL SHAKTI** be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the present status of interlinking of Godavari and Cauvery rivers;
- (b) whether any broad agreement / consensus has been reached to link Godavari and Cauvery rivers;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) the likely time by when these two rivers will be linked in order to relieve Tamil Nadu of the present water-woes; and
- (e) the steps taken by Government in this regard?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI

(SHRI RAJ BHUSHAN CHOUDHARY)

(a) to (e) The Government of India formulated a National Perspective Plan (NPP) for transferring water from water surplus basins to water-deficit regions, in 1980. The National Water Development Agency (NWDA) has been entrusted with the work of the Interlinking of Rivers (ILR) program under the NPP. The Godavari-Cauvery link project is among the 30 link projects, identified under the NPP.

Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) of the Godavari-Cauvery Link Project [comprising 3 link projects, viz; Godavari–Krishna (Nagarjunasagar) link, Krishna (Nagarjunasagar)–Pennar (Somasila) link and Pennar (Somasila)–Cauvery (Grand Anicut) link] envisaging diversion of 7000 Million Cubic Metres (MCM) of water from the Godavari river were prepared and circulated to the party States in April 2021.

Five consultation meetings for arriving at a consensus among the party States have been so far held. As per the decision taken during the consultation meeting held on 18.2.2022, a proposal limiting the transfer of water from 7000 MCM to about 4000 MCM from Godavari along with combining the proposal for supplementation in the Krishna basin through the Bedti-Varda link has been studied by the NWDA. The modified proposal comprises two components, viz; (a) Godavari (Inchampalli)-Cauvery link project envisages the diversion of 4189 MCM from Godavari to Cauvery with the introduction of a micro irrigation system to improve water use efficiency and (b) the Bedti-Varda link project envisages the diversion of 524 MCM from the Bedti River to the Tungabhadra reservoir.

A Technical Feasibility Report on the proposal of diversion of 4189 MCM of Godavari water was prepared by NWDA and circulated in January 2023 amongst the party States. The comments received from

the party States have been deliberated in the consultation meetings and subsequently, a DPR for the diversion of 4189 MCM through the Godavari (Inchampalli)-Cauvery link project has been prepared and circulated to the party States in January, 2024.

The Government of India has accorded top priority to the ILR programme and has been pursuing the programme in a consultative manner. The Government of India has made vigorous efforts at various levels for consensus building amongst the respective party States for implementation of matured ILR projects, including the Godavari-Cauvery link project. A Special Committee on Interlinking of Rivers (SCILR) has been constituted in September, 2014 for the implementation of ILR programme. 21 meetings of the SCILR have been held so far. Further, a Task Force for Interlinking of Rivers (TFILR) has been 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 have been made for consensus building amongst the party States and for setting out road maps for implementation of the ILR projects. Apart from this, with a view to deliberate the issues regarding the Godavari-Cauvery link project and to expedite the consensus building for implementation of the link project, separate meetings have also been held with the representatives of the party States. It is, however, for the party States to reach a consensus for implementation of an ILR project.

The likely time by which these two rivers will be linked would depend upon the party States arriving at a consensus for implementation of the link project.
