

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

RAJYA SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO. *73

ANSWERED ON 10.02.2025

STATUS OF INTERLINKING OF RIVERS

*73. SHRI C. VE. SHANMUGAM

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

- (a) details of status of the project regarding interlinking of rivers in the country at present, including interlinking of Godavari, Cauvery, Palar rivers, etc.;
- (b) whether any Committee has been constituted by Government in this regard;
- (c) if so, details thereof including the report if any, submitted by the said Committee, and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) the action taken by Government to initiate work on each of the said projects, projectwise, including interlinking of Godavari, Cauvery, Palar rivers, etc.;
- (e) whether Government has earmarked any funds for this project; and
- (f) if so, details thereof, and if not the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF JAL SHAKTI

(SHRI C R PAATIL)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (f) OF STARRED QUESTION NO. *73 TO BE ANSWERED ON 10.02.2025 IN RAJYA SABHA REGARDING “STATUS OF INTERLINKING OF RIVERS”

(a) to (d) In 1980, the Government of India formulated a National Perspective Plan (NPP) for Interlinking of Rivers (ILR) for transferring water from surplus basins to deficit basins/areas. The National Water Development Agency (NWDA) has been entrusted with the work of the ILR under the NPP. NWDA has identified 30 links (16 under Peninsular Component and 14 under Himalayan Component) under the NPP. Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) of 11 link projects, Feasibility Reports (FRs) of 26 links and Pre-Feasibility Reports (PFRs) of all the 30 links have been completed. The detailed status of ILR Projects under the NPP are given at **Annexure-I**.

Government of India is pursuing the ILR programme in a consultative manner and has accorded top priority to it. Concerted efforts at various levels have been made to build necessary consensus amongst the party States, for implementation of various ILR projects. Further, on the direction of the Hon'ble Supreme Court, the Government of India constituted a Committee called the Special Committee for Interlinking of Rivers (SCILR) under the chairmanship of the Minister of Jal Shakti in September, 2014. SCILR reviews the progress of ILR projects regularly and State representatives discuss their viewpoints during the meetings to sort out their apprehensions related to various ILR projects. The SCILR has held 22 meetings so far. The Union Cabinet is apprised of the progress report of the SCILR. Further, a Task Force for Interlinking of Rivers (TFILR) has also been constituted for assisting the SCILR in expediting the works under ILR Programme. The TFILR has held 20 meetings so far and has made concerted efforts for building consensus for various ILR projects in consultation with the respective States.

Further, the Government of India has identified 5 ILR projects under the NPP as priority links, viz; Ken-Betwa Link Project (KBLP), Modified Parbati-Kalisindh-Chambal (Modified PKC) Link Project and 3 links under Godavari-Cauvery Link Project {Godavari (Inchampalli)-Krishna (Nagarjunasagar) link, Krishna (Nagarjunasagar)-Pennar (Somasila) link and Pennar (Somasila)-Cauvery link}.

The KBLP is the first link project under the National Perspective Plan, the implementation of which started after the party States reached a consensus and signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) in March 2021 and subsequent approval by the Union Cabinet in December 2021 for implementation of the project at an estimated cost of Rs. 44,605 crore, with a central support of Rs. 39,317 crore. The project is scheduled to be completed by March, 2030. Further, a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) has also been signed recently by the States of Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan and the Union of India for implementation of the Modified PKC Link Project.

Regarding the interlinking of rivers Godavari, Cauvery, etc, the NPP, *inter alia*, includes proposals for linking of rivers Manas, Sankosh, Tista, Ganga, Damodar, Subernarekha, Mahanadi, Godavari, Krishna,

Pennar, Cauvery, Vaigai and Gundar. The Manas-Sankosh-Tista-Ganga-Damodar-Subernarekha-Mahanadi linkage system envisages providing water to Mahanadi and thereafter, the Mahanadi-Godavari-Krishna-Pennar-Cauvery-Vaigai-Gundar linkage system to provide water to the down South.

Pending consensus on the Mahandi-Godavari link and the upper links, about 4189 Million Cubic Meters (MCM) of unutilized waters of the Indravati sub-basin of Chhattisgarh State has been envisaged (as per the NPP) to be diverted through the Godavari (Inchampalli)-Cauvery link, for providing irrigation benefits to about 5.74 lakh hectares (ha) area, including supplementation of existing commands, in the States of Telangana, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu. The enroute demands of domestic & industrial needs of these three States and the Union Territory (UT) of Puducherry, including the domestic and industrial needs of the Malaprabha sub-basin in Karnataka have also been considered in the project.

The modified Detailed Project Report (DPR) has been prepared by NWDA and circulated to the party States/ UT in January, 2024. Efforts have been made to build the necessary consensus amongst the party States/ UT for implementation of the project and it is for the party States/ UT of Puducherry to reach a consensus in the matter.

(e) & (f) Allocation of funds and their utilization arises after an ILR project reaches the stage of implementation, after the party States arrive at a consensus and sign an MoA for implementation of the said project. As for the Godavari-Cauvery link project, it is for the party States/ UT of Puducherry to reach a consensus for its implementation. Further, KBLP is the first and only ILR project under the NPP, which has reached the stage of implementation. The project has an estimated cost of Rs. 44,605 crore, with a central support of Rs. 39,317 crore. An expenditure of Rs. 8023.37 crore has been incurred by the Government of India on KBLP till 31.12.2024. The status of funds allocated by the Government of India and utilized for KBLP is given at **Annexure -II**.

