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**STANDING COMMITTEE ON WATER RESOURCES
(2009-2010)**

FIFTEENTH LOK SABHA

MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES

INTER LINKING OF RIVERS

**{Action Taken by the Government on the Recommendations/Observations
contained in the Eleventh Report (Fourteenth Lok Sabha) of the
Standing Committee on Water Resources}**

THIRD REPORT



LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

April, 2010/, Chaitra 1932 (Saka)

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Presented to Lok Sabha on 20.04.2010
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LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

NEW DELHI

April, 2010/Chaitra, 1932 (Saka)

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**COMPOSITION OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE
ON WATER RESOURCES (2009-2010)**

Shri Beni Prasad Verma - Chairman

LOK SABHA

2. Shri Ghanshyam Anuragi
3. Shri Mahendrasinh P. Chauhan
4. Shri Sher Singh Ghubaya
5. Shri Dip Gogoi
6. Shri Badri Ram Jakhar
7. Shri Haribhau Jawale
8. Shri Virender Kashyap
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11. Shri K.R.G. Reddy
12. Shri S.P.Y. Reddy
13. Shri Arjun Roy
14. Smt. J. Shantha
15. Shri K. Shivkumar alias J.K. Ritheesh
16. Smt. Annu Tandon
17. Dr. P. Venugopal (Tiruvallur)
18. Shri Sajjan Verma

RAJYA SABHA

19. Shri B.S. Gnanadesikan
20. Dr. Gyan Prakash Pilonia
21. Shri Anil Madhav Dave
22. Shri Ranjitsinh Vijaysinh Mohite-Patil
23. Shri Mangala Kisan
24. Shri Kumar Deepak Das
25. Dr. Ashok S. Ganguly

SECRETARIAT

1. Shri N.K. Sapra - Additional Secretary
2. Shri Devender Singh - Joint Secretary
3. Shri B.S. Dahiya - Director
4. Shri A.K. Yadav - Committee Officer
5. Shri G. Guite - Sr. Committee Assistant

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairman, Standing Committee on Water Resources (2009-10) having been authorised by the Committee to submit the Report on their behalf, present the Third Report on the Action Taken by Government on the recommendations/observations contained in the Eleventh Report (Fourteenth Lok Sabha) of the Standing Committee on Water Resources (2008-2009) on 'Inter Linking of Rivers'.

2. The Eleventh Report of the Committee was presented to Lok Sabha on 22 October 2008. The replies of the Government to all the recommendations contained in the Report were received on 17 June 2009.

3. The replies of the Government were examined and the Report was considered and adopted by the Committee at their sitting held on 15 March 2010.

4. An analysis of the Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations/observations contained in the Eleventh Report (Fourteenth Lok Sabha) of the Committee is given in Appendix-II.

NEW DELHI;
12 April, 2010
22 Chaitra, 1932 (Saka)

BENI PRASAD VERMA,
Chairman,
Standing Committee on Water Resources

CHAPTER – I

REPORT

This Report of the Standing Committee on Water Resources deals with the action taken by the Government on the recommendations / observations contained in their Eleventh Report on “Inter Linking of Rivers” which was presented to Lok Sabha on 22 October 2008.

2. Action Taken notes were received from the Government in respect of all the 14 recommendations/observations of the Committee which have been categorized as follows :

(i) Recommendations/observations which have been accepted by the Government :

Para Nos. 1,3,4,9,11,12,13 & 14 (Total = 8)

(ii) Recommendations/observations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of the Government’s replies :

Para No. 6 (Total =1)

(iii) Recommendations/observations in respect of which replies of the Government have not been accepted by the Committee.

Para Nos. 7 & 8 (Total = 2)

(iv) Recommendations/observations in respect of which final replies of the Government are still awaited.

Para Nos. 2, 5 &10 (Total = 3)

3. The Committee desire that final replies in respect of the recommendations/observations for which only interim replies have been given by the

Government should be furnished to the Committee within three months of the presentation of this Report.

4. The Committee will now deal with the action taken given by the Government on some of the recommendations/observations in the succeeding paragraphs.

A. *Time-bound programme for completion of DPRs of identified links.*

Recommendation (Para No.1)

5. The Committee in their earlier Report while recognizing the fact that water is a basic human necessity had embarked upon an indepth examination of the scheme of Inter-Linking of Rivers in the backdrop of the topical interest generated in the subject at various public platforms and other fora. The Committee had noted that the National Perspective Plan was formulated in August 1980 which envisaged transfer of water from surplus areas to deficit areas. The NPP comprised two components, viz. (i) Peninsular River Development; (ii) Himalayan River Development. The NPP envisaged additional benefit of 25 million hectare of irrigation from surface water, 10 million hectare by increased use of ground water which would raise the ultimate irrigation potential from the existing level of 140 million hectare to 175 million hectare and generate 34,000 MW of power apart from the benefits of flood control, navigation, water supply, fisheries, salinity, pollution control, etc. They noted the possible benefits that might accrue as projected under the NPP on the one hand and the slow pace of implementation of various projects and the availability of water in various reservoirs/rivers on the other and desired the Ministry to undertake a study which would assure the availability of water as indicated in NPP in about two to three decades from now.

6. The Government in their action taken reply have intimated that the National Water Development Agency (NWDA) has completed the Pre-feasibility Report (PFR) level studies of 32 links under NPP. Out of these, 30 links have been identified for taking up further studies at the level of FR and Detailed Project Report. The availability of water in various links in the year 2025 and 2050 A.D. at PFR/FR level has already been assessed. However, the water availability assessment will further be firmed up at the time of preparing the Detailed Project Reports of various links under NPP, after specific MoUs / treaties/water sharing agreements have been signed by the concerned State Governments/ neighbouring countries. They have further stated that the work of preparation of DPR of Ken-Betwa link has been completed. Water availability for this link has been worked out in detail in the DPR. Further, the work of preparation of DPRs of Par-Tapi-Narmada and Damanganga- Pinjal links have also been taken up during January 2009. The detailed water availability studies for these links would also be worked out while preparing their DPRs.

7. The Committee note that the National Water Development Agency (NWDA) has completed Pre-feasibility Report (PFR) of 32 links. Out of these, 30 links have been identified for taking up further studies at the level of FR and Detailed Project Report under NPP. The Ministry has assessed the availability of water in various links for 2025 and 2050 at PFR/FR level. However, the water availability assessment will be further firmed up at the time of preparing the Detailed Project Reports of various links under NPP. In this connection, the Committee are perturbed to note that out of 30 identified links in NPP, the DPR for only one link namely Ken-Betwa link has been completed so far. The DPRs for two other links, namely, Par-Tapi-Narmada link and Damanganga-Pinjal link have been taken up only in January 2009. The preparation of DPRs for remaining 27 identified links have not been taken up.

