

## ILR in Parliament

Here, the ILR issues raised and were discussed in both the houses of Parliament during the winter session of the Parliament held from 04.12.2023 to 21.12.2023 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 proposes to interlink rivers under National Perspective Plan (NPP); if so, the details and the current status of the proposals thereof; and the progress of Manas-Sankosh-Tista-Ganga (M-S-T-G) link project ?

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. Out of 30 Inter-linking of Rivers (ILR) projects, Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) of 11 links, Feasibility Reports (FRs) of 24 links and Pre-Feasibility Reports (PFRs) of all the 30 links have been completed. Three links namely, Ken-Betwa Link Project (KBLP), Modified Parbati- Kalisindh-Chambal (PKC) Link Project duly integrated with the Eastern Rajasthan Canal Project (ERCP) and Godavari-Cauvery link project have been identified as priority link projects under the NPP. The KBLP is the first ILR project under the NPP, for which the implementation has been initiated. The details and the current status of ILR projects under the NPP, including that of the Manas-Sankosh-Tista-Ganga (M-S-T-G) Link Project, is given below at **Annexure-I**.

#### **Annexure-I**

#### **Details and current status of the ILR Projects under the NPP**

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 (GrandAnicut) 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	Implementation has been initiated
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/ 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.

\*\* 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 The main features of the river interlinking project; the current status of river linking projects in the country, highlighting those that are under various stages of planning and implementation; whether the Government has set up any task force or dedicated mechanism to streamline decision making processes related to river linking projects and if so, the details thereof along with the role of Government in overseeing and expediting these initiatives; and whether there have been comprehensive studies conducted to assess the potential climatic impact of river linking projects and if so, the details of findings and recommendations of such studies ?**

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. The main features of the NPP as given at **Annexure-II**.

Out of the 30 Inter-linking of Rivers (ILR) projects under the NPP, Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) of 11 links, Feasibility Reports (FRs) of 24 links and Pre-Feasibility Reports (PFRs) of all the 30 links have been completed. The details and the latest status of ILR projects under the NPP is given at **Annexure-I** (which is attached in Question-1.1).

Five link projects have been identified as priority link projects under the NPP, viz; Ken –Betwa Link Project (KBLP), Modified Parbati - Kalisindh - Chambal (PKC) Link duly integrated with Eastern Rajasthan Canal Project (ERCP) and Godavari - Cauvery Link Project (comprising of 3 links). The KBLP is the first link project under the NPP, implementation of which has been initiated. The project was approved on 08.12.2021 by the Government of India for its implementation, with an estimated cost of Rs. 44,605 crore (at year 2020-21 price level) and central support of Rs.39,317 crore, through a Special Purpose Vehicle, viz; Ken – Betwa Link Project Authority (KBLPA). The project is planned to be completed in 8 years. The initial focus is on land acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement of affected people and meeting conditions of environment and forest clearances.

Modified Parbati - Kalisindh - Chambal (PKC) Link Project will help in utilizing the available water resources of Chambal basin optimally and economically. Efforts have been made to build consensus between the party States of Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan, on issues related to the project. It is, however, for the party States to arrive at a consensus.

The DPRs of Godavari (Inchampalli) – Krishna (Nagarjunasagar) link, Krishna (Nagarjunasagar)– Pennar (Somasila) link and Pennar (Somasila) – Cauvery link under Godavari – Cauvery alternative link scheme for transfer of 7000 MCM of water from the Godavari basin were finalized and circulated in April 2021 to all the party States and the Union Territory (UT) of Puducherry. Efforts have been made at various levels to build consensus amongst the party States / UT for the implementation of the link project. Five consultation meetings with the party States / UT have been held so far. Based on the decisions taken during the consultation meetings, a Technical Feasibility Report (TFR) was prepared by the NWDA and circulated to the party States / UT in January, 2023. During the last consultation meeting held on 10.11.2023 at Hyderabad, a modified proposal for the transfer of about 4189 MCM from the Godavari basin along with combining the proposal for supplementation in Krishna basin through Bedti -Varda link has, inter alia, been deliberated and efforts made for bringing the party States / UT to a consensus on issues related to the implementation of the project. It is, however, for the party States / UT to arrive at a consensus.

The Government of India has accorded top priority to the ILR Programme. To streamline the decision making process and to expedite the work of these projects, a "Special Committee on Interlinking of Rivers (SCILR)" was constituted by the Government of India in September, 2014. 20 meetings of the Special Committee have been held so far. Further, a Task Force for Interlinking of Rivers (TFILR) was also constituted in April, 2015 for expediting the works under ILR programme and 18<sup>th</sup> meetings of the Task Force have been held so far. Apart from this, the progress of the ILR programme is reviewed on a regular basis, in the Annual General

Meetings (AGMs) and the meetings of the Governing Body of the NWDA Society, as well. The AGM and the Governing Body of the NWDA Society have wider representations from the Central Ministries / Departments and State Governments. 36 AGMs of the NWDA Society have been held so far, while the Governing Body has so far held 72 meetings.

For every river linking project, detailed Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is done at the stage of preparation of FRs and DPRs. EIA consists of a systematic investigation of both positive and negative impacts that would be potentially caused or induced due to a proposed river linking project on the physical, biological and socio-economic environment, including air environment, land environment, noise environment and water environment, etc.