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) TO (d) OF RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. *73 TO BE ANSWERED ON 10.02.2025 REGARDING “STATUS OF INTERLINKING OF RIVERS”

Details and Current Status of ILR projects under the NPP

Peninsular Component

Sl.No	Name	States benefited	Status
1	a. Mahanadi (Manibhadra) - Godavari (Dowlaiswaram) link	Andhra Pradesh (AP) and Odisha	FR completed
	b. Alternate Mahanadi (Barmul) – Rushikulya – Godavari (Dowlaiswaram) link	AP and Odisha	FR completed
2	Godavari (Polavaram) - Krishna (Vijayawada) link @	AP	FR completed
3	a. Godavari (Inchampalli) - Krishna (Nagarjunasagar) link	Telangana	FR completed
	b. Alternate Godavari (Inchampalli) - Krishna (Nagarjunasagar) link *	Telangana	DPR completed
4	Godavari (Inchampalli/ SSMPP) - Krishna (Pulichintala) link	Telangana and AP	DPR completed
5	a. Krishna (Nagarjunasagar) - Pennar (Somasila) link	AP	FR completed
	b. Alternate Krishna (Nagarjunasagar) - Pennar (Somasila) link *	AP	DPR completed
6	Krishna (Srisailam) – Pennar link	AP	Draft DPR completed
7	Krishna (Almatti) – Pennar link	AP and Karnataka	Draft DPR completed
8	a. Pennar (Somasila) - Cauvery (Grand Anicut) link	AP, Tamil Nadu and Puducherry	FR completed
	b. Alternate Pennar (Somasila) - Cauvery (Grand Anicut) link *	AP, Tamil Nadu and Puducherry	DPR completed
9	Cauvery (Kattalai) - Vaigai -Gundar link	Tamil Nadu	DPR completed
10	a. Parbati –Kalisindh - Chambal link	Madhya Pradesh (MP) and Rajasthan	FR completed
	b. Modified Parbati – Kalisindh-Chambal link (duly integrated with ERCP)	MP and Rajasthan	Draft PFR completed
11	Damanganga - Pinjal link	Maharashtra	DPR completed
12	Par-Tapi-Narmada link	Gujarat and Maharashtra	DPR completed
13	Ken-Betwa link	Uttar Pradesh (UP) and MP	DPR completed & Implementation started
14	Pamba - Achankovil - Vaippar link	Tamil Nadu and Kerala	FR completed
15	Bedti - Varda link @@	Karnataka	DPR completed
16	Netravati – Hemavati link**	Karnataka	PFR completed

* Due to pending consensus on Manibhadra and Inchampalli dams, Alternate study to divert unutilized waters of Godavari River was carried out and DPR of Godavari (Inchampalli/ Janampet) – Krishna (Nagarjunasagar) - Pennar (Somasila) – Cauvery (Grand Anicut) link projects was 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.

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

@ Godavari (Polavaram) – Krishna (Vijayawada) link – The project has been taken up by Government of Andhra Pradesh.

@@ Bedti – Varda link – DPR was prepared directly after preparation of its PFR, no FR was prepared.

Himalayan Component

Sl. No	Name	States / Countries benefited	Status
1.	Kosi-Mechi link	Bihar and Nepal	PFR completed
2.	Kosi-Ghaghra link	Bihar, Uttar Pradesh (UP) and Nepal	FR completed
3.	Gandak - Ganga link	UP and Nepal	FR completed
4.	Ghaghra - Yamuna link	UP and Nepal	Draft FR completed
5.	Sarda - Yamuna link	UP and Uttarakhand	FR completed
6.	Yamuna-Rajasthan link	Haryana and Rajasthan	FR completed
7.	Rajasthan-Sabarmati link	Rajasthan and Gujarat	FR completed
8.	Chunar-Sone Barrage link	Bihar and UP	Draft FR completed
9.	Sone Dam - Southern Tributaries of Ganga link	Bihar and Jharkhand	Draft FR completed
10.	Manas-Sankosh-Tista-Ganga (M-S-T-G) link	Assam, West Bengal (WB) and Bihar	FR completed
11.	Jogighopa-Tista-Farakka link (Alternative to M-S-T-G)	Assam, WB and Bihar	PFR completed (The proposal has been dropped)
12.	Farakka-Sundarbans link	WB	FR completed
13.	Ganga (Farakka) - Damodar-Subarnarekha link	WB, Odisha and Jharkhand	FR completed
14.	Subarnarekha-Mahanadi link	WB and Odisha	FR completed

ANNEXURE-II

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (e) & (f) OF STARRED QUESTION NO. *73 TO BE ANSWERED IN RAJYA SABHA ON 10.02.2025 REGARDING “STATUS OF INTERLINKING OF RIVERS”.

THE STATUS OF FUNDS ALLOCATED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA AND UTILIZED FOR KBLP

Year	Budget allocated (Rs. in crore)	Expenditure (Rs. in crore)
2021-22	4644.46	4639.46
2022-23	1400	622.42
2023-24	3500	1392.37
2024-25	4000	1369.12 (till 31.12.2024)