The Committee desire the Ministry to draw up a time bound programme for completion of the DPRs of the remaining identified links so that a realistic and firm assessment of water availability as indicated in the NPP could be made. They would like to be apprised of the time frame of completion of the DPRs within three months of presentation of this Report positively.

B. Need for Consensus among the States.

Recommendation (Para No.3)

8. The Committee had been informed that five links namely Ken-Betwa, Parbati-Kalisindh-Chambal, Par-Tapi-Narmada, Damanganga-Pinjal and Godavari (Polavaram)-Krishna (Vijayawada) had been identified as priority links for bringing consensus amongst the concerned States to take up the work of preparation of DPRs. However, it was noticed that though all the States had agreed to the ILR programme in principle at various fora, problems cropped up when it came to the specifics of the issue of water sharing and other related benefits. They had expressed their unhappiness with the current status/progress of the scheme. They had observed that if the pace of arriving at consensus and preparation of DPRs was not accelerated the actual implementation of projects under ILR would take another 30 to 40 years or more for completion of all the identified 30 links. The Committee, therefore, had desired the Ministry to take urgent and concerted measures to bring all the concerned States on one platform to arrive at consensus in respect of all links at the earliest so that work of preparation of DPRs could be initiated.

9. The Government in their action taken reply while giving the status of Ken-Betwa link have stated that DPR of the link had been completed by NWDA on 31 December 2008 and the copy thereof was sent to the State Governments of Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh in February 2009 for their comments which were awaited. As regards the other

two links viz. Par-Tapi-Narmada link and Damanganga-Pinjal link, the Ministry have stated that the work of preparation of DPRs had been started by NWDA during January 2009 and the DPRs are planned to be completed by December 2011. In respect of Parbati-Kalisindh-Chambal link, the matter was being vigorously pursued with the Governments of Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan for conveying concurrence on MoU to take up the work of preparation of DPR. For Godavari (Polavaram)– Krishna (Vijayawada) link, techno-economic and investment clearance has been given. It has also been stated that action to identify few more links to be taken up as priority links had been initiated for taking up the matter with the concerned States for building consensus on taking up work of preparation of their DPRs also.

10. The Committee note that of the five priority links identified, the DPR for Ken-Betwa link was completed by NWDA on 31 December 2008 but comments of the concerned States of Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh on the subject were still awaited. The Committee desire the Ministry to pursue the matter vigorously to ensure that the actual work on Ken-Betwa link is initiated at the earliest. The Committee also desire that the work of preparation of DPRs of Par-Tapi-Narmada Link and Damanganga-Pinjal link which was initiated in January 2009 may be completed expeditiously. The matter regarding the other two links viz. Parbati-Kalisindh-Chambal link and Godavari (Polavaram)– Krishna (Vijayawada) link should be pursued at the highest level with the concerned State Governments with a view to bring about consensus among the concerned States for finalizing the DPRs.

C. Preparation of FRs of intra-state links.

Recommendation (Para No.4)

11. The Committee noted that the Ministry had, in June 2005, conveyed approval to all the States to identify intra-State links for preparation of pre-feasibility / feasibility reports of those links by NWDA. Many States had come forward in this regard. They expressed their happiness that the States of Bihar, Maharashtra, Jharkhand and Tamil Nadu had also submitted their proposals for study by NWDA. The Committee had, therefore, desired the Ministry to render full assistance and support to concerned State Governments in preparation of DPRs of Intra-State links.

12. The Government in their action taken reply have stated that NWDA was undertaking preparation of pre-feasibility/feasibility reports of 20 Intra-State links suggested by Maharashtra, Gujarat, Orissa and Jharkhand. NWDA has planned to complete Feasibility Reports of 18 Intra-State links during the XI Five Year Plan. The cost of preparation of these pre-feasibility and Feasibility Reports is borne by the Central Government. They have also stated that the Government of India has launched Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) for providing central assistance to the irrigation and multi-purpose water resources projects of the States.

13. The Committee are happy to note that the Ministry have received 20 proposals of Intra-State links from the States of Maharashtra, Gujarat, Orissa and Jharkhand and that NWDA has planned to complete Feasibility Reports of 18 Intra-State links during the XI Five Year Plan. As the cost of preparation of these pre-feasibility and feasibility reports would be borne by the Central Government, the Committee desire the Government to highlight this fact among other States to encourage them to come forward with proposals for preparation of FRs for Intra-State links to boost the ILR

programme in the country. The Committee would like to be apprised of further progress made in this regard.

D. Funding of ILR Programme.

Recommendation (Para Nos.7&8)

14. The Committee, while noting that the Task Force on ILR consulted National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) and ICICI to assess the economic impact of the ILR programme and for suggesting funding options of the programme respectively, had observed that the Government proposed to establish the Irrigation and Water Resources Finance Corporation (IWRFC) which was mandated to mobilize very large resources required to fund major and medium irrigation projects. According to the revised Report of NCAER submitted to the Ministry in April 2008, the ILR programme would result in substantial increase in per capita income of agriculture-dependent as well as non-agriculture dependent households in rural and urban areas. The Committee, therefore, desired the Ministry to include not only the projects / links under ILR as National Projects but also ask the IWRFC to raise funds by way of issue of bonds or other suitable instruments to fund projects under ILR. For this purpose, they desired that initially IWRFC could raise funds for Ken-Betwa Link for which the DPR was likely to be available by the end of December 2008.

15. The Government in their replies have stated that the Government of India have decided to take up some projects as national projects based on certain criteria which includes river interlinking projects. The Central assistance to these projects would be 90% of the project costs of irrigation and drinking water component of the project. According to them at present Ken-Betwa link project, whose DPR has been prepared had been included in the list of National Projects. Similarly the decision for considering the funding

for other projects under ILR will be taken at an appropriate time after the preparation of their DPRs.

16. The Committee note that the Ken-Betwa link project has been included in the list of ‘National Projects’ and the Government has decided to take some more projects as ‘National Projects’ based on certain criteria. The decision for considering the funding of other projects under ILR will be taken up at an appropriate time after the preparation of DPRs. However, the Committee are constrained to observe that the reply of Government is silent about the establishment of Irrigation and Water Resources Finance Corporation (IWRFC) and raising of funds by it for projects under ILR despite the announcement made by the Finance Minister in his Budget speech (2008-09) to set up such a corporation. They would, therefore, like to be informed of the status of proposed establishment of IWRFC and its role in funding the projects under ILR. The Committee also reiterate their earlier recommendation that the Government should ask the IWRFC to raise funds through issue of bonds or other suitable instruments for the projects under ILR so that the benefits expected from the ILR programme accrue at the earliest.

