

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

**RAJYA SABHA**

**STARRED QUESTION NO. \*12**

ANSWERED ON 25.11.2024

**MAHARASHTRA AND KARNATAKA WATER DISPUTE**

\*12 SHRI BABUBHAI JESANGBHAI DESAI

Will the Minister of JAL SHAKTI be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government is planning to intervene in the ongoing water-sharing disputes between Maharashtra and Karnataka to ensure equitable distribution and prevent further conflicts, if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor; and

(b) whether the Mahadayi Water Disputes Tribunal (MWDT) will expedite its proceedings to resolve water-sharing issues between Maharashtra and Karnataka in view of the recent rise in disputes, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

**ANSWER**

**THE MINISTER OF JAL SHAKTI**

(SHRI C R PAATIL)

(a) to (b) : A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (b) OF STARRED QUESTION NO. \*12 TO BE ANSWERED ON 25.11.2024 IN RAJYA SABHA REGARDING “MAHARASHTRA AND KARNATAKA WATER DISPUTE”.**

**(a) to (b)** For adjudication of disputes relating to waters of inter-state rivers and river valley thereof, the Parliament has enacted the Inter-State River Water Disputes (ISRWD) Act, 1956. When any request under the 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 River Water Dispute Tribunal for the adjudication of the said water dispute.

On the request of party states i.e. State of Goa, State of Karnataka and State of Maharashtra, the Mahadayi Water Disputes Tribunal (MWDT) was constituted on 16.11.2010 under Section 4 of the ISRWD Act 1956. The Tribunal submitted its report and decision under Section 5(2) of the ISRWD Act, 1956 to Central Government on 14.8.2018. Thereafter, under Section 5(3) of ISRWD Act, all three-party States as well as Central Government have filed various references to MWDT for further clarification.

Meanwhile, three contesting states, Maharashtra, Karnataka and Goa have also approached the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India by way of filing separate Special Leave Petitions (SLPs) against the Report-cum-Award of the Tribunal dated 14.8.2018, under Section 5(2) of the ISRWD Act, 1956. In this matter, as per Hon'ble Supreme Court order dated 20.2.2020, the Central Government has published MWDT Report-cum-Award dated 14.8.2018 in the Gazette of India on 27.2.2020, which is an action as per the provision of section 6 of ISRWD ACT, 1956.

To implement the award of the MWDT, Central Government constituted a Tribunal -"Mahadayi-PRAWAH (Progressive River Authority for Welfare and Harmony)" under section 6(a) of the ISRWD Act, 1956, vide Gazette Notification dated 22.4.2023.

Taking into consideration the fact that the matters are sub-judice before the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, and the joint request made by the learned Senior Counsels for the party States, and also keeping in view the demands of propriety, the Mahadayi WDT has adjourned the proceedings in respect of the pending references under section 5(3) of the ISRWD Act as it may amount to continuing with the parallel proceedings.

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