

ILR in Parliament

Here, the ILR issues raised and were discussed in both the houses of Parliament during the Budget session of the Parliament held from 31.01.2024 to 10.02.2024 and projected on the Parliament of India website (Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha) are incorporated for information to our readers/stakeholders.

Lok Sabha

- 1.1 Whether the Government is contemplating on any special scheme to inter-link rivers of the country particularly in Bihar; if so, the details along with the current status thereof; whether any shortcomings have been reported in the earlier schemes of inter-linking of rivers and if so, the details thereof; the details of timeline fixed for completion of inter-linking of rivers; whether it is a fact that on one side the northern Bihar region gets devastated by catastrophic floods every year and on the other side the Southern Bihar region is compelled to face drought; if so, the details thereof and the concrete efforts being made so far towards preventing the impending devastation due to delay in inter-linking of the rivers; and whether Bihar has to face fury of floods due to the excess water released in rivers every year from the upper catchment area and if so, the details thereof?**

A National Perspective Plan (NPP) was prepared in the year 1980, for water resources development through inter basin transfer of water, from water surplus basins to water-deficit basins/ regions. Under the NPP, the National Water Development Agency (NWDA) has identified 30 inter-linking of rivers (ILR) projects (16 under Peninsular Component and 14 under Himalayan Component) for preparation of Feasibility Reports (FRs). Out of the 30 ILR projects identified under the NPP, Pre-Feasibility Reports (PFRs) of all the 30 projects have been completed, while FRs of 24 projects and Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) of 11 projects have been completed. Under the NPP, 6 ILR projects, inter alia, benefit the State of Bihar, details of which are given at **Annexure-I**. Details and current status of the ILR projects under the NPP are given at **Annexure-II**.

Planning of any ILR project is improved and modified progressively at every stage of study in consultation with the concerned States. However, for an ILR project to reach implementation stage, consensus building amongst the party States remains the biggest challenge.

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. A "Special Committee on Inter-linking of Rivers" has been constituted in September, 2014 for the implementation of ILR programme. 21 meetings of the Special Committee have been held so far. Further, a Task Force for Inter-linking of Rivers has been constituted in April, 2015 for expediting the works under the ILR programme and 18 meetings of the Task Force have been held so far. States have wide representation and active participation in

these meetings. The implementation of the ILR projects depends on the party States to reach a consensus.

Further, as per information provided by the Government of Bihar, the State of Bihar is prone to floods in its northern regions, having flood prone area of 68.80 lakh hectares. Predominantly, northern part of Bihar gets affected by floods every year due to heavy rainfall in the upper catchment areas, which mainly lie in Nepal. The southern part of Bihar faces problems of flash floods as well as drought. As intimated by the Government of Bihar, 3800 kilometres of flood-protection embankment has been constructed by the State Government to mitigate floods.

Annexure-I

Details of ILR projects benefitting the State of Bihar

| Sl. No | Name | States / Countries benefited | Annual Irrigation (Lakh hectares) | Domestic & Industrial (MCM) | Hydro power (Mega watt) | Status |
|--------|-------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| 1. | Kosi-Mechi link | Bihar & Nepal | 4.74 (2.99+1.75) | 24 | 3180 | PFR completed |
| 2. | Kosi-Ghaghra link | Bihar, Uttar Pradesh (UP) & Nepal | 8.35 (6.05+1.20+1.10) | 0 | -- | FR completed |
| 3. | Chunar-Sone Barrage link | Bihar & UP | 0.67 (0.13 + 0.54) | -- | -- | PFR completed |
| 4. | Sone Dam - Southern Tributaries of Ganga link | Bihar & Jharkhand | 3.07 (2.39 + 0.68) | 360 | 95(90 Dam PH) & 5 (Canal PH) | PFR completed |
| 5. | Manas-Sankosh-Tista-Ganga (M-S-T-G) link | Assam, West Bengal (WB) & Bihar | 3.41 (2.05 + 1.00 + 0.36) | -- | -- | FR completed |
| 6. | Jogighopa-Tista-Farakka link (Alternative to M-S-T-G) | Assam, WB & Bihar | 3.559 (0.975+1.564+1.02) | 265 | 360 | PFR completed (The proposal has been dropped) |