CHAPTER II

RECOMMENDATIONS/OBSERVATIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE GOVERNMENT

Recommendation (Para No.1)

The Committee while recognizing the fact that water is a basic human necessity have embarked upon an indepth examination of the concept/scheme of Inter-Linking of Rivers in the backdrop of the topical interest generated in the subject at various public platforms and other fora. This led to the resurrection of the project earlier mooted by some experts in the water resources sector. The Committee noted that the long distance transfer of water by way of Inter-Linking of River basins was not a new idea and has been a topic debated actively in the country for quite sometime. They further note that a note on National Water Grid was earlier prepared by the then Central Water and Power Commission in 1972. Further, apart from the CWC this concept of inter-basin water transfer was also proposed by Dr. K. L. Rao in 1972 titled, 'National Water Grid' and later in 1977 as 'Garland Canal' by Captain Dastur which attracted considerable attention. While Dr. Rao's proposal envisaged transfer of Ganga water to Cauveri through Ganga – Cauveri Link partially by lift and partially by gravity, the proposal of Captain Dastur sought to store water of all tributaries / rivulets in canals at a constant elevation and their utilization through Himalayan and Central / Southern Garland Canals involving transfer of water in both the directions. According to the Ministry these schemes were examined by a Group of Experts and were not found feasible either technically or economically. The proposal of Dr. Rao, however, had components similar to the proposals later made under the National Perspective Plan (NPP). The National Perspective Plan was formulated in August 1980 which envisaged transfer of water from surplus areas to deficit areas. The NPP comprises two components, viz. (i) Peninsular River Development; (ii) Himalayan River Development. The NPP envisaged additional benefit of 25 million hectare of irrigation from surface water, 10 million hectare by increased use of ground water which would raise the ultimate irrigation potential from the existing level of 140 million hectare to 175 million hectare and generate 34,000 MW of power apart from the benefits of flood

control, navigation, water supply, fisheries, salinity, pollution control etc. While noting the possible benefits that might accrue as projected under the NPP on one hand and the slow pace of implementation of various projects and the availability of water in various reservoirs / rivers due to the effects of global warming, etc. on the other, the Committee desire the Ministry to undertake a study which would assure the availability of water as indicated in NPP in about two to three decades from now.

Reply of the Government

The National Water Development Agency (NWDA) under the Ministry of Water Resources (MoWR) and Central Water Commission (CWC) formulated a National Perspective Plan (NPP) for Water Resources Development in 1980 envisaging interbasin transfer of water from surplus basins to deficit basins/areas. NPP comprises of two components, viz (i) Himalayan rivers development and (ii) Peninsular rivers development component. National Water Development Agency (NWDA) was set up in 1982 as a registered Society under MoWR to carry out detailed studies of NPP.

NWDA has completed the Pre-feasibility report (PFR) level studies of 32 links under NPP. Out of these, 30 links have been identified for taking up further studies at the level of Feasibility Report (FR) and Detailed Project Report . The availability of water in various links in the year 2025 and 2050 AD at PFR / FR level has already been assessed after considering all the existing, ongoing and anticipated future water requirements for various needs viz. Irrigation, domestic and industrial, hydropower generation, salinity control, committed downstream releases for the environment and ecological purposes etc.

The Inter-linking proposals under NPP would give additional benefits of 25 million ha. of irrigation from surface water, 10 million ha. by increased use of ground water and generation of 34 thousand MW of power apart from the incidental benefits of flood moderation, navigation, water supply, salinity and pollution control etc.

However, the water availability assessment will further be firmed up at the time of preparing the Detailed Project Reports of various links under NPP, after specific MOUs / treaties / water sharing agreements have been signed by the concerned State Governments / neighbouring countries.

The work of preparation of DPR of Ken-Betwa link has been completed. Water availability for this link has been worked out in detail in the DPR. Further the work of preparation of DPRs of Par-Tapi-Narmada and Damanganga-Pinjal links have also been taken up during Jan.,2009. Further, the work of preparation of DPRs of Par-Tapi-Narmada and Damanganga- Pinjal links have also been taken up during January, 2009. The detailed water availability studies for these links would also be worked out while preparing their DPRs.

Recommendation (Para No.3)

The Committee further observe that all the reports prepared by NWDA are circulated to the concerned States Governments. The State Government officials are also invited to all the meetings of AGM of NWDA Society, Governing Body, Technical Advisory Committee etc. Efforts are also made through the Consensus Group to convince the State Governments about the feasibility of the proposals and for arriving at consensus regarding sharing of surplus water and preparation of DPRs. The NCMP of the UPA Government of 2004 envisaged a comprehensive assessment of feasibility of the links starting with the Southern rivers in a fully consultative manner. Thereupon, five links namely Ken – Betwa, Parbati – Kalisindh – Chambal, Par – Tapi – Narmada, Damanganga – Pinjal and Godavari (Polavaram) – Krishna (Vijayawada) were identified as priority links for bringing consensus amongst the concerned States to take up the work of preparation of DPRS. However, only one Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for Ken – Betwa link was signed and DPR of this link is likely to be completed by the end of 2008. The Secretary, Ministry of Water Resources, stated during evidence that Gujarat and Maharashtra Governments have informally agreed to give concurrence for Par – Tapi – Narmada link and, Damanganga – Pinjal link for which MoU between the concerned States is likely to be signed soon. The concurrence of Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan Government has not yet been received for the Parbati – Kalisindh – Chambal link. It is disheartening to further note that though all the States had agreed to the ILR Programme in principle at various fora, problems crop up when it comes to the specifics of the issue of water sharing and other related benefits. The Committee are unhappy with the current status / progress of such a huge Scheme which would benefit the nation and the people in many respects. They are of

the considered view that if the pace of arriving at consensus, preparation of DPRs etc. is not accelerated the actual implementation of projects under ILR would take another 30 – 40 years or more for completion of all the identified 30 links. It is needless to highlight the cascading effect of all this on the project cost and other related issues. The Committee, therefore, desire the Ministry to take urgent and concerted measures to bring all the concerned States on one platform to arrive at the consensus in respect of all links at the earliest so that work of preparation of DPRs of various links could be initiated.