## **Annexure-II**

**Main features of the two components of the NPP are as mentioned below:**

**A. Peninsular Rivers Development Component: This is divided into following four major parts:**

- i. Interlinking of Mahanadi-Godavari-Krishna-Pennar-Cauvery rivers and building storages at potential sites in these basins: This part involves interlinking of the major river systems, where surplus from the Mahanadi and the Godavari basins are intended to be transferred to the needy areas in the south, through Krishna, Pennar and Cauvery rivers.
- ii. Interlinking of west flowing rivers, north of Bombay and south of Tapi: The scheme provides for taking water supply canal to the metropolitan areas of Mumbai; it also provides irrigation in the coastal areas in Maharashtra.
- iii. Interlinking of Ken-Chambal: The scheme provides for a water grid for Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh and interlinking canal backed by as many storages as possible.
- iv. Diversion of other west flowing rivers: The high rainfall on the western side of the "Western Ghats" runs down into numerous streams. which discharge into the Arabian Sea. The construction of an interlinking canal system, backed up by adequate storages could be planned to meet requirements of new areas on the western side, as also for transfer of some waters towards east to meet the needs of drought affected areas.

**B. Himalayan Rivers Development Component:**

The Himalayan Rivers Development Component envisages construction of storages on the principal tributaries of Ganga and the Brahmaputra in India, Nepal and Bhutan along with interlinking canal systems to transfer surplus flows of the eastern tributaries of the Ganga to the West, apart from linking of the main Brahmaputra and its tributaries with the Ganga and Ganga with Mahanadi and further South.

**C. Benefits of NPP:**

The implementation of NPP would provide irrigation benefits of 35 million hectare (ha)(25 million ha from surface waters and about 10 million ha by additional recharge and higher use of groundwater) over and above the ultimate irrigation potential of 140 million ha in the country, apart from extending other benefits of Domestic & Industrial supply, Hydropower, etc.

## Rajya Sabha

### **1.1 The details of the steps being taken by Government for inter-linking of river projects in the country, riverwise; the projects identified, the funds sanctioned and spent thereon during the last five years; and the details of the benefits in respect of irrigation, drinking water supply and hydro power generation through these projects along with the estimated cost thereof ?**

Under the National Perspective Plan (NPP), prepared in the year 1980 for inter-basin water transfer, the National Water Development Agency (NWDA) has identified 30 links (16 under Peninsular Component & 14 under Himalayan Component) for preparation of Feasibility Reports. Out of 30 identified link projects, Pre - Feasibility Reports (PFRs) of all the 30 links, Feasibility Reports (FRs) of 24 links and Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) of 11 links have been completed. Details and current status of the proposals for inter-State linking of rivers under the Inter Linking of Rivers (ILR) Programme is furnished at **Annexure-I** (which is attached in Lok Sabha Question No-1.1).

The Government has been pursuing the inter-linking of rivers (ILR) program in a consultative manner and has accorded top priority to it. A "Special Committee on Interlinking of Rivers" has been constituted in September, 2014 for the implementation of ILR programme. Twenty meetings of the Special Committee have been held so far. Further, a "Task Force for Interlinking of Rivers" was also constituted in April, 2015 for expediting the works under ILR programme and 18 meetings of the Task Force have been held so far.

Ken-Betwa Link Project (KBLP) is the first ILR project, for which implementation has been initiated. In December, 2021 the project was approved by the Government of India for implementation at an estimated cost of Rs. 44,605 crore (at year 2020-21 price level), including a central support of Rs. 39,317 crore. During the financial year 2021-22, the budget allocation made for implementation of KBLP was Rs. 4,642.03 crore, while the expenditure made was Rs. 4,639.46 crore. During the financial year 2022-23, a budget allocation of Rs. 1,400 crore was made for the project, while the expenditure out of the central grants made was Rs.622.43 crore. For financial year 2023-24, a budget allocation of Rs. 3,500 crore has been made for KBLP, while the expenditure made out of the central grants upto 30.11.2023 is Rs.468.31 crore.

A statement of expenditure on various studies, surveys and investigation works, etc. done by the NWDA for ILR projects for last five years is furnished at **Annexure-III**.

The implementation of the ILR projects under NPP will give benefits of 25 million hectare (ha) of irrigation from surface waters, 10 million ha by increased use of ground waters, apart from generation of 34 million Kilowatts of hydro power and other benefits of flood control, navigation, augmentation of water supply, fisheries, salinity, pollution control and employment generation, etc. Overall, the implementation of ILR projects, as per the NPP, would help in harnessing and transfer of 166 Billion Cubic Metres of water and would entail an estimated cost of Rs. 8.44 lakh crore (at year 2015-16 price level).

As regards the KBLP, this link project envisages providing annual irrigation to an area of 10.62 lakh ha (8.11 lakh ha in Madhya Pradesh and 2.51 lakh ha in Uttar Pradesh). It will provide 194 Million Cubic Metre (MCM) of water for enroute drinking water supply to a population of 62 lakh (41 lakh in Madhya Pradesh and 21 lakh in Uttar Pradesh) and will have an installed power generation capacity of 103 megawatt. The estimated cost of the project is Rs. 44,605 crore (at year 2020-21 price level).

### **Annexure-III**

#### **Statement of Expenditure on various Studies, Survey & Investigation works, etc done by NWDA for ILR Projects for last Five years**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Expenditure (In Rs. Crore)</b>
2019-20	72.32
2020-21	68.78
2021-22	67.35
2022-23	82.33
2023-24 (upto 30.11.2023)	58.62

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