Annexure-II

**Details and current status of the ILR Projects under the NPP
Peninsular Component**

| Sl. No | Name | States benefited | Status |
|---------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | a) Mahanadi (Manibhadra) – Godavari(Dowlaiswaram) link | Andhra Pradesh & Odisha | FR completed |
| | b) Alternate Mahanadi (Barmul) - Rushikulya – Godavari (Dowlaiswaram) link | Andhra Pradesh & Odisha | FR completed |
| 2 | Godavari (Polavaram) - Krishna (Vijayawada) link | Andhra Pradesh | 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 & Andhra Pradesh | DPR completed |
| 5 | a) Krishna (Nagarjunasagar) – Pennar (Somasila) link | Andhra Pradesh | FR completed |
| | b) Alternate Krishna (Nagarjunasagar) - Pennar (Somasila) link * | Andhra Pradesh | DPR completed |
| 6 | Krishna (Srisailam) – Pennar link | Andhra Pradesh | Draft DPR completed |
| 7 | Krishna (Almatti) – Pennar link | Andhra Pradesh & Karnataka | Draft DPR completed |
| 8 | a) Pennar (Somasila) - Cauvery (Grand Anicut) link | Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu & Puducherry | FR completed |
| | b) Alternate Pennar (Somasila) – Cauvery (Grand Anicut) link * | Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu & Puducherry | DPR completed |
| 9 | Cauvery (Kattalai) - Vaigai -Gundar link | Tamil Nadu | DPR completed |
| 10 | a) Parbati –Kalisindh - Chambal link | Madhya Pradesh & Rajasthan | FR completed |
| | b) Modified Parbati – Kalisindh-Chambal link (duly integrated with ERCP) | Madhya Pradesh & Rajasthan | Draft PFR completed |
| 11 | Damanganga - Pinjal link(As per DPR) | Maharashtra (only water supply to Mumbai) | DPR completed |
| 12 | Par-Tapi-Narmada link (As per DPR) | Gujarat & Maharashtra | DPR completed |
| 13 | Ken-Betwa link | Uttar Pradesh & Madhya Pradesh | DPR completed & Project is under implementation |

| | | | |
|----|-----------------------------------|---------------------|---------------|
| 14 | Pamba - Achankovil - Vaippar link | Tamil Nadu & 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) - 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.

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

Himalayan Component

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

1.2 Whether the Government proposes to inter-link the Bisalpur-Brahmani river with the Bisalpur Dam by way of external assistance to overcome the shortage of drinking water in the said Dam which is the main drinking water source for Jaipur, Ajmer and Tonk districts and partly for Nagaur district as well; if so, the time by which such inter-linking is likely to be completed and if not, the reasons therefor; whether the Government proposes to implement Eastern Rajasthan Canal Project (ERCP) through external assistance to provide water for drinking and irrigation purposes in the districts of the eastern region of Rajasthan facing the shortage of drinking water; and if so, the time by which it is likely to be implemented and if not, the reasons therefor?

The Government of India formulated a National Perspective Plan (NPP) in 1980 for transferring water from water surplus basins to water deficit basins / areas. National Water Development Agency (NWDA) has identified 30 links (16 under Peninsular Component and 14 under Himalayan Component) under the NPP. NWDA has also studied 49 proposals of Intra-State link projects, as received from the various State Governments.

There is no such proposal of inter-linking of the Bisalpur-Brahmani River with the Bisalpur Dam under the NPP. Also, no such proposal under Intra-State link has been received from the State Government of Rajasthan. However, the supplementation of Bisalpur dam is envisaged under the Modified Parbati-Kalisindh-Chambal (PKC) link duly integrated with the Eastern Rajasthan Canal Project (ERCP), which has been identified as one of the priority links under the NPP.

The draft Pre-Feasibility Report (PFR) of the Modified PKC link was circulated to the States of Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan, in January, 2023. After consistent efforts made by the Government of India at various levels, to build consensus between the two States, for taking the Link Project forward for implementation, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on broad planning of the Link Project and preparation of its Detailed Project Report (DPR) has been signed amongst the States of Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh and the Government of India.

The Modified PKC Link Project envisages to provide drinking and industrial water in 13 districts of eastern Rajasthan, inter alia, including Jaipur, Ajmer and Tonk districts as well as Malwa and Chambal regions of Madhya Pradesh, apart from providing irrigation in 5.6 lakh hectare (ha) area or more in both the States, including supplementation of en-route tanks in the States. The Modified PKC Link Project would help in utilizing the available water resources of Chambal basin optimally and economically.

However, it is for the State Governments of Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan, to finalize the DPR of various components of the link project. Subsequent to this, the time period for implementation of the project, funding pattern etc shall be evaluated.