Reply of the Government

As per the National Common Minimum Programme of the UPA Government, the Interlinking of Rivers programme is to be pursued with the consensus and cooperation of the States in a fully consultative manner. Therefore, the ILR programme is being pursued with focus on peninsular component Five links namely (i) Ken-Betwa link (ii) Par-Tapi-Narmada Link (iii) Damanganga-Pinjal link (iv) Parbati-Kalisindh-Chambal link (v) Godavari(Polavaram) – Krishna(Vijayawada) link under peninsular component have been identified as priority links for building consensus among the concerned States for taking up their DPRs. The status of these links is given below

(i) Ken – Betwa link

DPR of Ken-Betwa link has been completed by NWDA on 31.12.2008 and copy of the same has been sent to the concerned States of Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh in February,2009 for their comments which are awaited. States have been requested in April,2009 to expedite their comments.

(ii) Par – Tapi- Narmada (P-T-N) link

(iii) Damanganga – Pinjal (D-P) link

Par-Tapi-Narmada (P-T-N) and Damanganga-Pinjal(D-P) pertains to the States of Maharashtra & Gujarat. The work of preparation of DPRs of these links has been started by NWDA during January, 2009 after receiving the concurrence of the concerned states. These DPRs are planned to be completed by December, 2011.

(iv) Parbati – Kalisindh – Chambal Link(Rajasthan & MP)

The matter is being vigorously pursued with the Governments of Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan for conveying concurrence on MoU to take up the work of preparation of DPR of Parbati-Kalisindh-Chambal link.

In this regard, Hon'ble Minister (WR) has written D.O. letters to the Chief Ministers of Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan to finalize the draft MOU and convey their concurrence for the preparation of DPR of the Parbati-Kalisindh-Chambal link project on 9th January 2007 and 28th August 2007. Secretary (WR) also wrote D.O. letters to the Chief Secretaries to the Governments of Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan respectively to expedite the same on 6th February 2007 and 26th October 2007. Hon'ble Chief Minister, Govt. of Madhya Pradesh vide letter dated 12.10.2007 informed that bilateral discussions are being held for arriving at consensus.

Further, Secretary (WR) had again written D.O. letters to the Chief Secretaries of Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan on 19th March, 2008 to expedite the concurrence on the draft MOU. Hon'ble Minister (WR) on 16th April, 2008 again requested Chief Ministers of both the States to expedite the concurrence of MoU.

The matter was discussed in the Annual General meeting of NWDA Society taken by Hon'ble Minister (WR) on 9.7.2008, wherein Principal Secretary Government of Madhya Pradesh informed that they were in constant and continuous dialogue with the concerned senior officers of the Government of Rajasthan and issues will be resolved bilaterally.

Further, Hon'ble Minister (WR) requested the Chief Ministers of Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh vide DO letter dated 16.7.2008 to convey their concurrence early.

The matter was also discussed in the 52nd General Body meeting on 19.12.2008, wherein Principal Secretary (WR), Govt. of Madhya Pradesh informed that technical issues related to this proposal have been finalized with another alternative (Total 5 alternatives). He also informed that as new Cabinet was formed in both the States, final decision was likely to be taken very soon.

(v) Godavari (Polavaram) – Krishna (Vijayawada) link.

This link was discussed in the 'Consensus Group' meeting held on 13.5.2005. The States of Chattisgarh and Orissa raised the issues of submergence under the Polavaram

project. Hon'ble Chief Minister(WR) also held meeting with the Chief ministers /ministers of the concerned states on 4.10.2006 to resolve the issue.

Meanwhile, Central Water Commission completed the appraisal of the Polavaram project. Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) of MoWR considered the same during its meeting held on 21.1.09 and gave techno-economic clearance to this Project. The Planning Commission has also given the investment clearance for the above project. NWDA has been requested to take further necessary action in view of the above.

The action to identify few more links to be taken up as priority links has also been initiated for taking up the matter with the concerned states for building consensus on taking up work of preparation of their DPRs also.

Recommendation (Para No.4)

The Committee are given to understand that the Ministry, in June 2005, conveyed to all the States of approval to identify intra-State links for preparation of pre-feasibility / feasibility reports of those links by NWDA. They are happy to note that many States have come forward in this regard. The States of Bihar, Maharashtra, Jharkhand and Tamil Nadu have also submitted their proposals for study by NWDA. The Bihar Government has already undertaken the work of preparation of DPRs of some of the intra-State link through consultancy service providers. The Committee desire the Ministry to render full assistance and support in all respects to concerned State Governments in preparation of DPRs of Intra – State links as these links in their opinion could be implemented by the State Governments without any interference / objections from other States. Further, their completion would take lesser time comparatively and the benefits will also accrue to people at the earliest as the cost of preparation of DPRs is to be borne by the Central Government and the projects could be taken up for completion under AIBP.

Reply of the Government

NWDA is undertaking preparation of prefeasibility / feasibility reports of Intra – state links suggested by various States. So far 20 proposals in this regard have been received (Maharashtra-15 Gujarat-1, Orissa-1, Jharkhand-3). NWDA has planned to complete feasibility reports of 18 intra state links during the XI five year plan under the Central Plan scheme “Investigation of Water Resources Development Schemes “. The cost of preparation of these prefeasibility & feasibility reports is borne by the Central Government. Full technical assistance to the concerned willing State Governments for the preparation of DPRs would be provided by NWDA. Further, the Government of India has launched Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme(AIBP) for providing central assistance to the irrigation/multi-purpose water resources projects of the States. Assistance under AIBP is provided by MoWR, if such projects including intra-state linking project are approved by the Technical Advisory Committee of MoWR after due appraisal by the CWC and investment clearance is given by the Planning Commission.

Recommendation (Para No.9)

The Committee note that according to the present day Constitutional division of subjects between the Union and the States, the subject ‘Water’ falls both under the Union and the State Lists. It may pointed out that while Entry 56 of the Union List in the Seventh Schedule in accordance with Article 246 empowers the Central Government to make law to regulate and develop inter-State rivers and river valleys to the extent to which such regulation and development under the control of the Union is declared by the Parliament by law to be expedient in the public interest, Entry 17 of the State List of Seventh Schedule empowers the States to make laws to regulate and develop water for irrigation etc. subject to the provisions of Entry 56 of the Union List. Apart from the above, Article 254 (1) provides that inconsistency between laws made by Parliament and laws made by the legislatures of States either in respect of subject on which Parliament is competent to enact laws or to any provision of existing law on

matters enumerated in the Concurrent List, then the law made by Parliament shall prevail on the law made by Legislature of the State to that extent of repugnancy be void. The Committee, however, are constrained to observe that the Central Government has not so far made any laws under provisions of Entry 56 of Union List under Seventh Schedule though there have been several instances of disputes among the States on the issue of water, disregarding the verdicts of tribunals resulting in avoidable delays etc. in execution of projects. Given this backdrop of the things as existing, the Committee invited Memorandum from experts / individuals on the subject of Inter Linking of Rivers wherein, the Committee observe that a majority of the individuals and experts have opined that the subject 'Water' either needs to be brought under the Concurrent List or the Union need to enact laws under the provisions of Entry 56 of the Union List under the Seventh Schedule.

