Ken-Betwa link: Centre agrees to MP’s demand to merge phases

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With poll-bound Madhya Pradesh insisting on taking up both the phases of the proposed Ken-Betwa Inter-linking of Rivers (ILRs) together, the Centre has agreed to the state’s demand after initial unwillingness on the issue and decided to merge the detailed project reports (DPRs) before finally rolling out the ambitious project this year.

Taken together, the project, meant to benefit drought-prone Bundelkhand region of Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh through irrigation, drinking water supply and hydro-power, will cost Rs 26,651 crore (at 2015-16 price level).

“The Ken-Betwa Link Project (KBLP) is likely to be rolled out in 2018,” said the Union water resources ministry in its progress report on Tuesday. It said, “Combined DPR, merging Phase-I & II, is under preparation and draft memorandum of agreement (between Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh governments) for implementation of the KBLP is under final stage.”