

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

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1216

ANSWERED ON 31.07.2023

MAHANADI WATER DISPUTE TRIBUNAL

1216. DR. SASMIT PATRA

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

- (a) the details of the stand of Government before the Mahanadi Water Dispute Tribunal relating to the injustice meted out to Odisha;
- (b) whether Government has opposed the formation of the said Tribunal and if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the steps being taken by Government to ensure that this issue is resolved at the earliest; and
- (d) the reasons for the delay in resolving this issue and the stand of Government on this?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI

(SHRI BISHWESWAR TUDU)

(a) The Central Government is not a party before the Mahanadi Water Disputes Tribunal.

(b) to (d) Adjudication of disputes relating to waters of inter-State rivers and river valley thereof is done under the Inter-State River Water Disputes (ISRWD) Act, 1956. When a request under the said Act is received from any State Government in respect of any water dispute on the inter-State rivers, and the Central Government is of the opinion that the water dispute cannot be settled by negotiations, the Central Government constitutes a Water Disputes Tribunal for the adjudication of the said water dispute.

So far as Mahanadi River Water Dispute is concerned, the Government of Odisha submitted a complaint dated 19.11.2016 to the Central Government on Mahanadi River Water Dispute under section 3 of ISRWD Act. The Government of Odisha also filed an Original Suit No.1 of 2017 before Hon'ble Supreme Court for issuing direction to the Central Government for constitution of Tribunal and restraining State of Chhattisgarh from proceeding with construction of six barrages on Mahanadi river.

In pursuance of section 4(1) of ISRWD Act, the Central Government constituted a Negotiation Committee for settlement of the dispute through negotiation. The Negotiation Committee submitted its report in May, 2017 in which it was concluded that the dispute cannot be resolved by negotiation. Subsequently, Hon'ble Supreme Court in its Order dated 23.01.2018, directed the Central Government to constitute a Water Disputes Tribunal. Accordingly, the Central Government has constituted Mahanadi Water Disputes Tribunal vide Gazette Notification dated 12.03.2018 and referred the matter of water dispute raised by Odisha to the Tribunal in April, 2018 for adjudication. Presently, the matter is sub judice before the Hon'ble Tribunal.