Reply of the Government

The details of Entry-56 , Entry 17 and article 254(1) of the constitution are given at **Annexure-I**. The work of ILR is being pursued in fully consultative manner at present. Therefore, a consensus group has been constituted under the Chairmanship of Chairman, CWC to bring consensus among the concerned States in this regard.

As the implementation of Interlinking project requires the cooperation of the state governments at all levels, such as Survey and Investigation works, water sharing agreement, Land acquisition, Rehabilitation, construction etc., it may be appropriate to carry forward the programme in consultative manner.

Recommendation (Para No.11)

Considering the importance of Inter Linking of Rivers and the interest shown by various quarters in the subject, the Committee invited Memoranda from individuals / experts / NGOs, etc. some of whom were also invited to depose before the Committee and give their views / opinions. After hearing the views / opinions of the experts on the subject, the Committee have come to the conclusion that a majority of them are in favour of the ILR programme. Some of them, however, have opined that before implementing projects under the ILR programme, the people should be made aware of the facts and the benefits accruing from the programme. The Committee note that the Government have through the electronic and print media disseminated information on the website of NWDA about the ILR programme and according to Government the response of the public has been positive so far, though there are some people and groups who have apprehensions about the rehabilitation of the displaced people, the resettlement and the environmental issues. To address these issues, the Government constituted a Committee of environmentalists, social scientists and other experts on ILR with a view to make it a consultative process. The Committee chaired by Secretary, Water Resources had the Secretaries of Ministries of Social Justice and Empowerment, Environment and Forests, eminent engineers, sociologists and environmentalists as Members of the Committee. The Committee advise the Government on various environmental socio – economic and other technical aspects at the stage of preparing of DPRs of each link of ILR project. For the present, the Committee hope that all the apprehensions would be addressed to at the time of preparation of DPR of the Ken – Betwa Link which according to them should serve as model for preparation of DPRs of all other links.

Reply of the Government

The DPR of Ken – Betwa link has been completed and the environmental impact and socio – economic studies are being carried out as per the terms of reference approved by Ministry of Environment & Forests. The concerns of the local people / experts / individuals / NGOs are being taken into consideration in the Detailed Project Report stage through public hearings in the project area and are being addressed appropriately.

Recommendation (Para No.12)

The Committee note that from among the individuals / experts / NGOs called for submission of Memoranda, some of them have given proposals / schemes as alternatives to the links under ILR programme claiming those to be more cost – effective and addressing the environmental and other issues more effectively than the projects under ILR programme. The Ministry have informed that these proposals were discussed by an Independent Group of Experts constituted by the Task Force with the persons who gave the proposals. Those persons were also given an opportunity to present their studies. The Independent Group of Experts which included CWC, NWDA and other organizations assessed these proposals and concluded that all the proposals were without detailed analysis, technically unsound, incomplete and hence could not be pursued in their present form. Therefore, these alternative proposals could not be considered alternatives to the links under ILR programme. While not disagreeing with the conclusion of the Independent Group of Experts comprising technical experts who found these proposals to be unsound, the Committee are of the view that those who have given these proposals are considered experts in the field of water management, etc. and if not all, some of the points / ideas / views contained in these proposals could definitely be of value and use while formulating the DPRs of the links under the ILR programme. The Committee, therefore, desire that while finalizing DPRs of various links the concerned authorities may have a re-look at some of the suggestions with an open mind. These are likely to give some better ideas for improvement in the ILR programme.

Reply of the Government

As desired by the Committee, the views / ideas / points of the various individuals / experts / NGOs will be taken into consideration while preparing DPRs of such links.

Recommendation (Para No.13)

The Committee on Water Resources visited a number of States and held informal discussions with the officials of the State Governments on the subject of ILR programme and sought their views thereon. The views of the State Governments so obtained can be summarized into two categories, one where most of the States give preference to smaller and intra – State Links and the second category, where the States are not satisfied with the benefit would accrue from the links under ILR programme. The Committee are happy to note that almost all States agree to the ILR programme in principle and the only apprehension related to inequitable distribution of water / benefits out of the programme. The Committee appreciate the stand taken by the Government of Bihar in identifying a number of intra-State river links and the engagement of the services of consultancy firms for preparation of DPRs of some of the intra – State Links. The Committee note the view of the Orissa Government regarding absence of legal framework on Inter Linking of Rivers at the Central level. The Committee, therefore, desire the Ministry to take all necessary and appropriate steps to address the apprehensions of the States as well as make efforts to implement the suggestions of the State Governments both at the stage of preparation of DPR as well as its implementation thereafter.

Reply of the Government

Ministry has taken a note of the suggestions of the concerned States and would make efforts to implement the suggestions of these State Governments both at the stage of preparation of DPR as well as its implementation.

Recommendation (Para No.14)

All said and done, the Committee are of the considered opinion that delaying the ILR programme on one or the other pretext any further would only result in delay in accrual of benefits of the programme viz. growth of agricultural production, employment generation and resultant slowing down of the economy. The Committee are highly optimistic of the success of the ILR programme provided all concerned including CWC, NWDA, the State Governments and all concerned Ministries of

Government of India work in tandem in a spirited, homogenous and harmonious way with the ultimate aim of enhancing national good as the end object. The Committee, therefore, urge one and all to work in union to achieve the successful implementation of the identified links under ILR programme in the shortest possible time in a cost effective way. The hope Government would give due consideration to the recommendations of the Committee on various issues expressed in this Report and implement the ILR programme in an earnest manner.

Reply of the Government

The recommendations of the committee are noted for appropriate follow up action.

CHAPTER III

RECOMMENDATIONS/OBSERVATIONS WHICH THE COMMITTEE DO NOT DESIRE TO PURSUE IN VIEW OF THE GOVERNMENT'S REPLIES

Recommendation (Para No.6)

The Committee note that a Task Force under the Chairmanship of Shri Suresh P. Prabhu, then MP, Lok Sabha was constituted by Government of India in December 2002. As per the terms of reference, the TF on ILR was to provide guidance on norms of appraisal of individual projects with regard to economic viability, socio-economic and environmental impacts, preparation of resettlement plans, prioritize different project components for preparation of DPRs and their implementation etc. Further more, to facilitate its working, the Task Force formed 10 different Working Groups on technical, financial, legal and other such aspects. Besides, 7 Study Group were also formed for various other studies as also to allay apprehensions of public at large on matters relating to ILR. The Task Force submitted two Action Plans before it was wound up by Government of India in December, 2004. The Action Plan – I submitted in April 2003 gave an outline of the time schedule for completion of FRs, DPRs, estimated costs, implementation schedule, concrete benefits of the project etc. The Action Plan – II which suggested alternative options for funding and execution of the project and methods for cost recovery etc. was submitted in April 2004. Further, the Task Force assigned the work of designing suitable organizational structure for implementation of Inter Linking of Rivers Programme to IIM, Ahmedabad which submitted its report in January 2007. The IIMA suggested two tier institutional / organizational set up for Inter Linking of Rivers alongwith a Council – National River Water Development Council to act as an apex body of the proposed set up. The National Authority for Inter Linking of Rivers has been proposed as the first tier and the regional or branch offices or subsidiary offices as 'Link Instrument' are to be the second tier of this organizational set up. The Committee, however, regret to observe that the Ministry has not been able to implement any of the recommendations of IIMA regarding setting up either of NAILR or NRDWC on the ground that as none of the links of NPP is under implementation stage, the Government of India would act on this suggestion at an appropriate time. For the present, however, the Commissioner (PR),

in the Ministry of Water Resources as head of the Special Cell is carrying out the residual works of TF – ILR. The Committee desire the Ministry to set up institutional / organizational set up suggested by IIMA at the earliest as the DPR work of the Ken – Betwa link is scheduled to be completed by December 2008 so that all requisite institutional framework to implement the link are in place well in advance to enable timely completion of the project.

Reply of the Government

On the basis of report from IIM-Ahmedabad, a two tier institutional/organizational setup has been suggested by the Task Force for the implementation of the programme on Interlinking of Rivers (ILR) along with a Council – “National River Water Development Council (NRWDC)” to act as the apex body of the proposed setup. The National Authority for Interlinking of Rivers (NAILR) is proposed as the first tier of the proposed two tier organizational structure and the regional or branch offices or subsidiaries would act as “Link Instrument” and are proposed as the second tier of the organizational setup.

As various link proposals are expected to be taken up in phases after consensus of concerned state governments, a separate institutional/organizational authority for its implementation may not be required at present.

At present, DPR of Ken-Betwa link has been completed. DPR has been sent to the concerned States for their suggestions/ comments and concurrence along with the organizational structure for implementing the Ken-Betwa link project. The Govt. of M.P. has informed that the requisite comments will be sent after the withdrawal of the code of conduct of Lok Sabha. The response from the Govt of U.P. is awaited.

CHAPTER IV

RECOMMENDATIONS/OBSERVATIONS IN RESPECT OF WHICH REPLIES OF THE GOVERNMENT HAVE NOT BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE COMMITTEE:

Recommendation (Para No.7)

The Committee observe that the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) was consulted by the Task Force on ILR to assess the economic impact of the ILR programme. NCAER had, on the basis of the NWDA study, estimated that ILR programme would cost around Rs.4.44 lakh crore i.e. 21 to 22% lesser than the rough estimate of Rs.5.60 lakh crore projected earlier. The completion time for the programme has been assessed to be 35 to 40 years. NCAER was, however, of the view that use of modern and remote sensing techniques could help in completion of the programme in 25 years. The Ministry, in this regard opined that the exact cost of projects and completion time would be available only after DPRs of various links are ready. Further, the NCAER in their revised Report submitted to the Ministry in April 2008 observed that the ILR programme would result in 7.49% increase in per capita income of rural households and 13.2% increase of agricultural dependent households in rural areas. As regards, non-agricultural dependent households, the per capita income is expected to go up by 4.8% in rural areas and 9.8% in urban areas as compared to the base line.

The Committee also observe that ICICI was consulted by the Task Force for suggesting funding options for the ILR programme. ICICI proposed that funding be partly through public, public private and private inputs. For the present, DPR of only one line, i.e. Ken – Betwa Link is in progress and has been included in the list of National Projects for which 90% funds would be provided by the Government of India and the remaining 10% would be borne by the Governments of Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh jointly. The Ministry at this stage indicated that there are no plans to put any cess / user charges for funding the ILR programme.

Reply of the Government

No reply is required.

Recommendation (Para No.8)

The Committee further observe that the Government propose to establish the Irrigation and Water Resources Finance Corporation with an initial capital of Rs.100 crores contributed by the Central Government with the State Governments and other financial institutions being invited to participate in the equity as announced by the Finance Minister in his Budget Speech of 2008-2009. This Corporation is mandated to mobilize very large resources required to fund major and medium irrigation projects. The Committee desire the Ministry to include not only the projects / links under ILR as National Projects but also ask the IWRFC to raise funds by way of issue of bonds or other suitable instruments to fund projects under ILR. To begin with the IWRFC could raise funds for the Ken – Betwa Link for which the DPR is likely to be available by end of December 2008. The Committee are of the opinion that the benefits / growth indicators assessed by NCAER would fructify only when the ILR programme is fully implemented. They are of the firm opinion that the above measures when taken would encourage all the State Governments to come forward to earnestly take up implementation of various link projects under the ILR programme.

Reply of the Government

Government of India has decided to take up some projects as national projects based on certain criteria which includes river interlinking projects. The central assistance to these projects would be 90% of the project costs of irrigation and drinking water component of the project. At present Ken-Betwa link project, whose DPR has been prepared has been included in the list of National Projects. Similarly the decision for considering the funding for other projects under ILR will be taken at an appropriate time after the preparation of their DPRs.

CHAPTER V

RECOMMENDATIONS/OBSERVATIONS IN RESPECT OF WHICH FINAL REPLIES OF THE GOVERNMENT ARE STILL AWAITED

Recommendation (Para No.2)

The Committee observe that National Water Development Agency (NWDA) was set up in 1982 as an autonomous Society under the Ministry of Water Resources to study the feasibility of the Peninsular Component of NPP. Further, in 1990 – 1991 the NWDA resolved to take up the studies of Himalayan Component also and in June 2006, the NWDA approved modifications in the functions of NWDA to include Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) of link projects and pre-feasibility / feasibility report of intra-basin links as proposed by States. The Governing Body of the NWDA Society under the chairmanship of Secretary, Ministry of Water Resources controls the affairs and funds of the Society. The Governing Body had constituted a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) of NWDA under the chairmanship of Chairman, Central Water Commission for examination and scrutiny of various technical proposals framed by the Agency. A Consensus Group was constituted in 2002 under the Chairmanship of Chairman, Central Water Commission with Director General, NWDA as Member-Secretary in order to discuss and expedite the process of arriving at a consensus among the States regarding sharing of water in surplus river basin / sub – basin with deficit basins and to assist the States in arriving at an agreement regarding sharing of waters, cost and benefit to the beneficiary States and other related issues. The Committee further note that NWDA after various studies identified 30 links under NPP of which Feasibility reports in respect of 14 links under the Peninsular Component and 2 links (Indian Portion) under Himalayan Component have been completed. Surveys and investigations for the other links are under various stages. FR of two peninsular links, viz. Bedti – Varda and Netravati – Hemavati link are yet to be completed and are pending for want of concurrence of the Government of Karnataka.

Reply of the Government

The status of Bedti – Varada and Netravati – Hemavati links are as under:

(i) **Bedti – Varada link:** Government of Karnataka had conveyed their concurrence for preparation of FR in August 2005. However there is local opposition against any project including Bedti – Varada link project which may change environment / ecology of the area / their district. In order to address the concerns of the local people, NWDA in consultation with NGOs / general public has proposed to carry out study of eco – system of Bedti basin with special reference to Uttar Kannada district. Terms of Reference of the study have been prepared by NWDA and have been sent to the NGO (Bedti Aghana shinikolla, Samarakshana Samiti) for their suggestions/comments on 28.8.2008. They have suggested that the integrated environmental study for entire Uttar Kannada district should be done by the Govt. of Karnataka and have proposed the TOR for the same. NWDA has referred the matter to the Govt. of Karnataka during February, 2009. Response is awaited. Matter is being pursued by NWDA with them.

(ii) **Netravati – Hemavati link:** The Govt. of Karnataka is yet to give its concurrence for preparation of feasibility report of Netravati – Hemavati link by NWDA. They have conveyed that the decision in this regard would be conveyed after decision of the Cauvery Water Dispute Tribunal as the above proposal involves diversion to Cauvery basin and utilization of water in Cauvery basin is under consideration of the Tribunal. The Cauvery Water Dispute Tribunal gave its report and decision under Section 5(2) of the ISRWD Act, 1956 on 5.2.2007. The Central Government and the State Governments sought explanation and guidance from the Tribunal under Section 5(3) of the Act. Meanwhile, party states have challenged the report and decision dated 05.02.2007 given by the CWDT before the Hon'ble Supreme Court through Special leave petitions (SLPs) and the SLPs are yet to be disposed off by the Hon'ble Court. Thus, the matter is now subjudice. Therefore, the Survey & Investigations for preparation of Feasibility Report (FR) of this link project would be started after the matter is disposed off by Supreme Court and the Tribunal and the concurrence is given by the Govt. of Karnataka.

Recommendation (Para No.5)

From the perusal of various links under the ILR programme, it is observed that out of the 30 identified links, 14 links fall under Himalayan Component. Of these, the Committee observe that initial reaches of seven water transfer links and their storages lie in the neighbouring countries of Nepal and Bhutan. Further, to carry out surveys and investigations in these countries their permission is essential. The Committee understand that MEA in September, 2005 indicated that owing to the prevailing political situation in Nepal, it was advisable for us to take up the Peninsular Component to start with. Although NWDA has completed FRs of Indian portions of some links, they are still incomplete in the absence of FRs of portions of links under the jurisdiction of neighbouring countries. The Survey & Investigation works for preparation of FRs of five links which lie in Indian portions has been completed by NWDA and further action is being taken on them. Though the Committee are aware of the limitations / problems encountered by NWDA at this juncture, they desire the Government of India to discuss the issue threadbare with Nepal at the highest political and executive level so that they can appreciate the benefits accruing from these links to them as well. The Committee hope this would go a long way in not only improving our bilateral ties and place them on a more firm footing but also help us avert the calamitous situations in future of the kind that we are now facing in North Bihar as a result of breach in embankment of river Kosi in Nepal.

Reply of the Government

MOWR, Govt. of India has been approaching Ministry of External Affairs for seeking permission from neighboring countries for carrying out survey & investigation works in their territories. Secretary (WR) vide DO dated 13.5.2008 requested the Ministry of External Affairs to take up the matter with the Governments of Nepal and Bhutan to hold initial technical level discussion with officials of Nepal and Bhutan for carrying out surveys and investigations of the Himalayan links in their territory.

MEA vide letter dated 9.6.2008 informed that "Due to political instability and sensitivities in Nepal, it has not been possible to survey, investigate or collect data in Nepal. MEA further informed that "In Bhutan, a multi-purpose project on Sankosh has been under

discussion, but the project has not progressed because of environmental concerns. The Royal Government of Bhutan has recently indicated an interest in reviving this project and we hope to accelerate consideration leading to early implementation of this project.” It is also mentioned in the letter that MEA shall keep MoWR informed should further developments in our bilateral discussions with either Nepal or Bhutan make movement possible on this issue .

Sarda-Yamuna link in Himalayan component depends on the construction of Pancheshwar dam in Nepal. A Joint Project Office (JPO) established in 1999 by the two governments has completed the field investigations, except some confirmatory geo-physical tests required on the Nepal bank at Rupaligad (alternative) site for re-regulating structure. Some contentious issues, like (i) apportionment of cost between power and irrigation and between India and Nepal; (ii) installation capacity and unit size and assessment of power benefits; and (iii) water availability downstream of Pancheshwar, etc. are pending for final decision with the Government of Nepal. During its 3rd meeting held from 29th September, 2008 to 1st October, 2008 at Kathmandu (Nepal), Joint Committee on Water Resources (JCWR) decided to set up Pancheshwar Development Authority (PDA) for the development, execution and operation of Pancheshwar Multipurpose Project. Draft Terms of Reference(ToR) of PDA were exchanged during the 4th meeting of JCWR held on 12-13th March, 2009 at New Delhi and it was agreed to discuss it further in the next meeting of JCWR and finalise it.

Kosi-Mechi and Kosi-Ghaghra links in the Himalayan component depends upon Sapta-Kosi dam in Nepal. To carry out the field investigations of Sapta Kosi High Dam Multipurpose Project and Sunkosi cum Diversion Scheme in Nepal territory jointly, a Joint Project Office (JPO-SI) was set up at Biratnagar in Nepal during August’ 2004 for the preparation of a Detailed Project Report. The JPO was expected to complete the works by February’2007. However, because of political instability and frequent strikes / bandhs, the field investigations got delayed. 8th meeting of India- Nepal Joint Team of Experts (JTE) on Sapta Kosi High Dam Multipurpose Project and Sun Kosi Storage-cum-Diversion Scheme was held from 15th to 17th December, 2008 at New Delhi. During the meeting, Nepalese side assured that the Government of Nepal has taken necessary security measures for the resumption of field investigation works, which are suspended and accordingly JTE instructed JPO-SKSKI to resume the field activities. After 3rd meeting of JCWR held in

Kathmandu, the tenure of JPO-SKSKI has been extended upto June, 2010 to complete field investigation and preparation of DPR at a revised cost of Rs. 74.86 crore. During 4th meeting of JCWR held on 12th to 13th March, 2009 at New Delhi, the Indian side reiterated its request to the Napalese side to provide security at all sites so that investigation may be resumed immediately to complete the work by June, 2010. Nepalese side conveyed that the Govt. of Nepal was making all possible efforts to ensure that the work would resume at the earliest at Sapt Kosi project area. The works at Sapt Kosi dam site are still not resumed.

Meanwhile, a meeting was taken by Principal Secretary to Prime Minister on 24.7.2008 in respect of updation of DPR of Sankosh HE project. The work of updation of DPR of Sankosh project has been assigned to Tehri Hydro Development Corporation and the work has been started by them. Further, a meeting was taken by Secretary, MoEF on 5.8.2008 where matter of clearance from MoEF for taking up Survey and Investigation of component of this project and Manas-Sankosh-Tista link were discussed . MoEF suggested the procedure in this regard and further action is being taken by THDC and CWC.

Further, Secretary (WR) on 18th March, 2009 requested Foreign Secretary for taking up the issue of Manas dam also with the Government of Bhutan along with Sankosh project. Secretary(WR) also convened a meeting on 20.5.2009 with the officials of MEA and MOEF for taking up the issue with the Govt. of Bhutan in respect of Manas Dam. Joint Secretary (N), MEA informed that it would be appropriate to take up this matter with Government of Bhutan after preparation of DPR of Sankosh project at an appropriate time.

Comments of the Committee

(Please *see* Para No. 7 of Chapter-I of the Report)

Recommendation (Para No.10)

It may be pertinent to note here that one of the experts while deposing before the Committee had expressed ‘unless the Union empowers itself with powers to force solutions, the States are unlikely to solve the problems among themselves in a sure way That there are enough provisions in the Constitution to enact legislation under

Entry 56 and if Union Legislature passes one or more acts and empowers the Union in various things, which *inter alia* include decisions about studying the basins and in a quasi judicial way to decide these powers that may help in putting the water sector back in order and that or today is missing’. The Committee, however, regret to observe that despite several cases of dispute among the States, the Government has preferred to pursue the ILR programme only in a consultative manner through the ‘Consensus Group’ formed for the purpose. The Consensus Group further failed to bring about any radical shift in the thought process of the States.

The Committee are also unhappy to take note of the submission made by the Secretary, Ministry of Water Resources during evidence that though making laws under Entry 56 would be legally valid, the Government for the moment does not have any proposal to that effect or to declare implementation of ILR programme to be expedient in the public interest there under. They are further disheartened to note of the Secretary’s submission that unless it comes as a recommendation from the Centre – State Relations Commission such a proposal cannot be considered. Since the Centre – State Relations Commission may take some more time in giving its recommendations, the Committee would suggest that instead of waiting for a recommendation by the Commission to that effect, Government should obtain the opinion / advice of the Ministry of Law as to the interpretation of the provisions of Entry 56 in the Union List vis-à-vis Entry 17 of the State List. The Committee are of the considered opinion that with the creation of a National Authority for Inter Linking of Rivers as recommended by the Task Force on ILR, the setting up of the IWRFC as also inclusion of the Ken – Betwa link under the concept of ‘National Projects’ the enactment of laws under Entry 56 of the Union List would be a logical sequence and would go a long way in accelerating the pace of implementation of projects under ILR programme. They would like to be apprised of the opinion of the Law Ministry obtained by Government in this regard at the earliest.

Reply of the Government

The reply in respect of creation of a National Authority for Inter-Linking of Rivers has been Para 6 and 8. In respect of seeking opinion of Ministry of Law and

Justice (MOLJ), the detailed note in this regard is being referred to them separately and their opinion would be communicated on receipt of the same from them.

Updated Reply of the Government

The matter was referred to MoLJ and they have requested to place on record the views/comments of Centre-State Relation Commission' so that the matter could be examined in its proper perspective. The report of the Commission on Centre-State Relation is yet to be received. Therefore, the opinion of MoLJ would be communicated to Lok Sabha Secretariat after the Report of the said Commission is received and examined by Ministry of Law and Justice.

[Letter No. 2/14/2008-BM(Pt.)/1781 dated 9th October, 2009 of MoWR (BM Division)]

NEW DELHI;
12 April, 2010
22 Chaitra, 1932 (Saka)

BENI PRASAD VERMA,
Chairman,
Standing Committee on Water Resources

APPENDIX- I

MINUTES OF THE EIGHTH SITTING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON WATER RESOURCES (2009-10) HELD ON MONDAY, 15 MARCH 2010

The Committee sat from 1510 hours to 1610 hours in Committee Room 'D', Ground Floor, Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

PRESENT

Shri Beni Prasad Verma – Chairman

MEMBERS

LOK SABHA

5. Shri Mahendrasinh P. Chauhan
6. Shri Sher Singh Ghubaya
7. Shri Badri Ram Jakhar
5. Shri Haribhau Jawale
6. Shri Arjun Roy

RAJYA SABHA

7. Shri B.S. Gnanadesikan
8. Dr. Gyan Prakash Pilonia
9. Shri Anil Madhav Dave
10. Shri Ranjitsinh Vijaysinh Mohite Patil

SECRETARIAT

- | | | | |
|----|---------------------|---|----------------------|
| 1. | Shri N.K. Sapra | - | Additional Secretary |
| 2. | Shri Devender Singh | - | Joint Secretary |
| 3. | Shri B.S. Dahiya | - | Director |

APPENDIX II

[Vide Para 4 of the Introduction]

ANALYSIS OF ACTION TAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS/OBSERVATIONS CONTAINED IN THE ELEVENTH REPORT (FOURTEENTH LOK SABHA) OF THE COMMITTEE

(i)	Total number of Recommendations/Observations	14
(ii)	Recommendation/Observations which have been accepted by the Government	
	Para Nos. 1, 3, 4, 9, 11, 12, 13 & 14	
	Total	8
	Percentage	57.14%
(iii)	Recommendations/Observations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of the Government's replies	
	Para No. 6	
	Total	1
	Percentage	7.14%
(iv)	Recommendations/Observations in respect of which replies of the Government have not been accepted by the Committee	
	Para No. 7 & 8	
	Total	2
	Percentage	14.29%
(v)	Recommendations/Observations in respect of which final replies of the Government are still awaited	
	Para Nos. 2, 5 & 10	
	Total	3
	Percentage	21.43%